



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL Full Council meeting held on Thursday 16 October 2025 at 6:00pm, in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Blyth, NE24 2AS.

Present:

Councillors: D Swinhoe (Mayor), RA Baker (Deputy Mayor), D Carr, A Cartie, BW Elliott, TE Elliott, B Erskine, D Johnson, C Jones, D Nicholson, K Nisbet MBE, M Peart, N Rolls.

Officers:

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

Members of the Public: 7

Questions from the public:

A member of the public asked about what the £20 million regeneration budget is going to be spent on. The member of the public was advised to contact the County Council.

A member of the public asked about the Station Master's House coming down, and the petition that has been created to try and save it and if there's anything that can be done to save a part of Blyth's history. The Deputy Town Clerk has emailed the planning department at the County Council, making them aware that the site is a proposed non-designated heritage asset with the emerging Blyth Neighbourhood Plan as well as the Regeneration Team at Northumberland County Council making them aware of the petition and the implications of the Neighbourhood Plan.

A member of the public asked if the painting of the skate park was still going to take place. The Town Clerk explained that it was still an opportunity for us to take up and are exploring options for doing this, with provisions to work with organisations, such as Silx and others, to do so.

A member of the public asked about the derelict building opposite Wetherspools. It was recommended that they direct their question to their County Councillor or at a County Council Question Time.

A member of the public asked what Blyth Town Council is doing to pressurise the County Council to improve buildings for residents, using the sports club as an example. Cllr Nisbet MBE explained that it has taken a very long time but there are plans for the regeneration and renovation of the buildings discussed.

A member of the public asked about the redecorating and maintenance of their residential building on Isabella Road. The Town Clerk explained that this was a matter for the County Council, as the social housing landlord, and that they should contact them for a response to their question.

A member of the public asked what's happening with the regeneration of the Town Centre; specifically Regent Street and Simpson Street as works were meant to be carried on from Bowes Street. The Chair encouraged the member of the public to refer their question to the County Council as the regeneration project falls under their remit.

A member of the public asked if anything was being done about the motorbikes around Newsham and in Blyth. The Chair told the public that Members had just had a Police Liaison meeting prior to this Council meeting, and that the police are looking into this, and have recently had some good results catching those on the motorbikes near the beach and that they will continue to investigate this matter.

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1	Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs D Campbell, W Ploszaj and J Woods.
2	Disclosure of Interests and Grant of Dispensations None.
3	Mayor's Announcements The mayor delivered a message to the community; informing them that mayoral engagements are progressing well and has been very impressed with the charities, churches and clubs that keep the

	community going, encouraging those who are able to volunteer their time to support local groups. The Mayor encouraged everyone to be a good neighbour as we head into the Winter months, looking out for each other, and to stay safe when enjoying events at this time of year. The Mayor presented past mayor Aileen Barrass with a past mayor's medal in recognition of her service to the town as Mayor in 2024-25. Aileen offered her thanks and wished all new Members good luck for their term ahead.
4	Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 18 September 2025 for approval. RESOLVED: The minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 18 September 2025 were agreed and subsequently signed by the Chair as a true record.
5	Actions outstanding from Previous Minutes 5.1 Decision report – Allotment Wildlife Ponds Further research was requested at a previous meeting for the proposal regarding allotment wildlife ponds which were addressed in the report provided. Cllr Johnson proposed a motion to not allow wildlife ponds. This was seconded by Cllr Rolls. This motion was carried and was RESOLVED to not have any further allotment wildlife ponds. 7 in favour of the proposal 3 against the proposal 1 abstention 5.2 Insurance for Council The Town Clerk provided an update on the change in policy that moves from self-insurance of all assets to purchasing an insurance policy that covers all external assets under the management and responsibility of the Council. This has now been completed and will be reflected in the budget for 2026/27 at the next Governance Committee.

6	Committee Minutes to be agreed Community Funding Sub Committee 9 September 2025 Environment Committee 18 September 2025 Community Development Committee 25 September 2025 Governance Committee 7 October 2025 The minutes of the Committee meetings held 9 September, 18 September, 25 September and 7 October were agreed and subsequently signed by the respective Chair as a true record.
7.1	Recommendations from Committees - Allotment Fires (Environment Committee) To consider the results of the Consultation Exercise carried out for Allotment fires and resolve whether to: - Revert back to the policy of only allowing fires within the months of October to March - Allowing fires all year round with/without restrictions - Continue with another trial period during April to September 2026. Proposed: C Jones Seconded: D Carr. It was RESOLVED unanimously to revert back to the policy of only allowing fires within the months of October to March.
7.2	Recommendations from Committees – Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Governance Committee) Proposed: B W Elliott Seconded: K Nisbet MBE It was RESOLVED to formally acknowledge the conclusion of the audit 31 March 2025.
7.3	Recommendations from Committees – Mayoral Cadet (Governance Committee)

	It was RESOLVED to adopt the policy for a Mayoral Cadet who will assist the Mayor of Blyth in civic engagements throughout the Mayoral Year.
7.4	Recommendations from Committees - Attendance Policy (Governance Committee) It was RESOLVED to adopt the Attendance Policy for Members.
8.1	Decision Reports – NCC Community Governance Review The draft response to the NCC Community Governance Review was NOTED by members, maintaining status quo. This would be sent to NCC.
8.2	Decision Reports – Office Arrangements for Christmas 2025 Proposed: B W Elliott Seconded: K Nisbet MBE It was RESOLVED to approve the closing of the Offices and general services provided by staff, from 12 noon on Tuesday 23 December 2025 until 9am on Monday 5 January 2026.
8.3	Decision Reports – Article 4 Direction for Blyth It was RESOLVED to agree to: 1. Formally write to Northumberland County Council requesting that an Article 4 Direction be progressed for Homes of Multiple Occupation (HMO) within Blyth. 2. Provide local supporting evidence and observations to assist NCC in assessing the impacts on local amenity and community well-being, as it is required.
9	Delegated Decision Report There were none.
10	Date & Time of Next Meeting The next meeting of Full Council will be held on Thursday 8 January 2026 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytyn House. Public Question Time starts at 6:00pm and Council will commence directly afterwards.

The meeting closed at 6:53pm.

Members of the Council:

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