

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 08 August 2012 at 7 pm at the Sports and Community Centre Newbiggin by-the-Sea.

PRESENT:

Councillors: R McCready (Mayor)

L Anderson M Boon M Cholerton M Peden W Rogers

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE:

8 members of the public and 1 member of the press were in attendance

OPEN SESSION

The Chairperson advised that the Town Council was aware of the concerns relating to Arriva bus service changes and that it would be considered formally as urgent business at the beginning of the agenda. Other issues were raised by members of the public present at the meeting:

- Residents of the Colliery area were again raising concerns that the problems from horses in the area had not yet been addressed and remained a danger to the elderly and children in particular. Animal welfare was also a matter of concern during the warmer weather as it was reported many horses were not being provided with water.

The Chairperson confirmed that these matters were being actively pursued by the County Council and various partner organisations as coordinated action was required.

C037/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors M Kirkup and A Thompson.

C038/12 URGENT BUSINESS

Owing to the late identification and short deadlines relating to changes in local bus services it was agreed to consider the following item as urgent business.

C039/12 BUS SERVICE CHANGES

It had just come to light that changes to bus services proposed by Arriva would have a significant effect on part of the town by the removal of the A1 service to Blyth and diversion of the X20 to Newcastle. The Chairperson outlined the position regarding services X20; X21; 35; A1 which would leave no services along Woodhorn Road

from 16 September. Usage figures had been provided by Arriva that did not reconcile with local knowledge and elderly people in particular would be isolated by the loss of this service.

Communications involving local Members County Councillors and County Officers had earlier that day highlighted the possible introduction of a part service from Spital to provide a five times a day service from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to link with buses from Ashington to Newcastle. A bid could also be considered for submission under the 'Get Going' scheme or 'Get About Voluntary Car Sharing Scheme'.

It was felt that a small working group was required to assess the overall situation and investigate possible options quickly ahead of the September deadlines including the position for commuting passengers and bid requirements to report back to the Town Council meeting in September.

RESOLVED that a Transport Working Group comprising Councillor Cholerton; County Councillor Lang and Carol O'Connor investigate the service options and report to the September meeting.

C040/12 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2012 were agreed and signed as a correct record. It was confirmed that work had been carried out in connection with the Minewater pipe on the beach.

C041/12 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Town Clerk confirmed that following the adoption of the new Code of Conduct all members had duly completed new declarations of interests covering both Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Interests and they had been lodged with the County Council as required for publication. No interests were declared in relation to business to be conducted at the meeting.

C042/12 REVIEW OF THE TOWN PLAN

A detailed progress review of the Town Plan was highlighted by the Chairperson. It showed good progress and was a pleasing review at the half way stage with many local schemes completed or underway showing a huge impact for the town for relatively small funding. A copy of the review would be placed on the web site.

Further initiatives and suggestions regarding Tuition based activities; Action Week; Signage Project; Empty Buildings and Woodhorn Church; Adult Learning Promotion; Business start up were all considered for development and funding where necessary over the next year.

It was considered that an Environmental Projects Overview was required by a group of partner organizations that would have an input into a range of initiatives to bring together strategy and policy in these areas. This would be a short term strategy group working towards an environmentally themed Annual Assembly next April. As

many agencies would find it difficult to commit to all meetings it was suggested that an electronic access and interaction process be available for contributions.

RESOLVED that the Town Council:

(i) note the good progress made on the Town Plan aims and objectives;

(ii) request a Working Group comprising Councillors Anderson; Peden and a representative of Newbiggin Maritime Centre to provide priced options on signage for consideration;

(iii) a short term Pride in Newbiggin Strategy Group be requested to work towards an Environmentally themed Annual Assembly with representatives invited from the Bay Environment Group; Bernicia Housing; Groundwork Northumberland; the Academy; Newbiggin in Bloom; Newbiggin Partnership Trust; the Portas Town Team and the County Councillors.

C043/12 DOGS ORDERS

The Chairperson reported on discussions with the Senior Community Warden and Senior Animal Welfare Officers from the County Council concerning the dog initiatives and new signage being provided. It was clear that new signage arrangements would have an impact particularly on the beach and promenade.

Frequent visits were being made at various times of the day by officers to monitor activity of dog owners. The surveillance was not always in marked vehicles or by uniformed officers and it was re-emphasised that local intelligence was needed to target resources.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

C044/12 BANKING AUTHORIZATIONS

The Town Clerk reported that arrangements with Barclays the Town Council's Bankers now required a specific detailed resolution so that he could transact business in relation to the accounts and give instructions on behalf of the Council.

This would include account enquiries; statements; transfers; direct debits; stopping cheques but excluded making third party payments and borrowing instructions. Members agreed to the specific authorizations for Dennis Earl to ease administration of the banking arrangements.

RESOLVED that Town Council acknowledge and agree, amongst other things:

- (i) Instructions may be given by the individual named above and can be given by any method such as in writing or by telephone or online, in accordance with the Customer Agreement.**
- (ii) Formal overdraft arrangements, loans and third party payments may only be agreed by authorized persons appointed under the Appointment**

- of Bankers mandate.
- (iii) The Bank is authorized to disclose the balance and all other information about each account to the individual named above.
- (iv) This authority is to remain in force until cancelled by any of us in writing.

C045/12 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

The County Council had again requested the Town Council to submit its top three priority schemes for assessment in connection with the Local Transport Plan Programme for 2013-14.

Members considered that the same three schemes submitted last year for the Cycle/footway at Spital Farm; Traffic Calming in the Collingwood Road area; Resident Parking Schemes should be confirmed for inclusion in the 2013-14 programme.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council confirm the resubmission of the three schemes above for the 2013-14 LTP Programme.

C046/12 NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN CORE STRATEGY

This major consultation exercise had produced a significant document posing over one hundred questions to cover future planning strategy intending to develop a Core Strategy for strategic development for the county and encouraging an on-line response. It would supersede previous plans and lead to adoption in the winter of 2013.

While the Core Strategy aimed for a diverse economy with eight objectives the areas of most significance to Newbiggin were housing; resilient economy; town centre and retailing.

Members were of the opinion that the plan needed to identify small scale opportunities for business and employment in the town with small scale starter units being provided. It was felt that it should not just focus on the large scale employment sites that required travel to work.

Housing provision was another significant issue for the town as it needed an improved housing offer with better choice for local people providing a balance of properties that would retain local people and lead to reduced travel. The focus should not be just on expansion of major towns but the expansion through smaller scale developments in towns that needed to create sustainable communities particularly in the current economic climate.

RESOLVED: that the above views be submitted in response to the Core Strategy consultation for the Local Development Framework.

Signed by the Chairman: Date:.....