



**Minutes of the Partnership Working Group held at 10.00 am on Thursday 21 October 2021, in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** K Nisbet (Chair), A Cartie, K Nisbet, M Richardson, W Taylor

**Officers:** J Hughes, Town Clerk, D Clough, General Services Officer, M Hawthorne, Committee Clerk

**Northumberland County Council:** Peter Bowman, Senior Team Leader (Ashington), Will Robson, Senior Team Leader (Blyth), Stephen Wardle, Neighbourhood Services Divisional Manager

**Minutes**

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Councillor B Erskine, R Weallans, Area Manager</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2021</b></p> <p>The minutes were noted as a true record.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from the previous minutes</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Reports</b></p>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Partnership Review &amp; Financial Update 2020-2021</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk said the report reflects the usual issues throughout the year. There is an underspend on salaries and additional employee costs relating to agency staff. It was noted that a new member of staff has been appointed therefore agency costs will cease.</p>

<p><b>4.2</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Report</b></p> <p>Noted the flag should be referred to as the “Union” flag and not Union Jack.</p> <p>The General Services Officer displayed the proposed selection of plants for the tower and barrier plans for next year, with a red, white and blue colour scheme together with the Union flag bedding display at the beach to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee.</p> <p>The group <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the above at an indicative cost £5000 Budget code 710 NCC &amp; BTC Partnership Projects &amp; Maintenance.</p> <p>The Group further <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the 11 additional areas identified for wildflower mixes at an indicative cost of £4000 Budget code 710 NCC &amp; BTC Partnership Project &amp; Maintenance</p> <p>The locations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bebside Strip opposite Lonsdale Ave. (1 Area)</li> <li>• Kitty Brewster Chase Farm Drive various areas. (6 Areas)</li> <li>• Kitty Brewster Coniston Road both sides of verge. (2 Areas)</li> <li>• Croft Adjacent to North Farm Play Area and Cowpen Road. (1 Area)</li> <li>• Croft Corner of Hodgson RD / Regent St (1 Area)</li> <li>• Wensleydale Links Rd (1 Area)</li> <li>• South Blyth South Newsham Road (1Area)</li> </ul> <p>In additional to the above locations the GSO will also include the area outside the Isabella Centre and Sweethope Avenue. Any further suggestions should be submitted to the GSO.</p>
<p><b>4.3</b></p>	<p><b>Information Report</b></p> <p>The contents of the information report were noted&gt;</p>
<p><b>4.4</b></p>	<p><b>Joint Progress Meeting (NCC/BTC) (2/9/21 &amp; 30/9/21)</b></p> <p>The contents of the reports were noted.</p>
<p><b>4.5</b></p>	<p><b>Partnership update – October 2021</b></p> <p>The report provided up to date information on the following areas: weed spraying, grass cutting, litter and street cleansing, winter bedding, winter works, planned pruning/shrub works and future planning.</p>

<p><b>4.6</b></p>	<p>Fly tipping – NCC trialled a team of two working on fly tipping and this proved very effective with 300 tonne of fly tipping cleared in a month throughout Blyth.</p> <p>Community area, Millfield Gardens – the key has been located for this area and Homes for Northumberland have agreed to meet the cost of clearing the area. It will require regular maintenance. The GSO will speak to Susan Ogle about this.</p> <p>Weedex machines – confirmed BTC have 4 hand operated machines. NCC have ordered 4 mechanical versions to be used with ride-on mowers. BTC will be asked where they would like to use this machinery.</p> <p>Planning has now started for the winter works programme.</p> <p><b>Update Report – R Weallans</b></p> <p><b>Bins at South Beach</b> - the GSO clarified that the bins are being replaced by Councillor Carr out of his Councillor Local Improvement scheme money. The question of who will meet maintenance costs needs to be clarified. The GSO will report back to the Environment Committee.</p> <p>The report outlines the huge success on reducing fly tipping, details of teams working in the Blyth area and an update on plans for planting. In conclusion Ray thanks the workforce and this was reiterated by the Chair.</p> <p>It was noted at the end of the meeting that it would be useful to have a NCC Councillor representative of Blyth on the Working Group as in previous years when Deidre Campbell attended. The Town Clerk will write to Greg Gavin about this.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Date &amp; Time of next Meeting</b></p> <p>Tuesday 15 February 2022 at 2.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House.</p>