



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL Special meeting held at 5:30 pm on Tuesday 18 February 2025, in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Blyth, NE24 2AS.

Present:

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

Officers:

M Wilkinson (Town Clerk), E Brown (Deputy Town Clerk), M F Hotak (Committee and Research Officer).

Members of the Public: 0

Min No	
1	Apologies for absence Apologies received and were accepted from Councillors D Carr, C Jones, and J Reid.
2	Disclosure of Interests and Grant of Dispensations None.
3	Mayor's Announcements None.
4	Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 January 2025 The minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 January 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.

5	<p>Actions outstanding from Previous Minutes</p> <p>None.</p>
6	<p>Committee meeting Minutes for approval</p> <p>The Community Funding Sub-Committee meeting minutes held 12 November 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.</p>
7	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>'Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England' consultation</p> <p>The Deputy Clerk presented a report regarding the proposed responses to the above consultation.</p> <p>The Council considered and AGREED the proposed responses provided in Appendix 1 as a corporate response to this consultation.</p>
8	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Committee membership</p> <p>The Town Clerk presented a report as circulated with the agenda on the changes to Council Committee membership following the Newsham ward by-election that occurred in January 2025. Members acknowledged the updates to the Committee membership with Cllr D Campbell joining the Community Development and Environment Committees. Cllr Nisbet joining the Governance Committee.</p> <p>It was noted that at the request of Cllr C Jones and Cllr D Carr, she would swap with Cllr D Carr for the Partnership Board (PB) meeting.</p>
9	<p>The next Annual General meeting date</p> <p>Due to the national VE Day on 8 May 2025, it was agreed that the next Annual General meeting to be held on 13 May 2025.</p>

<p>10</p>	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Project Shield</p> <p>The Town Clerk presented a report on Project Shield, which aims to address and reduce anti-social behaviour in communities. This initiative is a collaboration involving multiple parties, including Northumberland County Council (NCC), Northumbria Police, Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service, local partners such as Town Councils, youth organisations, local businesses, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p> <p>After a thorough discussion, the Council RESOLVED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support in principle this valuable work, to tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour using a data and intelligence-led approach to target hot spot areas. • Consider any funding once the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has been notified of any finance to assist this project. News expected in the next few weeks. <p>Cllr K Nisbet requested details on crime rates and positive work being done to reduce them be publicised by the Town Council.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>The Deputy Clerk presented a report on the feedback received regarding the Draft Blyth Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Following a detailed discussion, the Council RESOLVED to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accept the recommended amendments from the Planning Consultant (refer to Appendix 1). 2. Approve the recommended Officer responses to the feedback (refer to Appendix 2). 3. Retain the small, wooded area in the southern part of LGS20.

12	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Hire of Council Chamber</p> <p>The Deputy Clerk presented a report regarding a recent request from a resident to use the Council Chamber for public purposes.</p> <p>After a thorough discussion, it was RESOLVED that the request to use the Council Chamber for public meetings could not be approved, as it is prohibited in the lease and further security issues.</p> <p>It was suggested that alternative venues within the community, which are available for public use, be explored instead.</p>
13	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Commitment to support youth provision</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk presented a report and highlighted the position of Blyth Town Council and its past commitment to supporting youth services in the community.</p> <p>Members discussed and AGREED supporting youth services as a strategic priority to work with and support youth provision now and in the future.</p>
14	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None.</p>
15	<p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that a Special Full Council meeting to be held on 27 February 2025.</p>
16	<p>Part II</p> <p>There were no agenda item for Part II in this meeting.</p>

The meeting closed at 6:25 pm

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

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



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL Special meeting held following the Environment Committee meeting which started at 6:00 pm on Thursday 27 February 2025, in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Blyth, NE24 2AS.

Present:

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

Officers:

M Wilkinson (Town Clerk), E Brown (Deputy Town Clerk), Stephen Humphery (Principal Officer) M F Hotak (Committee and Research Officer).

Members of the Public: 5

Min No	
1	Apologies for absence Apologies received and were accepted from Councillors D Campbell, S Davey, C Jones, and W Taylor,
2	Disclosure of Interests and Grant of Dispensations None.
3	Actions outstanding from previous minutes None.

