



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Funding Sub Committee held on Tuesday 11 November 2025 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, Blyth, NE24 2AS immediately following the Special Full Council meeting which commenced at 5:30pm.

Present:

Councillors: D Swinhoe (Chair), N Rolls (Vice Chair), D Campbell, D Carr, BW Elliott, D Johnson, C Jones, D Nicholson, K Nisbet MBE, and M Peart.

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

Also Present: Cllrs A Cartie, TE Elliott and J Woods

Members of the Public – 0

Invited Guest(s) 1

1	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>None.</p>
2	<p>Disclosure of Interests and Grant of Dispensations</p> <p>Cllr BW Elliott declared an interest in the items relating to Blyth Battery and Newsham Matters.</p>
3	<p>Blyth Rugby Club</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk explained that Blyth Rugby Club have been in contact requesting permission to amend the purpose of their grant spending, which was awarded in June 2025, as per our community grant terms and conditions.</p> <p>RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to allow Blyth Rugby Club to amend the purpose of their grant spending, to move from funding new floodlighting, as agreed at the meeting on 10 June 2025, and instead installing 200 metres worth of new PVC pitch side barriers, replacing 30-year-old aging infrastructure.</p>

4	<p>To consider new Applications listed below. The Chairman highlighted the applications to be considered.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. River Blyth Boating Association 2. Belford Bright Sparks 3. Blyth Stroke Support Group 4. Community and Voluntary Action Blyth (CVA) – a further request as per minute 7.12 of the meeting held on 10 June 2025. 5. Loud Arts CIC 6. Newsham Matters 7. St Mary’s Church <p>Chris May from River Blyth Boating Association delivered a presentation about the Association and their grant request. The Chair thanked him for attending and presenting to the committee.</p>
5	<p>Boxing Well</p> <p>It was noted that the Community Funding Sub Committee held on the 10 June 2025, requesting this application be brought back to the November Committee for further consideration of paying the remaining 50% grant request.</p> <p>Since then, Cllr Nicholson has supported this request by using her Councillor Small Schemes to fund the remaining donation request. It was agreed that no further action needs to be taken.</p>
6	<p>Delegated Actions</p> <p>There were no delegated actions since the previous meeting.</p>
7	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Community Funding Sub Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House on Tuesday 10 February 2026 at 6.30 pm</p>
8	<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 was RESOLVED that it was in the public interest that the press and public be excluded, and they were instructed to</p>

	withdraw.
9	<p>Discussion and Decisions regarding Funding Applications</p> <p>Members further discussed the individual applications. Prior to discussion, members noted that at the previous meeting it was agreed to not award organisations more than £5,000, as per our policy. The following grant payments were agreed:</p> <p>1. River Blyth Boating Association It was proposed and seconded to grant the full request of £10,680. This went to the vote with four in favour, five against and one abstention. A motion was proposed and seconded to award £5,000 but to not release the funds until we know that the organisation have spoken with other potential funders to support the remaining balance of their project. It was RESOLVED unanimously pursuant to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 19 to support the application of £5,000 towards slipway repairs, but to not release funding to them until we know they have secured the remaining funding.</p> <p>2. Belford Bright Sparks (deferred from Community Funding Sub-Committee meeting dated 9 September 2025). It was clarified that the amount of funding requested had been adjusted from £6,000 to £5,200. It was proposed and seconded that the Council grant £5,000 but of this Council directly purchase the greenhouse plus installation and then grant the balance of funding up to the agreed amount of £5000. This was RESOLVED unanimously pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972 Section 137, to support the application of up to £5,000 for equipment to help residents come together for their health and mobility.</p> <p>3. Blyth Stroke Support Group RESOLVED unanimously pursuant to Local Government Act 1972, Section 139 to support the application for replacing IT equipment and software with a grant of £1,000.</p> <p>4. Community and Voluntary Action Blyth (CVA) – a further request as per minute 7.12 of the meeting held on 10 June 2025.</p>

	<p>It was proposed and seconded not to award this grant of £5,000 as the organisation received the same amount from the committee in June 2025. It was noted that the committee had requested that the organisation re-apply for funding in 6 month's time. This went to a vote with 8 in support of this motion, 2 abstentions. It was RESOLVED not to support the application for a contribution towards core staffing costs.</p> <p>5. Loud Arts CIC RESOLVED unanimously pursuant to Local Government Act 1972, Section 137 to support the application for the Community Voices Choir and Makaton Sing & Sign sessions with a grant of £5,000.</p> <p>6. Newsham Matters A member highlighted that this organisation has applied to 3 other bodies for support for the project which was outlined in their application. It was proposed and seconded that, if awarded the £4,000, the funding is held until confirmation is received any funding from other organisations have come through. This motion was agreed unanimously. The Principal Officer noted that the application states that the activity would be scaled back if all funding was not secured.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED unanimously pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137 to support the application of £4,000 towards funding for Craft Club and Lunch Club running costs, but to not release funding until it has been confirmed by the organisation that they would be able to scale back activities to the level of funding received of other funding had not been acquired for the full project.</p> <p>7. St Mary's Church It was proposed and seconded to award £345 as requested, however another member highlighted that support could not be given as it is outside our policy to use community grant funding to support religious projects. The proposal was removed. Cllr Nisbet agreed to fund the project through Councillor Small Schemes funding.</p>
	The meeting closed at 6.53 pm

