



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL Special meeting held following the Governance Committee meeting which started at 5:45 pm on Thursday 24 April 2025, in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Blyth, NE24 2AS.

Present:

Councillors: A Barrass (Mayor), A Cartie (Deputy Mayor), D Campbell, D Carr, G Davey, B Erskine, C Jones, K Nisbet, J R Potts, J Reid, M Richardson, S Stanger, W Taylor, and A Watson.

Officers:

M Wilkinson (Town Clerk), E Brown (Deputy Town Clerk).

Also Present: Jo-Anne Garrick – Planning Consultant.

Members of the Public: 3

Min No	
1	Apologies for absence Apologies received and were accepted from Councillors S Davey.
2	Disclosure of Interests and Grant of Dispensations None.
3	Minutes of previous Council and Committee meetings for approval <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Special Full Council 18 February 2025- Special Full Council 27 February 2025- Environment Committee 27 February 2025

	<p>The minutes of the Council meeting held 18 & 27 February and the Committee meeting held 27 February were agreed and subsequently signed by the Chair as a true record.</p>
4	<p>Actions outstanding from previous minutes</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk gave a verbal Update on Project Shield; further details would be brought back to the Council.</p>
5	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>To consider the formal Submission of Blyth Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The Planning Consultant provided an update on progress and the next steps.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to formally submit the draft Blyth Neighbourhood Plan to Northumberland County Council.</p>
6	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>To confirm the recommendation of the Governance Committee re</p> <p>Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council’s Internal Audit Report 2. Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25 3. Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 4. Accounting Statements for 2024/25 <p>Council RESOLVED to agree the recommendation from Governance Committee to approve the above and the Chairman signed the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements as appropriate.</p>
7	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>To confirm the recommendation of the Governance Committee re</p> <p>Appointment of Internal Auditor 2025/26</p> <p>Council agreed to appoint Mike Slaughter as Internal Auditor for a further period of 12 months.</p>

8	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Armed Forces Covenant</p> <p>Council RESOLVED to make a formal pledge to the Armed Forces Covenant and pursue the Bronze Award under the employer recognition scheme.</p> <p>Further updates would be brought back to Council in due course regarding the progress of the Bronze Award and any other opportunities.</p>
9	<p>The next meeting date (AGM)</p> <p>The Annual Meeting of the Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 May 2025.</p>
10	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None.</p>
11	<p>Part II</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that the press and public be excluded, and they were instructed to withdraw.</p>
12	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Freedom of the Town nomination</p> <p>Council RESOLVED unanimously to the nomination for Freedom of the Town for Blyth's Dan Burn. While this will involve the presentation of a scroll, Officers were requested to look at further options for recognising this award to signify the positive impact Dan has had on the community. A presentation will be arranged.</p>

The meeting closed at 18:25 pm