



Blyth Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber at Arms Everytne House on Thursday 17 November 2016 at 6.30 pm

Present: M Parker (Mayor), A Cartie (Deputy Mayor), B Elliott, K Ellis, A Gibbs-Barton, R Parker, J R Potts, J Reid, D Rutter, G Thompson

Also Present:

Officers:

J Hughes, Town Clerk
A McCabe, Office Manager
D Clough, Allotments Officer
S Robinson, Environmental Services Officer
M Hawthorne, Committee Clerk
A Spratt, Admin & Customer Services Assistant

Members of the Public -2

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillors: C Bruce, K Nisbet, O Potts, L Rickerby, A Turnbull
2	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & THE GRANT OF ANY DISPENSATIONS None.
3	MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2016 The Minutes of the Full Council Committee held on Thursday, 22 September 2016 were ADOPTED by the Council.

3.1	MATTERS ARISING Minute No 11 Annual Parish Councils Conference Councillor J R Potts said he along with Councillors O Potts and K Nisbet, attended the evening session and he provided the following verbal feedback from the conference: FOI's – acknowledgement of FOI requests should be made immediately as the timescale starts from receipt of the query. The FOI's must take the form of questions, not comments or opinions. It is advisable to put as much information as possible on the website so anyone making a query can be directed to it. If the information is not readily available then Councils are not required to do a lot of research in order to provide answers. FOI's from journalists and surveys have to be responded to. ARCH and Active Northumberland – the general consensus was that there is insufficient information forthcoming from both organisations. They agreed to distribute the conservation leaflets to the tourist information centres. There was a session which focussed mainly on the £58 million savings NCC have to make. Parish Councils were expecting to hear how this will affect their budgets, however, there was no information forthcoming. There was also a market stall event where Paul Jones talked about the nursery at Stakeford which sells plants, information about the different types of street lighting and also public transport. Councillor R Parker commented that he and Councillor M Parker attended the event. There were no refreshments or food available nor were delegates allowed into the Council Chamber with drinks therefore they did not stay for the event. Councillor R Parker asked that a letter is sent to NCC from the Council asking that future events are held at a more suitable venue.
4	MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS The Mayor welcomed Mr Joseph Hughes as the new Town Clerk for Blyth Town Council.

Mayor's visit to Solingen – 23/24 September 2016

The Mayor stated that the visit to Solingen was very successful. Solingen is twinned with 7 towns in total and there were also delegates from some of those towns, including the Chief and his wife from Senegal. The visit took in the old railway station where artists are now based, and also a fireworks event. Councillor R Parker commented in May 2017 Councillors from Solingen will be visiting Blyth and asked the Council to allow for this in the budget. Some German bands saw the Northumberland Live event online and have expressed an interest in coming to Blyth for this.

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The Town Clerk referred to the letter circulated to all Councillors. It was noted that there is no money available this year and following discussion Council agreed to put something on the website and advertise this at the Christmas light switch on.

Emergency Motion – Impending Education Cuts

Councillor R Parker asked Councillors to consider the information circulated and proposed that the Town Clerk write to the Member of Parliament for Blyth Valley and to the Secretary of State for Education to express the concerns of the council and to public the sources of this information at the website www.schoolcuts.org.uk to enable as many residents of Blyth as possible to be aware of the issues facing our education service in the near future.

A detailed discussion took place during which Councillor Reid commented that an emergency motion cannot be put to the Council as this issue is not the business of Blyth Town Council. Councillor Elliott supported this view. Councillor J R Potts acknowledged Councillor Reid's comments but added that these cuts will affect the economy and jobs will be lost. Councillor Ellis said the Council have responsibility for children's education on a moral basis.

