

Town Meeting 18 February 2019

Motion adopted 20/02/2019	<p>This Council resolves to note the outcomes of the Parish Meeting held on 18th February and agree a timely and appropriate response.</p> <p>(i) That we implement the excellent play park strategy put forward by our Deputy Clerk some months ago and earmark the current financial years S106 money for that purpose.</p> <p>(ii) That we use the Annual Assembly/Meeting of the Parish to work through the other concerns of our residents with them and timetable in possible appropriate actions to future Town Council Agendas.</p>
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<p>Motion 1</p> <p>That this precept is reduced or if not possible, that the precept payers are fully consulted on what the money is to be spent on and the item is put on the agenda at the Annual Assembly</p>	<p>The Precept has to be set by the Town Council in accordance with the Local Government Act and notified to the collection authority NCC. It cannot be changed. The community will be consulted and it was agreed to place this on the Annual Assembly agenda.</p>
<p>Motion 2</p> <p>What happens to the next two years Section 106 money</p> <p>Propose that it is discussed and suggest that our play parks are updated – many residents told us in person and via social media that they wanted this.</p>	<p>Town Council has not considered further what Regeneration Project this grant will support. This allocation cannot be used for the play parks for which the Town Council makes separate provision in the Budget and has spent over £162,000 on refurbishment over the last 5 years.</p>
<p>Motion 3</p> <p>Propose that we ask the Chair of the Town Council to explain why, after signing an Engagement Policy, did he choose not to engage with the electorate about something that was obviously causing high feelings in all age groups within the village. (Toilets proposal) Can the Chair explain at the next Town council meeting what the engagement policy is and how they intend to implement it.</p>	<p>The public toilets regeneration project was agreed by the Town Council in January 2018 and included in the published budgets for both 2018/19 and 2019/20. No objections were received by the Town Council until the Town Meeting on 18 February. The Engagement Policy was adopted by the Town Council and is being implemented for the Neighbourhood Plan and will be used for other consultations as necessary.</p>

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<p>Motion 4 Can the issue of the Post Office be raised at Town Council level</p>	<p>The Town Council has made repeated representations to the Post Office following the last two closures. Unfortunately they will not discuss ongoing commercial negotiations but the latest statement is available on the web site.</p>
<p>Motion 5 Proposal that the Town Council tell the people of Newbiggin exactly how much they are spending on administration i.e. Town Clerks and confirm if and when the Town Clerk is retiring</p>	<p>The cost of administration is the first line in the Town Council Budget and has been published in each of the last 10 years and also in the Annual Return each year. The Budgets for 2018/19 and 2019/20 and the Annual Returns are available on the web site.</p>
<p>Motion 6 Ask why the Town Clerk answers more questions at the Town Council meetings than the Councillors do. He has far too much say. The Councillors are responsible and they should answer. Propose that the Town Council supply the Job Description of the Town Clerk and clarify his duties at the next Town Council meeting.</p>	<p>The role and responsibility of the Town Clerk includes providing legal; financial; administrative; procedural advice to the Town Council. In particular support is provided during meetings to seek compliance with the laws; Standing Orders; Financial Regulations in force. This is standard practice in all authorities and officers do not make any decisions in meetings, only the Members present.</p>
<p>Motion 7 Propose that the Town Council discuss and advise what they are doing with the proposal they had to tackle dog mess on public pathways</p>	<p>This is a County Council responsibility and service. It had been intended, along with several other Town and Parish Councils, to enhance the County Service by funding additional enforcement cover in the town one day per week but a majority of Councillors voted against the trial. A new motion is to be considered later on the agenda.</p>

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<p>Motion 8</p> <p>Propose that the Town Council office has a book where people can log instances of dog mess and that the Town Clerk records these online. (also signage)</p>	<p>This is not a Town Council matter and Northumberland County Council requires enforcement information into its on-line system to target enforcement action. All residents are encouraged to make reports direct to NCC as only their designated officers can take enforcement action.</p>
<p>Motion 9</p> <p>Propose that the Town Council investigate and engage someone to properly inspect the beach park for health and safety.</p>	<p>All Town Council play parks are inspected for safety issues each week as part of the Local Services arrangements with County Neighbourhood Services who provide trained officers. Part of their remit is to advise necessary repairs and isolate any dangerous equipment. This has been operating for over 6 years now.</p>
<p>Motion 10</p> <p>Propose that the Town Council look at the opening hours of their office to make it more accessible to working residents.</p>	<p>This will be reported and considered at a future Town Council meeting.</p>
<p>Motion 11</p> <p>Propose that the Town Council provide documentation showing that they are the legitimate owners of the allotments and why the allotment holders are being asked to be responsible for the external walls and water mains. And also provide justification for the rent increases.</p>	<p>Allotments in Newbiggin were transferred as part of the local government re-organisation with the creation of the County Unitary Authority (NCC) on 01 April 2009. The freehold interests are registered at the Land Registry and the leasehold interests of part of one site carried over to the Town Council which has negotiated and completed a new lease with the Allotment Association which has responsibility now for all services and fencing.</p>
<p>Motion 12</p> <p>Proposed that the Town Council look in to extending the opening hours for the front street toilets</p>	<p>This matter has been raised with County Neighbourhood Services, who provide this strategic county service, on a number of occasions but is not under NTC control. There are two problems, one is cost and the other the need for employees to return their vehicles to the depot before 4pm. The County Council is soon to commence a review of its service.</p>

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<p>Motion 13</p> <p>Propose the Town Council use that 106 money towards funding a dog warden/beach warden role – (open/close toilets, deck chairs wind breaks and income)</p>	<p>S106 contributions from the Wind Farm are the subject of a specific planning agreement entered into by Wansbeck District Council. They can only be used for Regeneration purposes and cover capital expenditure not ongoing revenue schemes. Environmental Enforcement (Dog Warden) is to be considered later on the agenda.</p>
<p>Motion 14</p> <p>Propose the Town Council explain to the residents what has happened to the 10 year Beach Plan</p>	<p>The Beach Plan was inherited by Northumberland County Council from Wansbeck DC and the Town Council has no involvement. Many times representations have been made on this issue and we have asked, but never been given, the plan which County officers now consider has expired.</p>
<p>Motion 15</p> <p>Propose that every member of the Town Council should be volunteering or spending time at charitable organisations that serve the Newbiggin by the Sea residents such as foodbank to put you more in touch with the reality of life here.</p>	<p>All Town Councillors are already volunteers both in the capacity of undertaking the daily responsibilities of an elected Town Councillor and with charitable and local community organisations.</p>