

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday 20th March 2019 at
7.00pm at Newbiggin Sports & Community Centre

PRESENT: Councillors: M Peden (Chairman)

M Boon L Burns M Cholerton

S Harrison E Hartley A Thompson

Officers: D Earl – Town Clerk

E Brown – Deputy Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 37 members of the public

OPEN SESSION:

A member of the public raised concerns about the level of bickering on various community social media platforms and at Council meetings over the last two years, requesting the Council and community present at the meeting agree to leave bickering in the past and work together for the good of the town and to make Newbiggin better.

The Chair acknowledged that some bickering has gone on in the past but encouraged all to work together in the hope that any bickering would cease.

A member of the public queried the grant paid to Newbiggin Development Trust in March 2018 and whether detailed accounts had been provided to the Town Council on how the funds had been spent. The Chairman confirmed that this information had been provided.

A member of the public raised an issue with contacting Councillors via their email address links on the Town council website. The Deputy Clerk would look into rectifying any issues.

A member of the public asked whether it was possible to have the opening hours of the town council office extended and a service provided for residents who do not have access to email or telephone to log their complaints with the Town council staff regarding County Council issues. They also raised concerns about staff working arrangements. The Chairman confirmed that the Council would consider the office opening hours.

A member of the public queried whether any support was provided for residents using the computers at the Sports Centre. A Councillor confirmed the computers were not supervised although the staff at the centre were very helpful if required, noting that the sports centre and the computers belong to Active Northumberland which is under the remit of Northumberland County Council and the query should be referred to them.

A member of the public queried the cost of staff administration asking when a member of staff planned on retiring, claiming that this was indicated during the recruitment of another position. The Chairman confirmed that the staff costing information was publicly available on the Council website also noting that the Council had not indicated plans for the retirement of staff and would not do so as this was a human resources issue.

A member of the public queried who is responsible for clearing the sand from the promenade and requested it be dealt with more urgently to avoid any health and safety issues. A Councillor referred the member of the public to County Councillor Liz Simpson as the promenade was the responsibility of Northumberland County Council. It was noted that the Town Council frequently make representations to the County Council about the clearance of sand and through enhanced services arrangements work with the County Council to facilitate clearance, but the responsibility remained with the County Council.

C098/18: APOLOGIES OFR ABSENCE– Councillor A Bromwich-Alexandra

C099/18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held on 20 February 2019.

RESOLVED that: the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C100/18. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Cllr Burns declared a personal interest in the part II item relating to AFC Newbiggin.

C101/18. DIARY OF MEETINGS 2019/20

The Town Clerk had circulated suggested dates and venues for meetings of the Town Council and Finance Committee meetings for the year 2019/20 as Appendix 1 which had been prepared based on the current year to avoid the meeting dates proposed by the County Council for its Local Area Council meetings and avoiding school holidays.

RESOLVED: that with one amendment of the meeting date 6th May 2020 changing to 13th May 2020 the proposed meeting dates and venues be accepted.

C102/18. ANNUAL ASSEMBLY – DATE OF MEETING

RESOLVED that: the Annual Town Assembly be held on Wednesday 22 May 2019 at the Sports and Community Centre.

C103/18 RISK ASSESSMENT

RESOLVED that: the Risk Assessment be accepted with the following query and amendments:

- i) Liability, Officers Indemnity - to query the appropriateness of the £250,000 cover. in regard to a potential large project. This would be looked at in context of the insurance.
- ii) Legal Liability, Proper Document Control – To delete *‘Leases and Legal documents held in office or Clerk’s home’* and replace with *‘Leases and legal documents to be held in the secure Council office with back-ups held off site’*.
- iii) Neighbourhood Plan – Preparations of a Neighbourhood Plan for the whole Parish – to delete *‘report back to Town Council at appropriate points’* and replace with *‘report back to Town Council monthly’*.

C104/18 ATTLEE PARK PLAY AREA

At the previous meeting the Town Council resolved to earmark the current years S106 money to implement the play area strategy with reference being made to danger, poor condition and sand problems at Attlee Park. That would amount to £15,164 but the S106 money that the Town Council receives must be used for town regeneration purposes and the County Council will not agree to it being used for play parks.

