

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR NEWBIGGIN BY THE SEA

Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 at the Newbiggin Sports & Community Centre, Woodhorn Road, Newbiggin by the Sea

In the Chair – Councillor Alan Thompson Vice Chairman of Newbiggin by-the Sea Town Council.

- 1. PRESENT:** Others in attendance: Town Clerk, NCC Planning Manager (Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure); 42 members of the public.
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr. Peden.
- 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The Chairman referred to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 May 2017 which had been circulated. They were accepted and signed as accurate by the Chair.
- 4. CHAIRMANS REPORT:** Progress regarding a number of local issues was reported by the Chairman for information of the public.

#### 5. ISSUES THAT MATER TO NEWBIGGIN BY THE SEA

An elector referred to a letter to the Town Council regarding the Council Office which they believed was of no benefit to the community, requesting that Bernicia, Arch, Northumbria Police and the County Council should have a presence in the office. The Chair informed that the original plan for the development was to include a library and customer service office in the now retail units. It was suggested that this could be disruptive to the staff in the Town Council Office but was worth exploring of the vacant retail units.

An elector commented on the poor library at the Sport & Community Centre requesting the Council start thinking of the future of Newbiggin.

County Councillor Liz Simpson informed that Wansbeck Square in Ashington was to close with services being moved to Cramlington.

An elector requested for representations to be made to Arch to lower the rents on the retail unit.

An elector queried why the public toilets were closing at 3pm. The Chair informed that the Town Council had made representations to Northumberland County Council regarding the opening and closing times.

An elector queried the £100,000 payment made by the Town Council. The Clerk informed that this enabled the Town Council Office and provision of public toilets rent free for 25 years.

An elector stated that the priority should be to the residents of the town and not the visitors.

An elector queried the future of The Bungalow not that it was no longer occupied by the Town Council. The Clerk confirmed that the Bungalow being under the ownership of the Town Council would be valued and possibly made available to let.

An elector queried the lagoon areas and the former smelter. The Chair informed that the smelter site was owned by Harworth Estate who were undertaking the development of a business park. The lagoons were under the ownership of the power station and it was understood that there was limited contamination and no costs to restore this site were expected to come back to the Town Council.

An elector queried what has become of the proposals to introduce a road from Woodhorn passed the school to Central Parkway. The Chairman commented that he believed that the route was still preserved but there were no plans at the moment to implement it.

## **6. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING PRESENTATION**

The Neighbourhood Planning Manager gave a presentation on Neighbourhood Development Plans. Copies of the slide show presentation were available on request.

Chairman .....

Date .....