4	Decision Report Request to amend the Environment Committee budget for 2025/26 The Council RESOLVED to accept the Environment Committee's request an additional £24K be approved by the Council for the Partnership Services budget 2025/26.
5	The next meeting date (AGM) 13 May 2025.
6	Any Other Business None.
7	Part II There were no agenda item for Part II in this meeting.

The meeting closed at 19:30 pm

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

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



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held at 6.00pm on Thursday 27 February 2025 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, NE24 2AS.

Present:

Councillors: K Nisbet (Chair), M Richardson (Vice Chair), A Barrass (part), A Cartie, B Erskine, J Potts, J Reid, S Stanger, A Watson.

Also Present: Cllr D Carr, Cllr G Davey, and Greg Gavin (Head of Neighbourhood Services, NCC).

Officers: M Wilkinson (Town Clerk), E Brown (Deputy Clerk), S Humphery (Principal Officer), and M F Hotak (Committee and Research Officer).

Invited Guests: 0 Members of the Public: 5

Allotment holders' questions:

A resident enquired about Lane repairs at Bolam site and Depth of surface that blocked access from carpark. It was noted that the work on Lane repairs at Bolam site is still in progress and yet to be completed. The depth of surface that blocked access from carpark to be looked at.

Minute No	
1	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received and accepted from: Councillors D Campbell, S Davey, C Jones, and W Taylor.
2	Disclosure of Interests Grant of Dispensations None.
3	Actions arising from Previous Meetings The Town Clerk highlighted few issues from the previous meeting including allotment fires, bus shelter that are brought

	<p>to this meeting for discussion as separate agenda items.</p> <p>He also updated on the defibrillator request that the Council is in discussions with the landowner.</p>
4	<p>Environment Budget Monitoring Report</p> <p>The budget monitoring report was noted for information.</p>
5	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Bus shelter improvement in Blyth (Application for funding)</p> <p>The Committee RESOLVED to agree the application for funding to improve bus shelter provision within Blyth.</p> <p>It was also noted that if the application successful, a further report would be brought to the Environment Committee for a decision on final locations.</p>
6	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Allotment fires</p> <p>The Committee discussed and RESOLVED to change the current policy regarding allotment fires.</p> <p>The change would allow the continued burning of allotment waste from 1 April to 30 September requested at the previous meeting by Blyth Small Holding & Allotment Association.</p> <p>This change would include the recommended caveats and a trial period to ensure respect and consideration was given to neighbours. Council would also do more to encourage composting.</p>
7	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Play area refurbishment</p> <p>Based on the Officers' recommendations, the Committee discussed and RESOLVED to agree the refurbishment of Cottingwood Green and St John's MUGA play areas in 2025/26.</p> <p>If S106 funding is available, Council will also look at other play areas for refurbishment.</p>

8	<p>Enforcement</p> <p>Reports circulated on a monthly basis. Members were reminded that any queries should be raised with the Town Clerk upon receipt of the reports.</p>
9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None.</p>
10	<p>Date & Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>This will be agreed after the meeting schedule for 2025/26 is finalised.</p>
11	<p>Part II</p> <p>Pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded, and they were instructed to withdraw.</p>
12	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Partnership budget</p> <p>The Committee discussed and RESOLVED to request an additional £24K be approved by the Council for the budget of the Partnership services to be met.</p>
13	<p>Skate Park</p> <p>Verbal presentation following the completion of the Isabella Skatepark.</p> <p>A verbal update was presented by the Town Clerk to the Committee. He highlighted overall the process of the Skate Park project, how it was started and how it successfully completed despite various challenges throughout the project.</p> <p>Councillors praised the fantastic facility and the success of project. They including the Chair also thanked all the Officers that were involved in the completion of this project.</p>

The meeting closed at 7:25 pm

Members of the Environment Committee

K Nisbet (Chair)	JR Potts
M Richardson (Vice-Chair)	J Reid
A Barrass	M Robson
D Campbell	S Stanger
A Cartie	W Taylor
B Erskine	A Watson
C Jones	