Councillor Parker put forward a request for an emergency motion which was seconded by Councillor Ellis. Council voted on this matter and the outcome was:

6 – for
0 – against
3 – abstentions

5	MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE Part II Councillor Elliott said he would question the legality of putting the verbal exchange between himself and the Chair as a minute as the meeting had closed and the Committee was moving to part II. Councillor Elliott added that he had raised this matter with the Town Clerk and asked that the recording was listened to, however, the equipment had unfortunately failed. Those Councillors who were present at the Allotments Committee confirmed that Part II had been called when the Chair and Councillor Elliott had an exchange of words. The Town Clerk commented that the equipment had failed due to a battery malfunction. The Council agreed to ADOPT the minutes of the Allotments Committee held on Tuesday 4 October 2016.
6	MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE Councillor J R Potts pointed out that the meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and not 6.30 pm. The Council agreed to ADOPT the minutes of the Community Grants Committee held on Thursday, 3 November 2016.
7	MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE Councillor J R Potts advised that the Mulberry Play area was officially opened by the Mayor on 22 October 2016. The Council agreed to ADOPT the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee held on Tuesday, 11 October 2016. MINUTES OF THE PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT BOARD Minute No 4.8 (Partnership Board 20/10/2016) Councillor Ellis commented that he has ready the policy and it appears this was issued some years ago and since that time

	<p>there have been some dramatic changes with regard to tree issues. Councillor J R Potts said that NCC only deal with emergency matters.</p> <p>The Council agreed to ADOPT the minutes of the Partnership Management Board held on Thursday, 29 September and Thursday, 20 October 2016.</p>
8	<p>MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE</p> <p>The Council agreed to ADOPT the minutes of the Events Committee held on Tuesday 27 September 2016 and Tuesday 25 October 2016.</p>
9	<p>MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE</p> <p>Minute No 7</p> <p>The vote in the minute should read:</p> <p>6 – for and not 8 as there were two Councillors present who were not on the Committee.</p> <p>The Council agreed to ADOPT the minutes of the Finance Committee held on Thursday 3 November 2016.</p>
10	<p>MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</p> <p>Planning List</p> <p>Councillor Reid declared an interest on no 19 and not 18 as stated on the planning list.</p> <p>The Council agreed to ADOPT the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Thursday 20 October 2016.</p>
11	<p>MINUTES OF THE POLICY WORKING GROUP</p> <p>Minute No 3</p> <p>Should read Policy Working Group and not Allotments.</p>

	<p>The Council agreed to ADOPT the minutes of the Policy Working Group meeting held on Tuesday, 1 November 2016.</p>
12	<p>MINUTES OF THE STAFF COMMITTEE</p> <p>The Council agreed to ADOPT the minutes of the Staff Committee held on Thursday 27 October 2016 and Tuesday 8 November 2016.</p>
13	<p>WALLIS PAINTING</p> <p>The Council discussed the proposal outlined in the Town Clerk's report that the painting should be returned to the person who painted the picture. Councillor Elliott asked for clarification about who actually owns the painting and who was Mayor at the time the painting was presented to the Council.</p> <p>Councillor Reid moved this recommendation and this was seconded by Councillor R Parker.</p> <p>Council voted on this recommendation and the outcome was 9 – for therefore the motion was carried.</p>
14	<p>GOVERNANCE REPORT</p> <p>Following discussion the Council agreed to ask NCC for a Community Governance review of the area of land north of Laverock Hall Road as outlined on the map circulated. The Town Clerk will write to NCC.</p>
15	<p>MARKET REVITALISATION</p> <p>The Town Clerk asked Council to agree to the following recommendation outlined in his report:</p> <p><i>It is recommended that provision be made in the Environmental Services Committee budget 2017/18 for the revitalisation of the market in the sum of £69,000.</i></p> <p>Councillor R Parker moved to agree to the recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor Reid and the motion was carried.</p>

Subject to ratification
Final

A Gibbs-Barton
G T Knox
K Nisbet
R Parker
J R Potts
O Potts
J Reid
L Rickerby
D Rutter
G Thompson
A Turnbull

Officers

J Hughes
S Robinson
D Clough
A McCabe
Maureen Hawthorne
Adam Spratt

Acting Town Clerk
Environmental Services Officer
Allotments Officer
Officer Manager
Committee Clerk
Administrative/Customer Service
Officer