

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14 September 2011 at 7 pm at the St Bartholomew's Church Centre Newbiggin by-the-Sea.

PRESENT:

Councillors: R McCready (Mayor)
L Anderson M Boon M Cholerton
M Kirkup W Rogers

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE:

6 members of the public

OPEN SESSION

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

- Reference was made to a suggestion raised previously regarding the compilation of details of organisations operating locally and it was queried whether the Town Council knew of them all. The Chairperson responded and outlined the various means of communication including the Annual Town Assembly and Question Time and Council meetings open for all to attend with notifications around the town and on the web site. There were separate arrangements to contact organisations and although a formal list had not been compiled one was published by Wansbeck CVS each year and Town Councillors were well aware of the groups. A targeted conference was being arranged which would include the appropriate older person groups to be organised by Age UK.

Maintenance of a list of organisations was a large continuous undertaking and care needed to be taken over its purpose and use. Councillor Cholerton felt one should be compiled and undertook to arrange this.

- A local resident referred to recent press coverage of two separate groups Friends of Woodhorn Church and Newbiggin by-the-Sea Partnership Limited pursuing similar proposals regarding St. Mary's Church at Woodhorn and felt that they would be best working together on a project. The Chairperson advised that she felt that it had been too early to comment on proposals that were not detailed enough at present and covered many potential schemes.

Other residents were reported to be unhappy about the article and felt the Partnership should have come to the Friends Group before going public. The Chairperson indicated

that the Partnership Trust was looking at the empty property problem in the town and that this was in line with the Town Plan. Councillor Boon referred to his involvement with the trust in connection with four schemes over fifteen years involving several hundred thousand pounds worth of benefit to the town. It was a charitable organisation accountable to the Charity Commission without personal benefit but with the ability to tap into funding streams that were inaccessible to the Town Council. The Town Council County Council and the Partnership along with others wanted to see Newbiggin by-the-Sea improved and there was no conflict working in that direction.

Councillor Kirkup advised that the Friends Group had met the previous day with a representative of the North East Civic Trust and was optimistic about the building.

- In relation to the intention to provide notice boards for Newbiggin a local resident suggested that it would make a good project for Academy students to be requested to build as a project.

C037/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Peden and A Thompson.

C038/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

C039/11 OLDER PERSONS CONFERENCE

The Chairperson referred to previous discussions regarding Age UK being asked to bring together local groups and organisations providing various services and facilities for older persons in the community to assess future requirements and support and create links. A request to cover the costs of hosting the event had been received and members felt that this should be limited to £500 for a one day event. The Chairperson was still waiting to finalise the agenda following comments and further information was required. The venue would depend on the anticipated number of attendees and capacity of venues in the town.

RESOLVED that the Town Council agree to provide £500 to contribute to the costs of hosting a local conference and delegated powers be given to the Town Clerk to agree arrangements.

C040/11 SUPPORT FOR TRIATHLON EVENT

A very successful event had been staged by Tri Northumberland in the bay and town involving 350 competitors with a further 60 wishing to participate. The increased scale of the event had necessitated essential road closures and traffic barriers to manage safety and crowd and competitor conflict. The County Council had funded the legal and advertising costs associated with the closures and the organizers had requested the Town Council to cover the practical

costs incurred with Hatton Traffic Management.

Members felt that this event had been a South East Northumberland tourist opportunity and had been very positive for Newbiggin with the organizers having put in a great deal of work.

RESOLVED that the Town Council meet the costs of £1,267 for traffic management.

CO41/11 NEWBIGGIN GARDENS COMPETITION

The Awards Ceremony was to take place the following night at a cost of £170 including prizes. If it was agreed to proceed with a similar competition next year then this could be announced and applications forms issued with the intention of increasing entrants.

RESOLVED that a Newbiggin Gardens Competition be held in 2012.

CO42/11 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION

It was requested that arrangements proceed for a Christmas Lights Competition in the forthcoming season for which budget provision had been made.

RESOLVED that the competition proceed this year and Councillor Rogers take the lead with the necessary arrangements.

Signed by the Chairman:

Date:.....