

NEWBIGGIN BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11 August 2010 at 7.00 pm at the Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre.

PRESENT:

Councillors: R McCready (Mayor)
M Boon M Cholerton
M Kirkup W Rogers
A Thompson
Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE:

10 members of the public and 1 member of the press

OPEN SESSION

The following issues were raised by members of the public present at the meeting:

- A resident queried when past minutes of meetings would be available on the web site and was advised that work was being finalised to publish them all shortly. He sought confirmation of the start time for the Farmers' Market which would be 10 am and in relation to discrepancies relating to St Bartholomew's Fayre whether a reprint of the Town Diary would be circulated. The Church's own publicity, the Notice Board and Web Site were all correct.
- A comment was made in relation to the Local Transport Plan and lack of priority and funding for new car park provision that the Town Council would be unable to afford to fund any from the precept. The member of the public requested that the Town Council press the County Council to make further provision in Newbiggin.
- Two representatives of Northumbria Police were present and advised that a new Neighbourhood Beat Manager Anthony Pattinson would commence on 26 September and until then Alan Dunn would assist. They referred to ongoing work in relation to thefts from allotments. It was queried whether the police had contributed to the CCTV and the Association had been told that they had not. There was some concern that only two crime numbers had been issued for over 100 thefts. Reference was made to the Locality Managed Area Partnership (LMAP) where action across the board was being taken to assist in the apprehension of offenders.

C41/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L Anderson and M Peden.

C42/10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record. Councillor Cholerton advised that she had written in strong terms to the Managing Director of Arriva and had a reply confirming there were no plans for a bus service improvement from 5 September. They did however plan to introduce a service linking Woodhorn Road with Ashington and Newcastle in October. Talks were continuing with Andrew Harding and the bus company over the 'Little Bus' service. Thanks were expressed for the work undertaken by the county officers Councillor Cholerton and the community representatives.

C43/10 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

No declarations were made.

C44/10 MINUTES OF THE MARKET COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Market Committee acting under delegated powers held on 28 July 2010 and 09 August had been circulated and were received.

C45/10 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

The Town Clerk had received notification from the external auditors BDO LLP that they had completed the statutory audit and issued their certificate and opinion that the information contained in the Council's Annual Return was in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements. No matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

The Council was now required to approve and accept the Annual Return incorporating the auditor's certificate and opinion and to display a public notice of its availability for inspection. This would be by arrangement at the Town Council Offices.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council approve the audited Annual Return.

C46/10 TOWN PLAN – RESULTS OF LOCAL SURVEY

The Chairperson introduced the report and referred to the survey arrangements; the results obtained and the Annual Town Assembly which had provided good input and had been a successful meeting.

The results of the survey were set out in Appendix 1 and the notes of the meeting in Appendix 2 of the report. The five published Aims of the Plan had all achieved a high rating by the respondents of at least 4 out of 5. The rating of the projects most preferred by the public and by importance were agreed by the public and only Street Cleansing was yet to be auctioned by the Town Council.

The Workshop ideas and topics would all combine to produce the Town Plan for further consultation and the 107 free text comments provided would be fed into discussions in due course.

RESOLVED that the Town Council:

- 1) accept these findings from the survey;**
- 2) agree to include provision for these key project areas in the Town Plan; and**
- 3) consult further on the Town Plan and its priorities before adoption.**

C47/10 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP) NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PROGRAMME 2011/12

The report advised that the county council was developing a new Local Transport Plan and had invited the Town Council to submit its top three priorities for assessment for inclusion in next years' Integrated Transport Programme. This programme excluded road and footway maintenance and could not be used for public transport services which were funded separately. NCC had pointed out that funding was likely to be significantly less than at present.

NCC current transport policy was to promote sustainable travel by walking cycling and public transport and to reduce car use and a list of previous requests for local schemes was attached at Appendix 3 of the report for information.

RESOLVED that consideration be deferred to the meeting in September.

C48/10 TRIATHLON FUNDING

Budget provision for 2010/11 had been made to support the staging of a triathlon by TriNorthumberland in the town.

Successful events were held over the weekend of 23/24 July and the "Couple Challenge" Triathlon was scheduled to take place in the bay on 11 September with a record closed entry of 250 competitors from around the country.

RESOLVED: that the budget allocation of £500 designated towards the Triathlon event be released to the organisers TriNorthumberland.

C49/10 TOWN TWINNING

Councillor Rogers referred to the former Town Twinning arrangements between the former Wansbeck Council and Remscheid in Germany which the county council had handed over to Ashington Town Council. Newbiggin had always played an active part in exchange arrangements over many years with Remscheid residents and it was felt that further involvement should be investigated.

RESOLVED that Town Twinning arrangements be investigated and discussed with Ashington Town Council.

C50/10 TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY - NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

The county council had recently published its final draft of the Tree and Woodland Strategy for the county and was consulting the Town and Parish Councils to seek any comments and suggestions regarding its content. The document has been circulated to members and covered the importance value and management of trees on council owned land.

The priority objectives of the policy were to create a cleaner greener safer county; maintain current good tree care practice, while taking opportunities to improve where possible; enhance the woodland, rural and urban areas within Northumberland.

A wide range of policy issues were covered including tree related benefits and problems; green infrastructure and biodiversity; general, highway, parks and open spaces and woodland tree management.

The importance of the policy was stressed and large areas were identified which could accommodate tree planting and meadowland with broad-leafed trees being preferred for carbon absorption. Members felt that more time was required for detailed consideration.

RESOLVED that consideration be deferred to the meeting in September.

C51/10 URGENT BUSINESS

Owing to the urgency of arrangements relating to the regeneration works at the Quay Wall the Chairperson agreed to the consideration of the following item of business.

C52/10 NOTICE BOARD

The present Town Notice Board would soon be removed as part of the regeneration works at the Quay Wall Piazza and the county council Regeneration Officer had indicated that if the Town Council wanted to acquire its own notice board it could be installed as part of the scheme on the Post Office wall.

Members agreed there was a need for this facility and wanted to investigate alternative local means of supply for what needed to be a substantial and weather-proof asset. A short term arrangement throughout the works was also required.

RESOLVED that further quotations be obtained.

Signed by the Chairperson

Date: