

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 30th
January 2019 at 7.00pm at the St. Bartholomew's Church Centre Newbiggin by-the-
Sea

PRESENT: Councillors: A Thompson (Chairman)

M Boon L Burns

M Cholerton S Harrison E Hartley

Officers: D Earl – Town Clerk

E Brown – Deputy Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 40 members of the public

C082/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors A Bromwich-Alexandra, M Peden

OPEN SESSION

A member of the public questioned how the toilet refurbishment was to be financed; it was explained that that was the purpose of this meeting.

A member of the public queried whether the toilet block was a listed building; it was confirmed that whilst the toilet block was situated within the conservation area, they were not listed.

A member of the public questioned why the Town Council were considering paying for this project when the toilets belonged to NCC.

A member queried why the cost had increased from £20k to £71k, suggesting toilets would be best built on the promenade. The Chair explained that after a tender exercise costs were higher than originally anticipated.

A member of the public informed of an online petition which was handed in at the meeting.

A member of the public suggested the council pay someone to open/close existing toilets instead of refurbishing them, stating that one set of public toilets were all that was required for a town of this size and noting that the public can use the facilities at cafes if they were to purchase a beverage.

A member of the public queried whether a feasibility study had been carried out, it was confirmed that a study had not been carried out.

A member queried how many hours had the toilet been open over the last 12 months, who would be responsible for water rates, hand towels etc. Would the toilet be accessible for disabled and have baby changing facilities? It was confirmed that principal authority had not opened the toilets in over 12 months and the specification for the refurbishment included making them fully accessible to all. The Town Clerk had received information that NCC would retain responsibility for service operation and costs.

The public were informed that the approval of the toilet project was not being discussed as this had been agreed over 12 months ago; the item for discussion was how to finance the toilets.

A member of the public queried whether the toilets had been removed from a demolition list. The Town Clerk informed that he was not aware they were on any demolition list.

The Town Clerk confirmed that he had it in writing from the NCC Service Manager, that NCC would continue management and service operation of the toilets. There was already £20,000 in the budget and a further £20,000 in the forthcoming years budget. This meeting was to discuss the £31,000 funding shortfall.

It was queried whether the tender that had been accepted was a fixed price tender; it was confirmed that it was indeed a fixed price tender

It was queried as to whether there had been any engagement with the Trustees of the Maritime Centre to use their facilities.

A Member of the public asked whether a public consultation on the toilets could be included in the up coming Neighbourhood Plan consultation to get a democratic vote on the scheme.

C083/18 MINUTES of the previous meeting held 16 January 2019

A member requested the full wording of Councillor Thompsons motion as circulated at the meeting be included in the minutes:

The Council accepts the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Base Budget 2018/2019 £282,753.

In line with Council policy a budget of £289,981 for the financial year 2019/2020 is recommended for approval to deliver the existing enhanced services and regeneration projects that include Public Toilets, Car Park improvements and Enhanced Services.

This is a Budget increase of £7,228.00.

A member raised a point of order that a figure within the motion was inaccurate.

RESOLVED that: with the additional wording of the original motion the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C084/18 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS – None.

C044/18. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES BUDGET AND PROJECT FUNDING

A Member proposed a motion that: the council agrees to finance the balance of £31000 to pay towards the multi-purpose Public Convenience Project from this years 106 allocation and the 106 allocation from the next financial year. The motion was seconded.

A Member noted this would still leave a shortfall of £3000.

A Member disputed the motion being brought to the meeting without prior notice and a point of order was raised that previously Members had been requested to submit motions 5 clear days before the meeting date.

The Town Clerk informed that standing orders does allow for members to bring motions for consideration when the subject is already on the agenda.

A member proposed an amendment that clarification be sought from the principal authority that the toilet block was not on the demolition list and regarding ongoing maintenance and staffing costs would not be a burden on the Town Council. This was seconded.

As per Standing Orders a named vote was requested on the amendment

| For | Against |
|------------|----------------|
| S Harrison | M Boon |
| E Hartley | M Cholerton |
| L Burns | A Thompson. |

Due to an equality of votes the Chairman exercised his casting vote, voting against the amendment.

The original proposal was returned for consideration. Following the summing up on the amendment the Ward County Councillor interrupted the meeting passing information to a Member that stated the County Council's intention to hand the responsibility of the toilets to the Town Council. This information being contrary to that which was communicated to the Town Clerk, the Clerk asked for the name of the Officer who supplied this information and a copy of the correspondence but was refused. Members then debated the motion.

As per Standing Orders a named vote was requested on the motion

| For | Against |
|-------------|----------------|
| M Boon | S Harrison |
| M Cholerton | E Hartley |
| A Thompson | L Burns |

Due to an equality of votes the Chairman exercised his casting vote, voting in favour of the proposal.

RESOLVED THAT: the council agrees to finance the balance of £31000 to pay towards the multi-purpose Public Convenience Project from this years 106 allocation and the 106 allocation from the next financial year.

The meeting closed at 8.12pm

Signed by Chairman.....Date.....