A check had been done on the scale of work required to upgrade the park and overall estimates were quite high. In recent years a considerable amount had been invested by the Town Council in the play areas and now the Council were required to consider the extent of a works scheme and how it and be progressed through the budget.

It was proposed and seconded that the works be carried out as per the report, with agreement given in principle, subject to official quotations for the work being brought back to the Council and alternative funding sources being investigated.

As per Standing Orders a named vote was requested.

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

The motion was accepted.

C105/18 PLAY STRATEGY

RESOLVED unanimously that: the Play Strategy for Newbiggin be adopted in its entirety.

C106/18 BUS SHELTER REQUEST – BANK HOUSE, FRONT STREET

Several requests have been received from residents to erect a bus shelter at the existing bus stop near Bank House Club on Front Street.

Permission has been received from the principal authority to proceed suggesting a shelter be erected in the recessed area or, if not possible, a cantilever shelter erected over the footway.

It was acknowledged that a fatality near this location was marked by floral tributes but thought that the bus shelter would not prohibit nor block the laying of tributes.

Resolved that: it be agreed in principle to erect a bus shelter at this location subject to a small consultation exercise with residents in that area.

C107/18 ISSUES FROM THE TOWN MEETING

The Chairman read out the motions presented to the Council by the Town meeting and responded appropriately.

The motions and Chairman's responses are attached as Appendix 2.

C108/18 Promenade Bins

Neighbourhood Services confirmed that their position remains the same regarding the provision of bins highlighting that they believed the capacity was correct and operational difficulties that could be encountered by the suggested changes.

A member presented a report on litter bin provision informing of missing bins, broken bins, damaged fixings, over provision of capacity and cleansing issues.

Issues with the service standard from Northumberland County Council were also identified.

It was proposed and seconded to replace the wheelie bins over the next two years with a mixture of bins sizes provided to accommodate easy access for waste disposal by disabled and young children.

As per Standing Orders a named vote was requested.

For

L Burns
S Harrison
E Hartley

Against

M Boon
M Cholerton
M Peden
A Thompson

The motion was defeated.

C109/18 NOTICES OF MOTION

- (i) Councillor Boon moved the motion as set out in the agenda which was seconded:

As per Standing Orders a named vote was requested.

For

M Boon
L Burns
M Cholerton
M Peden
A Thompson

Against

S Harrison
E Hartley

The motion was carried and it was **RESOLVED THAT:** the council agrees to set aside £8,000 in the 2019/20 budget and make arrangements to participate in an arrangement for an environmental enforcement officer to enable us to enhance the existing County Council work in attempting to bring errant dog owners to book reporting back to council on outcome.

- (ii) Councillor Boon moved the motion as set out in the agenda which was seconded:

It was noted that remedial works were taking place within the car park and an amendment proposed that the motion stand omitting the financial contribution; this was seconded.

RESOLVED THAT: the Town Council recognises that within Newbiggin Central and Newbiggin West wards there are four vital services, Doctors surgery (two practice's), Dentist Surgery, Pharmacy and a Cash Point that need to be maintained and supported for which car parking is essential.

The footprint left by demolished Cleveland School is now a car park, but the County Council has carried out little remedial work on it despite a large proportion of it being block paved. The Town Council requests NCC to have the area to be levelled out and back filled similar to that which has been carried out on the site of the demolished police building adjacent to Manor Walks

- (iii) Councillor Boon moved the motion as set out in the agenda which was seconded.

An amendment was proposed that the Town Council also promote the existing NCC scheme that is relevant to Newbiggin; this was seconded.

It was **RESOLVED THAT:** the Town council contacts all commercial, community and club establishments from the Bowling Green in the west to the Golf Club in the east to request they join a scheme to encourage visitors to Newbiggin by the Sea to allow non customers to use their toilets free of charge. The council publicise the scheme and any other scheme relevant to Newbiggin and include all that are willing to participate on a register that can be

displayed on our web site and in event magazine and supply stickers for the participating establishments to display in their windows.

C110/18 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 information.

C111/18. AFC NEWBIGGIN SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Following the receipt of specialist independent financial advice;

RESOLVED: that the Town Council

- (i) Undertake the procurement exercise and contract management;
- (ii) Receive grants and contributions towards the project;
- (iii) Obtain further specific VAT advice from the Parkinson Partnership as necessary as the project develops.