



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held at 6.00pm on Thursday 18 September 2025 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, NE24 2AS.

Present:

Councillors: D Johnson (Chair), J Woods (Vice Chair), RA Baker, D Campbell, D Carr, A Cartie, BW Elliott, B Erskine, C Jones, D Nicholson, K Nisbet MBE, N Rolls, and D Swinhoe.

Other Councillors Present: TE Elliott

Also Present:

Officers: M Wilkinson (Town Clerk), E Brown (Deputy Clerk), David Clough (General Services Officer)

Invited Guests: 0 Members of the Public: 5

Allotment Holder question time:

One member of the public had a query about the allotment fires being allowed to run 365 days per year and if the policy will be reviewed.

The Town Clerk explained that the policy is still in a trial period for Summer 2025, and that the policy is currently under consultation with residents where they can provide feedback. All feedback is being collated and will be taken to Full Council on 16 October 2025 for decision on whether to continue with allowing allotment fires for the full year, or for the Winter period only.

Minute No	
1	Apologies for Absence None.
2	Disclosure of Interests Grant of Dispensations None.

3	Minutes of the previous Environment Committee The minutes of the previous Environment Committee meeting held 27 May 2025 were agreed at the meeting of Full Council on 17 July 2025.
4	Actions arising from the Previous Minutes None.
5	Committee Budget Monitoring Report The Town Clerk presented an overview of the Environment Committee Budget. The Town Clerk responded to queries from members about the budget and explained that any underspends go back into the balance for the following year.
6	Decision Report – Defibrillator Portland Wynd The General Services Officer presented the report with a request from residents of Portland Wynd. A motion was put forward that a policy is put in place to consider locations based off a number of factors where defibrillators can be installed by Blyth Town Council. Proposed: D Nicholson Seconded: N Rolls The motion was carried. It was suggested to urgently look at investigating different option for alternative means of funding including NCC Section 106 funding and the item be deferred until we find alternative options. A counter motion was put forward that this item is deferred until more information is available and highlighted that officers contact British Heart Foundation to see what options they have for providing defibrillators. Proposed: D Nicholson Seconded C Jones This motion was agreed unanimously by the committee.

	This item will be deferred to a future meeting here a special meeting will be called when more information is available to present to the committee.
7	Decision Report – Inclusive Play Area Proposed: B Erskine Seconded: C Jones It was RESOLVED unanimously to agree to the recommendations for inclusive play areas. • That Blyth Town Council engage in detailed discussions with Northumberland County Council to consider the investigation, design, and costing for the creation of a dedicated SEND-inclusive play area and associated infrastructure within Blyth. • Consider a structured review of our existing play areas looking at play equipment, signage, seating, shelter, access to the play area, surfacing within the play area, play options for wheelchair users, and the ability for teenagers/young people with SEND, to ensure that play areas provide age-appropriate, safe, and enjoyable experiences for all users. • Prior to any capital purchase relating to the above two items, a meaningful consultation should be conducted with local families, SEND groups, schools, and relevant experts to ensure that design meets the needs of the community and delivers best practice in accessibility and inclusion
8	Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Environment Committee will be held on the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House on Tuesday 9 December 2025. Allotment holder question time starts at 6.00pm and the Committee will commence directly following.

The meeting closed at 7:19pm

Members of the Environment Committee

D Johnson (Chair)	B Erskine
J Woods (Vice Chair)	C Jones
R A Baker	D Nicholson
D Campbell	K Nisbet MBE
D Carr	N Rolls
A Cartie	D Swinhoe
B W Elliott	