

C094/17. INVITATION TO REMSCHEID TWIN TOWN

An invitation has been received from the Oberburgermeister of Remscheid for the Mayor to join the delegation from Ashington visiting the Twin Town in Germany from 07 -10 September.

It was RESOLVED that the Town Council welcome the invitation and approve attendance by the Mayor and one other (to be determined at a later date) as the Town Councils representative.

A coach from Remscheid is to visit Newbiggin and Ashington in May with activities planned for the duration, including a visit to the Rocket House and Maritime Centre where the group would have a buffet lunch.

It was RESOLVED that the Council contribute up to £300 towards the cost of the buffet lunch for the guests.

C095/17. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Parish of Newbiggin by-the-Sea has been designated by the County Planning Authority as a Neighbourhood Area for the production of a Neighbourhood Plan and some budget provision has been provided to start the process and a grant application will be submitted for government support in April.

Engagement with and input from a number of key stakeholders to develop the plan process will be required, and it is suggested that a small Steering Group be appointed to meet with the Town and County officers to consider the different elements of the plan.

It was RESOLVED that a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group be appointed consisting of the holders of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman positions on the Town Council and a representative of each of the following: Estate owners (Bernicia); Developers (Persimmon/Arch); Employment (Harworth Group); Regeneration (Newbiggin Development Trust); Retail (Newbiggin Traders Association)

C096/17 RISK MANAGEMENT

The annual risk assessment was circulated as Appendix 2 for Members consideration.

It was RESOLVED that the Town Council considers and agrees the risk assessment for 2018/19.

C097/17. REMEMBRANCE ARRANGEMENTS AND WAR MEMORIALS

2018 is an important year culminating in events to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War and we have been investigating any necessary works to the two Memorials in the town and considering the events already being planned.

Specialist Memorial and Stonemasons have been invited to inspect the Memorials and have advised that there are no significant repairs required but some minor repairs and cleaning to the granite, bronze and limestone at the respective sites. Further estimates are being obtained and it is suggested that an allocation of £6,000 from either the repair and maintenance budget or Town Improvement budget be made available and the Town Clerk accept the lowest acceptable estimates and arrange for completion of the necessary works during suitable warm weather.

Arrangements are in hand with Newbiggin Veterans Association for a Centenary Remembrance Concert on Saturday 10 November and a programme of tributes from 6:00 am to 7:05 pm on Sunday 11 November being developed including a possible Town Beacon.

Members of the Association are willing to carry on organising the Newbiggin by the Sea Remembrance events and are inviting the Town Council, School and other organisations to consider any further events this year.

It was RESOLVED that:

- i) The arrangements for maintenance of the Memorials be agreed within a budget allocation of £6,000 and completed by September;**
- ii) Newbiggin Veterans Association be supported by the Council in developing the programme of WW1 Centenary Commemoration.**

C098/17. SAND DISTRIBUTION

Following the successful redistribution of sand in the bay keeping levels below the promenade last year the contractor is booked to return for next week so that levels near the promenade can be addressed prior to the Easter holidays. The cost will be split between the current years' budget allocation and 2018/19.

As there has been considerable movement of sand over the winter which is likely to continue through the spring period it is suggested that an allocation for a further three days' work be agreed and implemented if and when necessary to ensure sand levels below the promenade throughout the summer period and minimise wind-blown sand problems on the promenade.

It was RESOLVED that the Town Council approve another allocation of £3140 from the Town Improvement Schemes budget.

C099/17 GATEWAY PROJECT

For a number of years now the Town Council has wanted to develop gateway signage and /or features to provide identity for the Parish area and help attract passing visitors. There are a number of locations at the principal routes which have been inspected. All are within highway verges and under the control of Northumberland County Council.

Discussions have taken place with officers from County Highways and Transport who have no objections to information signage with either brick or wood planter boxes which have been installed in other parts of the County. These are proposed to be located in the wide verges at the access points (A) on Park Road from Lynemouth; (B) on A189 from Ellington beyond QE11 Park; (C) on A197 at roundabout to Woodhorn. The strongest way to emphasis identity for Newbiggin by-the-Sea Town Parish is through the combined use of the logo and enhanced services logo as agreed for the new office.

While potentially significant statements could be made at the large roundabouts at Woodhorn and North Seaton the boundary with Ashington runs through them and would make location difficult as well as expensive. There is however an opportunity and a wide enough banked verge off the North Seaton roundabout B1334 entrance to the town which could be utilised with a seaside theme incorporating identity logo also. The use of a beach groyne design that has been successfully installed in other locations can easily be accommodated here without any impact on sight lines.

Works will have to be undertaken by approved County contractors and it is estimated that the signage will cost £350 at each location and the feature will depend on the agreed size so a budget needs to be set to develop this.

It was RESOLVED that Members agree to the installation of gateway signage and a gateway feature both of high quality and approve an allocation of £7,000 to deliver this project ahead of the summer subject to designs being approved by Council.

C100/17. TEMPORARY CAR PARK – ACCESS AND SIGNAGE

This project was included in the budget for 2018/19 and discussions have been held on site with County Highways officers and the location and extent of works agreed to provide direct access to the temporary car park opposite Manor Drive providing a direct pedestrian access to the town centre and the bay.

Works will be carried out by the County Highways Team to create the new vehicular access with a standard type 1 crossing. This will be achieved within the approved budget allocation and then the balance applied to signage here and elsewhere depending on final cost.

It was RESOLVED that the Town Council request the County Council to undertake these highways works at an early date.

C101/17. PUBLIC TOILET REFURBISHMENT

Discussions have taken place with County Neighbourhood Services to arrange for the necessary works of refurbishment of the old public toilet block belonging to the County Council near the Church Point so it can be brought up to an acceptable modern accessible standard.

The Town Council has made budget provision of £20,000 to achieve this upgrade hopefully in time for the summer season if an order is placed now.

It was RESOLVED that the Town Clerk make suitable arrangements with the County Council within the approved budget.

C102/17. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Harrison moved the motion set out on the agenda. The motion was seconded with an amendment that part 'b' be deferred to a future meeting pending further information.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a. Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council allocate a maximum of £500 from the Environmental Projects budget to support working with Grace Darling Campus in educating and raising awareness of the solutions to the litter problem in conjunction with 'Plastic Free Coastline, Newbiggin by the Sea' initiative.**
- b. A bin replacement programme on the Promenade be deferred for consideration at a future meeting pending more information on cost implications and discussions with Neighbourhood Services.**

C103/17. THE BUNGALOW

Discussions took place on the future of the building.

It was RESOLVED that the Town Council consider the future use or basis for disposal of the asset and pursue advertising with an appointed agent.

Signed by Chairman.....Date.....