



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL Full Council meeting held on Thursday 16 July 2026, at 6:00pm, in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne 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, C Jones, M Nicholson, K Nisbet MBE, N Rolls, D Swinhoe, J Woods

Officers:

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

Members of the Public: 6

Questions from the public:

A member of the public present asked Blyth Town Council about nuisance noise from cockerels coming from the Wensleydale allotment site; requesting if the Council will work with the plot holder directly rather a blanket ban for cockerels on all allotment sites in Blyth.

The Town Clerk responded as a question had been submitted in advance of the meeting regarding cockerels which may help answer the question of the member of the public present. The Deputy Town Clerk read the question out loud:

"The question regards Wensleydale Allotments adjacent to residents. Will the council put restrictions in place or a complete ban regarding cockerels in allotments due to the noise disturbance? An example would be Durham county council ban on cockerels we should have the same and do a phase out giving time to remove the animals."

The Deputy Town Clerk explained that Officers have been doing research into this matter and have previously sought guidance from the National Allotment Society who advised that legislation doesn't actually permit for cockerels on allotments, only hens which is the adult female species. However, as the Council have allowed cockerels on sites for many years they feel it would be unfair to dismiss cockerels from sites. An advisor from the National Allotment Society suggested:

"Whilst the cockerels remain on the site, the tenants will have to manage their sound levels (with measures such as isolating them overnight and using sound-dampening materials) or face the risk of facing a notice to quit if they do not choose to give up their rooster. I would be mindful that there are no tenants using methods that may be seen as cruel such as the collars and the smaller ceilings for their housing."

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that Blyth Town Council officers are doing a full review of all the sites that have cockerels, identifying which sites have them, how many, how they are housed, and that there is no inhumane methods being used, and the cockerel's welfare is OK. The Council plan to plot out on maps where cockerels are on plots in relation to houses. The Council also submitted a Freedom of Information request to Northumberland County Council to get a better understanding of any complaints they have received relating to cockerels. They responded that there have been three complaints in total in the last two years. Two of those complaints were resolved informally, one complaint went to an investigation where the County Council did not find a statutory nuisance caused by the cockerels. Officers will continue conducting research and request that this matter is deferred to the Environment Committee.

The Deputy Town Clerk clarified that Officers wish to work with the plot holders on this issue and appreciate the knowledge the Allotment Association have on cockerels and will work with them to build an accurate. Blyth Town Council refer any complaints to the County Council for statutory nuisance.

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1	Apologies for absence Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs D Campbell & B Erskine.
2	Disclosure of Interests and Grant of Dispensations None.

3	Mayor's Announcements The Mayor reflected on his first few months as Mayor, attending community events; including 101 Regiment's Beating Retreat at Kingston Park Army Reserve Centre, and the Bowling Club's 100-year plaque unveiling as highlights. The Mayor also presented the Past Mayor's medal to Councillor David Swinhoe and thanked him for his service during his term as Mayor of Blyth.
4	Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 14 May 2026 for approval. RESOLVED: The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 14 May 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 as a true record, and signed by their respective Chairs: Environment Committee 21 May 2026 Community Funding Sub-Committee 9 June 2026 Community Development Committee 30 June 2026 Governance Committee 9 July 2026
6	Decision Report – Option Appraisal for Environmental Services Provision delivered by NCC Councillor Rolls highlighted the Council's dissatisfaction of the overall presentation of the town and presented her proposal with 6 initial options for investigation. Members thanked Cllr Rolls for her proposal. Following discussion, members felt that Option 4 would be the desired route to explore. The Town Clerk explained that if the motion is passed all options will be presented at a future meeting. It was RESOLVED unanimously to: - Agree that officers undertake an options appraisal of the environmental services currently delivered under the Memorandum of Understanding with Northumberland County Council, in accordance with the scope set out in Appendix 1.

	- Receive a further report setting out the findings of the options appraisal, including officers' assessment of the advantages, disadvantages, costs, risks and implications of each option, to enable Council to determine the future delivery model for these services.
7	Date & Time of Next Meeting The next meeting of Full Council will be held on Thursday 15 October 2026 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House. Public Question Time starts at 6:00pm and Council will commence directly afterwards. The Mayor agreed to take a question from a Member of the public who arrived late to the meeting as there was still time left within the agreed Public Question Time period. The resident asked about the decline in the Crofton Mill estate due to the rise in anti-social behaviour. The Mayor clarified that these matters should be raised with Northumberland County Council. The Town Clerk recognised that there is anti-social behaviour across the town and a public meeting is being arranged for residents to address their concerns about anti-social behaviour in Blyth with Councillors, representatives from Northumbria Police and Northumberland County Council. This has since been agreed for 4 August at 6pm at the Market Pavillion.
8	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.
9	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.

The meeting closed at 6:36pm

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