



## BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Full Council held at 6.00 pm on Thursday 11 January 2024 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Blyth, NE24 2AS.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** W Taylor (Mayor), A Barrass (Deputy Mayor), D Carr, A Cartie, G Davey, S Davey, B Erskine, C Jones, J R Potts, J Reid, M Richardson, M Robson, S Stanger, A Watson.

**Officers:** J Hughes, Town Clerk, Malcolm Wilkinson, Deputy Town Clerk.

**Also Present:**

**Members of the Public: 0**

**Invited Guest(s): 0**

<b>Min No</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  Councillors: C Humphrey and K Nisbet.
<b>2</b>	<b>Disclosure of Interests and the Grant of any Dispensations</b>  None.
<b>3</b>	<b>Mayor's Announcements</b>  The Mayor spoke about that this may well be an election year and the protocol expected within the Council meetings and views arising from them.  The Mayor then concentrated on some of the work undertaken by the Council and its achievements. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The opening of 2 new play areas, safety fencing agreed around the North Farm Play Area, as well as the construction of a new skate park.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction work will also be undertaken re the lanes at an allotment site next year.</li> <li>• The progress on the Neighbourhood Plan.</li> <li>• The popularity of the Councillor drop in sessions.</li> <li>• The launch of the new web site, Community Database, issue of 2 newsletters, and the introduction of recording Council meetings.</li> <li>• Working with Partners on the Energising Blyth initiatives.</li> <li>• Free family events attracting 52k attendees.</li> <li>• Tree planting initiatives.</li> <li>• Fly tipping reduction initiatives.</li> <li>• Worked alongside BVEL re a Community Asset transfer.</li> <li>• The Council awarded its first Freedom of the Town Award.</li> <li>• Working with neighbouring Councils to share best practice.</li> </ul> <p>During this, the Council agreed to support the Planning Application made by BVEL for Pods at the South Beach retail development and that the Planning Portal be updated.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Special Council 12 December 2023</b></p> <p>The minutes were noted as a true record.</p>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Actions outstanding from Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>There were no outstanding actions to consider.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the following Standing Committees</b></p> <p>5.1 Environment Committee 12 December 2023. Council considered these and agreed that the minutes be amended regarding agenda number 8, to include the record of votes cast.</p> <p>5.2 Governance Committee 9 January 2024</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Decision Reports</b></p> <p>6.1 Precept 2024/2025</p> <p>The recommendations of the Governance Committee were accepted in that, the Council for 2024/25, set a budget of £1,610,811 with a precept levied on NCC of £1,448,766.</p> <p>During the discussion on the above the Town Clerk was asked to prepare 2 reports on, supporting the Food Bank, and investments with the Credit Union.</p>

	6.2 Review of CCTV Policy – this was agreed subject to a wording change to para 4.a, and legal opinion be sought to ensure that the Council were adequately protected within this overall section.
<b>7</b>	<b>Delegated Decision Report</b>  There were no delegated decisions to report.
<b>8</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>  None
<b>9</b>	<b>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</b>  The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Thursday 9 May 2024 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House. Public Question Time starts at 6.00 pm and Council will commence directly afterwards.

### **MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**

Councillor W Taylor (Mayor)  
Councillor A Barrass (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor D Carr  
Councillor A Cartie  
Councillor G Davey  
Councillor S Davey  
Councillor B Erskine  
Councillor C Humphrey

Councillor C Jones  
Councillor K Nisbet  
Councillor J R Potts  
Councillor J Reid  
Councillor M Richardson  
Councillor M Robson  
Councillor S Stanger  
Councillor A Watson