



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Funding Sub Committee held on Tuesday 9 September 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 (*part*), D Johnson, C Jones, D Nicholson, K Nisbet MBE, and M Peart.

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

Also Present: Cllr A Cartie and Cllr J Woods

Members of the Public – 0

Invited Guest(s) 0

1	Apologies for absence None.
2	Disclosure of Interests and Grant of Dispensations None.
3	Minutes of the previous Community Funding Sub-Committee The minutes of the previous Community Funding Sub-Committee held on 10 June 2025 were agreed as a true record at the Full Council meeting held 17 July 2025.
4	Decision Report – Blyth Food Bank donation Following lengthy discussions about supporting the people in Blyth who were most in need, the motion to make a £5000 donation to Blyth Foodbank went to a vote. Proposed: C Jones

	Seconded: M Peart RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to donate £5,000 to the Food Bank, and that a further review takes place in six months' time.
5	To consider new Applications listed below. The Chairman highlighted the applications to be considered. 1. Bede Academy (deferred from Community Funding Sub-Committee meeting dated 10 June 2025) 2. ESCAPE Family Support 3. Isabella Community Association LTD 4. Isabella Heap Volunteer Group 5. Royal British Legion, Blyth Branch 6. Wise Cracking Productions 7. Headway Arts (on behalf of Blyth Culture Network) 8. Blyth Battery Volunteers LTD 9. Fresh Creative Aspirations CIC 10. St Cuthbert's Church Blyth 11. River Blyth Boating Association 12. Blyth Valley Enterprise Limited 13. Belford Bright Sparks 14. Blyth Foodbank
6	Delegated Actions There were no delegated actions since the previous meeting.
7	Date and Time of Next Meeting The next meeting of the Community Funding Sub Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House on Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 6.30 pm
8	Part II 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 withdraw.

9	Discussion and Decisions regarding Funding Applications Members further discussed the individual applications and the following grant payments were agreed: 1. Bede Academy (deferred from Community Funding Sub-Committee meeting dated 10 June 2025). Following legal advice presented by the Deputy Town Clerk from National Association of Local Councils, members considered the potential to be challenged by the electorate regarding the appropriateness of a donation. The request for funding went to the vote with four in favour and six against. It was RESOLVED not to support the application for costs towards the reflection garden. 2. ESCAPE Family Support RESOLVED unanimously pursuant to Local Government Act 1997, Section 31 to support the application for substance abuse programme, training, and intervention with a grant of £5,000. 3. Isabella Community Association LTD RESOLVED pursuant to Local Government Act 1972, section 139(1) and Charities Act 2011, sections 298-303; to grant up to £3,254.99 to purchase the dishwasher and gift it to the organisation. It was understood that the model they require has changed and the cost may have reduced from that originally requested. Cllr J Woods pledged to support the purchase with a contribution of £1000 from his small schemes which reduced the community funding support to up to £2254.99. 4. Isabella Heap Volunteer Group RESOLVED unanimously pursuant to Local Government Act 1976, section 19 and Open Spaces Act 1906, sections 9-10; to grant up to £1860.00 to support the maintenance and preservation of Isabella Heap. It was delegated to the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Environment Committee to further investigate the provision for CCTV cameras, liaising with the Volunteer Group, due to the potential long-term commitment to the council. Cllrs D Johnson and J Woods offered to pay for the woodchipper from their Councillor Small Schemes allowance, their contribution would be included within the estimate of £1860. 5. Royal British Legion, Blyth Branch
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	RESOLVED unanimously pursuant to Local Government Act 1972, section 144, and War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923, to support the application for a marching band for Remembrance Day parade with a grant of £500. 6. Wise Cracking Productions It was proposed to grant £2,500; this went to the vote with 5 in favour and 5 against, with the Chair exercising this casting vote which RESOLVED pursuant to Local Government Act 1972, section 145 (1)(b) & (2); to support the production of 'Wor Bella'. 7. Headway Arts (on behalf of Blyth Culture Network) It was proposed and seconded to grant £4280. This went to the vote with two in favour, seven against and one abstention. RESOLVED to not support the application for costs towards Blyth Culture Network 2026 festival due to the level of unrestricted funds held within the co-ordinating organisation. 8. Blyth Battery Volunteers LTD It was proposed to grant up to £5,000 with delegated powers to the Chair, Vice Chair of the Committee, Deputy Clerk and Events Coordinator to work with the Battery Volunteers to obtain quotations and see if it was possible for the council to sponsor the requested items of the event. This went to a vote which was RESOLVED unanimously pursuant to Local Government Act 1972, section 137. 9. Fresh Creative Aspirations CIC It was proposed to grant up to £5,000 to support youth provisions in Newsham which was RESOLVED unanimously pursuant to Local Government Act 1972, section 137; Cllr B Elliott offered to contribute £1,000 from his Councillor Small Schemes allowance towards the £5000 donation. <i>Cllr BW Elliott left the meeting.</i> 10. St Cuthbert's Church Blyth Following offers of £1,000 from Cllr N Rolls, £1,000 from Cllr D Swinhoe, and £371 from C Jones, it was unanimously RESOLVED that this project would be Councillor Funded using contributions from the Councillor Small Schemes allowance. 11. River Blyth Boating Association RESOLVED not to support this application due to lack of
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	supporting information, however Members encourage the group to apply again for the next round with the application completed in full noting that the limit is £5,000. The Chair exercised standing orders to extend Standing Orders which was unanimously agreed by the Committee. 12. Blyth Valley Enterprise Limited RESOLVED not to support this application to contribute to core costs as it was against policy, however Members encourage the group to apply again for the next round with a project requiring support. 13. Belford Bright Sparks RESOLVED unanimously to defer the application to the next meeting as the organisation missed the deadline for applying. 14. Blyth Foodbank Cllr Peart proposed a 'yes' or 'no' vote, this was agreed. It went to the vote with one in favour (yes) and nine against (no) RESOLVED to not support the application as the council have already committed to supporting the Foodbank with a donation of £5,000 in six monthly intervals which are subject to review. The meetings closed at 8.25 pm
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