



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Partnership Board held at 10.00 am on Tuesday 25 October 2022, in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House

Board Members Present:

Cllr K Nisbet (Chair), A Cartie, J Potts, S Stanger

Councillors

M Richardson

Officers: J Hughes Town Clerk, D Clough, General Service Officer, J Russell, General Service Assistant

Northumberland County Council: R Wealleans NCC Area Manager, W Robson, Senior Team Leader (Blyth)

MINUTES

1	Apologies Cllr W. Taylor, G. Gavin, S. Wardell
2	Minutes of the Partnership Working Group held on 26 July 2022 The minutes were noted as a true record.
3	Matters Arising from the minutes (not covered by the agenda) Cllr J.P. - Planter at Waterloo Road / Renwick Road Junction makes it difficult to see traffic. Cllr K.N. - Toilets at Keel Row/ Bus Station still closed, and Market Place toilets still smell. R.W. - to investigate and give an update.

4	Reports
4.1	NCC Report R.W. - weather has been okay, this has allowed the Grass Cutting to slow down and to give a better quality of cut and extra strimming. Cuts have now stopped at the start of cycle 13 due to wet ground. The Poly Tunnels have proved to be a real asset and have enabled Blyth to win a Silver Gilt Award. K.N. – All councillors should visit the Poly Tunnels. R.W. – NCC have new equipment and battery strimmer’s to help control the weeds, they’re also using blue dye and metal brushes on the sweepers. There have been issues with the sweepers, breakdowns and staffing. NCC are looking at a better way to record their monitoring. J.P. – Household waste and Trade waste at Broadway Circle this to be followed up. W.R. – Yes, with Enforcement. R.W. – Seasonal staff have now been finished rather than kept on due to budget. NCC Financial Report
4.2	R.W. - Gave a break down on Core Financial; accepted as true record Senior Team Leaders Report
4.3	W.R. – Emphasised R.W. points above. Fly Tips are about average for the time of year, but the volume of the fly tip is high. The Neat Teams have started to find household rubbish in litter bins, and this is being monitored.
	Decision Reports
4.4	Summer bedding plants (£23.000) – agreed. D.G. - explained about possible trails/pilot schedules for 2023 grass cutting – agreed to try.

	<p>J.H. – New planters on Bowes St, still no answer as to who is to maintain them.</p> <p>Information report (read only)</p>
4.5	<p>Pre-Partnership Board Notes</p>
4.6	<p>MW has subsequently confirmed that the following Cllrs would be on the negotiating team - K. Nisbet, J. Potts, and W. Taylor along with Peter Kemp.</p> <p>Discussion as to moving forward regarding grass cutting. Cycles and priority routes.</p> <p>Gateway entrances and priority routes to be discussed separately with DC, RW, WR to clarify proposals.</p> <p>New agreement to be made shorter and simplified for ease of understanding.</p>
4.7	<p>Partnership Service Notes</p> <p>BTC contribute towards an additional 6 cuts, this should end up with between 17 to 19 cuts being achieved across all areas during the grass cutting season.</p> <p>Officers have reviewed the data for the 2020 cutting season and the data for the 2021 cutting season, which has given officers an overview that in those two seasons only the core grass cuts have been achieved in the main. The data does show that some enhanced cuts have been conducted in certain zones.</p> <p>The current 2022 data indicates it is again likely that only 12/13 core cuts will be achieved by the time we reach October 2022. This also takes into consideration BTC requesting the grass cutting to be suspended for two full weeks to allow strimming and other work to be conducted in the dry conditions.</p>
4.8	<p>Partnership Monitoring Tool</p> <p>Displayed on smartboard.</p>

AGENDA ITEM 6.1

5	A.O.B None.
6	Date and time of the next meeting Thursday 31 January 2023 at 14.00 hrs in the Council Chamber at Arms Everytne House.

D Clough

General Service Officer

Thursday 25 October 2022