BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL Full Council meeting held on Thursday 15 October 2026, at 6:00pm, in the Council Chamber, Arms Evertyne House, Blyth, NE24 2AS.

Present:

Councillors: M Peart (Mayor), D Nicholson (Deputy Mayor), RA Baker, D Carr, A Cartie, BW Elliott, TE Elliott, D Johnson, M Nicholson, K Nisbet MBE, N Rolls, D Swinhoe and J Woods

Officers:

M Wilkinson (Town Clerk), E Brown (Deputy Town Clerk), E Mullen (Democratic Services Officer)

Members of the Public: 1

Questions from the public:

A Member of the public asked about the Town Carnival and if it would be possible to get Fergusons to provide vehicles for groups to create their floats for the event. The Town Clerk explained that there has been a lot of changes in the organisations who deliver the Town Carnival, and there is a lot of health and safety mitigation now in place as well and the time commitment and cost required from groups who participate. The popularity of the Carnival has increased every year with 2026's in the Summer being the best year yet. While float vehicles have been discussed in the Events Working Group, the Deputy Town Clerk advised that elsewhere in the country some groups spend thousands of pounds to create their floats. The Member queried if some of the bigger businesses in Blyth may be able to contribute, the Town Clerk explained that Officers have tried to reach out to businesses who are keen to invest in the community however lots don't have the funding to give. One Member suggested that Arriva Bus may be interested in supporting, this will be investigated by Officers.

A question was also asked about a post seen on social media regarding a through cut on Waterloo Road. The Town Clerk advised that this was not a Town Council issue and to contact Northumberland County Council.

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1	**Apologies for absence** Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs D Campbell and C Jones.
2	**Disclosure of Interests and Grant of Dispensations** None.
3	**Mayor's Announcements** The Mayor, Cllr Mark Peart, had been invited to numerous events over Blyth; highlighting the Blyth Spartans Community Games organised by Magic Memories and the unveiling of the Blue Heritage Plaque at North Farm Miners' Memorial Garden, emphasising their community impact. The Mayor expressed that he wanted to highlight the positive impact the community are making in Blyth by working with Officers on updating a section of the website to showcase the civic engagements in Blyth he attends in his role as Mayor.
4	**Minutes of the Special Meetings of Blyth Town Council** RESOLVED: The minutes of the Special Meeting of Blyth Town Council held on 1 October 2026 were agreed and subsequently signed by the Chair as a true record. RESOLVED: The minutes of the Special Meeting of Blyth Town Council held on 24 September 2026 were agreed and subsequently signed by the Chair as a true record.
5	**Committee Minutes to be agreed:** It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings were agreed on block as a true record, and signed by their respective Chairs: Governance Committee 6 October 2026

	Community Development Committee 24 September 2026 Environment Committee 17 September 2026 Community Funding Sub-Committee 8 September 2026 Staffing Sub-Committee 13 August 2026
6	**Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26** It was RESOLVED that the members approve: • The successful completion of the External Audit 2025/26 with one matter arising, • The information note relating to the matter arising, and • The publication of the Notice of Completion of Audit 2025/26 in the Council notice board and on the Council website.
7	**Internal Audit Interim Report 2026/27** It was RESOLVED that the members approve the Internal Audit Interim Report.
8	**Decision Report – Office Arrangements Christmas 2026** Following Member proposal, it was RESOLVED that the Council approved the closure of the Offices and general services provided by staff, from lunchtime on Friday 18 December 2026 until 9:00am on Monday 4 January 2027.
8	**Decision Report – Changes in Committee Membership** It was RESOLVED unanimously to adopt the revised committee membership.
10	**Date & Time of Next Meeting** The next meeting of Full Council will be held on **Thursday 14 January 2027** in the Council Chamber, Arms Evertyne House. Public Question Time starts at 6:00pm and Council will commence directly afterwards.
11	**Part II** 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.

12	**Member request for leave of absence** It was unanimously RESOLVED that a leave of absence is approved for a 3-month period for Cllr C Jones and her Committee membership be transferred to Cllr Carr for this period.
13	**Good Citizens Award** It was agreed to defer these proposals to a future meeting for consideration as the Member who submitted the nominations submitted their apologies to this meeting. Members expressed that they would like to bring a revised policy for the Good Citizen's Award to a future meeting.
14	**Let's Celebrate Towns** It was RESOLVED that Members agree Officers submit a bid for the Let's Celebrate Towns funding competition.
15	**Office Accommodation Decision** It was RESOLVED to accept and move forward with the recommendations from Officers.
15	**Environmental Options Appraisal** *The Chair exercised Standing Orders to extend the meeting which was unanimously agreed by Members.* Following Member proposal, it was RESOLVED that Officers investigate by FOI what core services delivered in Blyth by Northumberland County Council are being reviewed to help Members decide on the report options before December.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm

Members of the Council:

M Peart (Mayor)	B Erskine
D Nicholson (Deputy Mayor)	D Johnson
R A Baker	C Jones
D Campbell	M Nicholson
D Carr	K Nisbet MBE

A Cartie	N Rolls
B W Elliott	D Swinhoe
T E Elliott	J Woods