

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday 14th
February 2019 at 7.00pm at the St. Bartholomew's Church Centre,
Newbiggin by-the-Sea

PRESENT: Councillors: M Peden (Chairman)
M Boon L Burns
M Cholerton S Harrison E Hartley

Officers: D Earl – Town Clerk
E Brown – Deputy Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 21 members of the public

OPEN SESSION:

A member of the public asked if, as per Standing Orders, the Chair would use his discretion to extend the open session beyond 15 minutes. The Chair responded that he did not know at this stage how many questions were forthcoming so could not say at this stage whether an extension was necessary.

A member of the public asked if there was any chance of a 'U-turn' on the decision to refurbish the public toilets – The Chair explained that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the public toilets.

A member of the public queried how the public toilets would meet the needs and improve the quality of life of Newbiggin residents, as per the Council's Community Engagement Strategy. The Chair responded that the toilets would be for the use of residents and tourists.

A member of the public stated that a lot of money had already been spent on public toilets. The Chairman noted this point.

A member of the public asked what services would be missed/lost in the community as a result of the S106 funding being allocated against toilets. The Chair explained that S106 funding is intended for regeneration projects within the community and such projects required the approval of appropriate NCC Officers.

A member of the public asked for more information on J Tait Ltd who had been awarded the contract. The Town Clerk informed that J Tait Ltd a contractor approved and endorsed by NCC, but he did not have any more information available to present.

A member of the public stated that there were no toilets at the west end and there were better things to spend the money on. Then going on to state that most public houses and the Maritime Centre would likely allow the public to use their facilities. The Chair noted this point.

A member of the public asked who controlled S106 money, the Town Clerk explained that the planning gain money was granted to the Town Council to spend on regeneration projects that were approved by NCC and monitored to be used in an appropriate manner.

A member of the public stated that there were other things the S106 funding could be spend on. The Chair again noted this point.

A member of the public asked if it bothered the council that so many people were against the project. The Chair noted that those in attendance at the meeting was only a small fraction of the total population of the town. The member of the public asked if the council would take notice if a petition was presented with half of the resident's signatures. The Chair noted that the item was up for discussion at the meeting. The member of the public then continued to ask hypothetical questions about various scenarios.

A member of the public asked whether a feasibility study been undertaken, the Chair confirmed a consultation was carried out for the town plan in 2010.

A member of the public queried whether it was true that Councillors were elected to represent and not rule the public. The Chair confirmed that the Town Council is indeed democratically elected to represent the community.

A member of the public stated that as the last meeting it was confirmed that a feasibility study had not been undertaken, asking for clarification on this point. The clerk informed that there had not been a feasibility study, the facilities were owned by NCC and they were also the service providers and they had endorsed the scheme and the town council had agreed to undertake the capital project.

A member of the public asked what due diligence had been applied to the awarding of the tender to the company J Tait Ltd – The Town Clerk explained that J Tait Ltd is an NCC approved contractor, due diligence is carried out by the County Council when adding contractors to this approved list.

There being no further questions forthcoming it was noted that the Chair had extended the open session by 4 minutes.

C086/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors A Bromwich-Alexandra, A Thompson – The apologies were accepted.

C087/18 MINUTES of the previous meeting held 30 January 2019

RESOLVED that: the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C088/18 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS – None.

C089/18 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the Agenda as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act relating to financial and business affairs.

C090/18. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

A member proposed that the Town Council voids the decision made at the extraordinary meeting held on 30th January to cover the shortfall in monies for the refurbishment of the public toilets near the Cresswell Arms with funds from S106 monies of both this and the following financial years based on the council being presented with misinformation. This was seconded.

The exempt report was discussed.

A Member proposed an amendment that the council defer the project by 6 months until a clearer picture is obtained. This was seconded.

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

For	Against
M Boon	L Burns
M Cholerton	E Hartley
	S Harrison
	M Peden

The amendment was declined.

A further amendment was proposed that in light of the new information and added revenue costs that had not been budgeted for, the town council cancel the toilet refurbishment project.

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

For	Against
L Burns	M Boon
E Hartley	M Cholerton
S Harrison	
M Peden	

The amendment was carried, and it was **RESOLVED THAT:**

The town council cancel the toilet refurbishment project, in light of the new information received and additional revenue costs.

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