

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 8 July 2009 at 7 pm at St Bartholomew's Church Centre.

PRESENT:

Councillors: W Rogers (Chair)
L Anderson
M Boon
M Cholerton
M Kirkup
R McCready
A Thompson

IN ATTENDANCE:

D Francis, Clerk
S Finch, Local Councils' Development Officer, Community Action Northumberland
24 members of the public
Representatives of Northumbria Police

OPEN SESSION

Issues raised during the open session included:

- The lack of dropped kerbs in Victoria Terrace, which prevented safe and easy access for people using wheelchairs.
- The need for the Council to avoid meeting on the same date as the South East Area Committee.
- Neglect of flower beds on the sea front (Councillor Anderson said she had been assured these would be attended to).
- Anti-social behaviour in Woodhorn Crescent, associated with a public telephone kiosk
- Problems with flooding in Woodhorn Crescent
- Failure to maintain planter in Woodhorn Crescent
- Grass-cutting at roundabouts – now understood to be undertaken once a month rather than twice a year
- The need for repairs to be effected to Church Gate – the Parish Council to press the County Council to progress this
- Dog fouling: questions related to allowing a small area of beach to be provided for dog owners; providing lids for dog bins; and enforcing fines for allowing dog fouling. This would be included as an agenda item at the next meeting.

CO13/09 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Peden and Thompson.

[NOTE: Councillor Thompson attended the meeting].

CO14/09 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2009 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

The Chair confirmed that advice was still awaited from Northumberland Association of Local Councils about whether prayers could be incorporated into the start of each Council meeting.

CO15/09 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors Anderson and McCready each declared a personal interest in Item 4 (Events in Newbiggin-by-the-Sea).

CO16/09 4. EVENTS IN NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA

Councillor Kirkup introduced Mr Jefferson (Try Northumberland) who outlined plans for a Triathlon to be held on 12 and 13 September. It was hoped this would contribute to efforts to develop a year-round programme of events in Newbiggin for the benefit of residents and to attract visitors.

Members agreed the proposed event would be an asset for the area and the Council would consider how to publicise this and other events through a calendar posted on, for example, local notice boards. Members also noted that the Triathlon event would welcome sponsorship by the Parish Council; this would be considered at a future meeting.

Councillor McCready outlined plans for a Newbiggin Gardens Competition.

RESOLVED: Newbiggin-by-the Sea to organise and finance a Garden Competition, with a closing date of 31 July and a prize-giving in late September.

[NOTE: Councillor Cholerton abstained from the voting for this resolution].

CO17/09 5. NEW SCHOOL PLANS

The Chair welcomed Frank Jordan, Director of Safeguarding and Commissioning, Northumberland County Council, who outlined the process for reaching agreement on the design and facilities for a new 'academy' sponsored by the Duke of Northumberland and Church of England on the site of the Middle School. He explained that because the design stage was competitive, consultation would take place after the bids had been assessed. The criteria for the successful bid would be a good educational facility, a well-designed sustainable public building and a good community asset.

It was expected that the build would be complete for August 2011, and that there would be open meetings and full consultation over the details of the plans once the successful contractor had been appointed. Mr Jordan confirmed that the Parish Council could submit views to the competing designers.

Members discussed their concerns about transport and the safety of children, and in particular challenged the view of Northumberland County Council that the walk-to-school route was safe. They agreed that Northumberland County Council should re-assess the safety aspects of the walk-to-school route.

CO18/09 6. BUDGET

Members noted Attachment A, which set out the range of expenditure which the Council would need to consider in preparing a budget. The Clerk advised that the election costs would be approximately half those shown.

RESOLVED: Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Parish Council to become members of the Northumberland Association of Local Councils.

CO19/09 7. WORKING GROUPS

Members discussed setting up short-term working groups to establish the administrative basis for the Council.

It was agreed that in view of the relatively small number of Councillors, each working group should have at least four members, but all Councillors would attend if available.

CO20/09 8. THE STINTS

Members were advised that four 'stints' had been purchased by Wansbeck District Council, and the County Council, as the successor authority, was proposing that the Parish Council should become the named stint-holders.

CO21/09 9. PUBLIC TOILETS

It was noted that councillors were informally investigating possible solutions to the lack of public toilets.

CO22/09 10. STANDING ORDERS

Members considered the Model Standing Orders which had been circulated.

RESOLVED: To adopt the Standing Orders as amended at the meeting.

- CO23/09 11. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**
Members considered the Model Financial Regulations which had been circulated.
- RESOLVED: To adopt the Financial Regulations as amended at the meeting.**
- CO24/09 12. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME**
Members considered the Model Publication Scheme which had been circulated.
- RESOLVED: To adopt the Model Publication Scheme.**
- In association with the consideration about the Model Publication Scheme, members agreed that there should be a small group of members which would consider a communication strategy for the Council, comprising Councillors Anderson, Kirkup and McCready. This would be in place for three months, until a permanent Clerk was in post, and would consider news-sheets, councillor surgeries which could be held at the Church Centre subject to agreement by the Parochial Church Council; posting of meeting information on the Newbiggin website and at appropriate locations around the parish.
- CO25/09 13. PLANNING ISSUES**
The Clerk advised that the County Council had agreed to provide hard copies of planning applications to each local council, but required a named contact within each council who would co-ordinate the consultations.
- RESOLVED: Councillor Boon to co-ordinate planning matters on behalf of the Council.**
- The Clerk also advised member that a planning briefing session, to be presened by Northumberland County Council, had been arranged for 4 August, 7 pm, at Choppington Social Welfare Centre.
- CO26/09 14. CONSULTATION**
Members deferred consideration of the consultation by Northumbria NHS Trust on proposed changes to day care for elderly people.
- CO27/09 15. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**
This item was not discussed.

[NOTE: It was agreed the next meeting would be held on 9 September 2009 at 7 pm at St Bartholomew's Church Centre].

Signed by the Chairman:

Date:.....

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