



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL Special Full Council meeting held on Thursday 23 April 2026, at 5:30pm, in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Blyth, NE24 2AS.

Present:

Councillors: D Swinhoe (Mayor), RA Baker (Deputy Mayor), D Campbell, D Carr, A Cartie, BW Elliott (part), TE Elliott, B Erskine, D Johnson, C Jones, D Nicholson (part), M Peart, N Rolls, J Woods (part)

Officers:

M Wilkinson (Town Clerk), E Brown (Deputy Town Clerk), H Jenner (Principal Officer), E Mullen (Democratic Services Officer), J Summers (Events Coordinator)

Members of the Public: 1

Min No	
1	Apologies for absence Apologies were received and noted from M Nicholson and K Nisbet MBE.
2	Disclosure of Interests and Grant of Dispensations None.
3	Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 26 March 2026 for approval. RESOLVED: The minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 26 March 2026 were agreed and subsequently signed by the Chair as a true record.

<p>4</p>	<p>Armed Forces Day 2027</p> <p>The Council were asked to consider submitting a bid for hosting the National Armed Forces Day 2027 celebrations.</p> <p>The Principal Officer reminded that the Events Officer would be outlining the bid due to its sensitivity in part II.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Date & Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>The Annual Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 14 May 2026 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House. Public Question Time starts at 6:00pm and Council will commence directly afterwards.</p>
<p>6</p>	<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>
<p>7</p>	<p>Armed Forces Day 2027 (Agenda Item 9)</p> <p>It was agreed to bring this item forward for discussion.</p> <p>The Events Coordinator presented a paper which outlined the application process including the requirement for letters of support from the community, details of the support package from the Ministry of Defence that would be received if a bid to host the event is awarded, and indications of what an overall event plan might include.</p> <p><i>Cllr Woods entered the meeting.</i></p> <p>The Events Coordinator clarified that Members were being asked to approve, in principle, a provisional event plan and budget, enabling engagement with Armed Forces partners, community partners, and event delivery partners, and the drafting of a bid for submission. Ideas were presented as part of the paper previously circulated ahead of the meeting.</p> <p><i>Cllr D Nicholson, BW Elliott, and the Town Clerk entered the meeting.</i></p>

	<p>It was RESOLVED unanimously to proceed with compiling a bid to host National Armed Forces Day 2027 celebrations.</p> <p>The deadline for submitting a bid is the 15 May 2026. The draft bid will be considered for approval at Annual Meeting of the Council on 14 May 2026.</p>
8	<p>Good Citizens' Award Nominations</p> <p>Cllrs D Carr and D Johnson presented their nominations for Good Citizens Awards.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to agree the submitted nominations for a Good Citizen Award.</p> <p>The nominees will be contacted and invited to be presented with their award.</p>
9	<p>Posthumous Freedom of the Town</p> <p>Cllr D Swinhoe presented his submitted nomination to award Freedom of the Town.</p> <p>Duty bound, Deputy Town Clerk clarified the Council's legal position for awarding posthumous Freedom of the Town.</p> <p>Council RESOLVED unanimously to the nomination for Posthumous Freedom of the Town for Blyth's Robert Aldcroft.</p> <p>Officers will explore presentation options.</p>

The meeting closed at 6:04pm.

Members of the Council:

D Swinhoe (Mayor)	D Johnson
R A Baker (Deputy Mayor)	C Jones
D Campbell	D Nicholson
D Carr	M Nicholson
A Cartie	K Nisbet MBE
B W Elliott	M Peart
T E Elliott	N Rolls
B Erskine	J Woods