



## BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Full Council held at 6.20 pm on Thursday 13 January 2022 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Blyth. NE24 2AS**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** M Richardson (Mayor), J R Potts, Deputy Mayor, D Carr, G Davey, S Davey, B Erskine, C Jones, K Nisbet, J Reid, S Stanger, W Taylor

Joseph Hughes            Town Clerk  
Malcolm Wilkinson      Deputy Town Clerk  
Maureen Hawthorne     Committee Clerk

**Members of the Public: 2      Invited Guests: 0**

<b>Min No</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  Councillors: A Barrass, A Cartie, C Humphrey, M Robson, A Watson
<b>2</b>	<b>Disclosure of Interests and the Grant of any Dispensations</b>  None.
<b>3</b>	<b>Energising Blyth Update</b>  The following update was received from Rob Strettle:  Energising Blyth Partnership event was held just before Christmas and a number of Town Councillors who represent the Town Council on Blyth Town Forum were able to attend. The slides provide a summary of the activity across the Energising Blyth programme and will be circulated with the minutes. There was also a recent special meeting of the Blyth Town Forum on

	<p>the Bowes Street, Church Street and Wanley Street improvement works and a walk about to which all Town Councillors were invited. The slides and notes from that session were circulated to all Town Councillors in December. A number of queries are being worked through and will be reported back in due course to the Town Forum. The construction scheme was due to start week commencing 10 January.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Mayors Announcements</b></p> <p>The Mayor said leading up to Christmas was a very busy time and she attended many events and functions. It was good to see the residents of Blyth being able to enjoy the Fireworks Display, the Christmas Light Switch on and another successful Santa Tour. The Mayor attended quite a few carol services as well as the Bishop's retirement tea party and the Christmas Tree competition at St Cuthbert's.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the Special Covid Council held on Tuesday 16 November 2021</b></p> <p>The minutes were noted as a true record.</p>
<b>5.1</b>	<p><b>Actions outstanding from Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk to get further information regarding Horizons. <b>Update:</b> the Town Clerk and Councillor Potts had a meeting with Horizons and were satisfied that they met the criteria for a Covid grant.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Minutes resolved by the following Standing Committees (Any Councillor wishing to raise a matter from the minutes below should speak to the Chair/Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk in advance of the meeting)</b></p>
<b>6.1</b>	<p>Environment Committee held on Thursday 9 December 2021</p> <p>Clarified that Councillor Nisbet spoke to John Robertson regarding reports for Core work and he confirmed he does not circulate them. She will pursue this further.</p>
<b>6.2</b>	<p>Community Development Committee held on Tuesday 16 November September 2021</p>
<b>6.3</b>	<p>Governance Committee held on Tuesday 11 January 2022</p> <p>The minutes were noted as a true record.</p>

<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>7.1</b></p> <p><b>7.2</b></p> <p><b>7.3</b></p>	<p><b>The Following minutes to be considered by Standing Committees for approval (<i>for information only</i>) were noted</b></p> <p>Partnership Working Group held on Thursday 21 October 2021.</p> <p>Staff Sub Committee held on Tuesday 16 November 2021</p> <p>Community Funding Sub Committee held on Tuesday 7 December 2021 – part I &amp; II.</p> <p>The minutes were noted as a true record.</p>
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Report 1</b></p> <p>1. Budget and Precept 2021/2022</p> <p>Following a meeting of the Governance Committee on 11 January 2022, the Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to fix the precept on Northumberland Council for 2022/23, allowing for a 1.99% increase in Council Tax.</p> <p>It was noted that there are just over 10,000 Band D properties in Blyth. BTC are going to use a substantial amount of reserves by the end of the next financial year.</p> <p>2. Internal Audit Interim Report agreed by Governance Committee for Council Approval</p> <p>Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the report.</p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Report 2 - Mayor's Procedure</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk referred to the report outlining proposals for more formal arrangements for the office of Mayor. IT was clarified that this proposal is for Full Council Meetings where the Mayor is the Chair.</p> <p>Following discussion the Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to agree the recommendation.</p> <p>Members also agreed to the proposal for a photo gallery of past Mayors, together with a record of their service.</p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Report 3 - Audio/Video Recording of Meetings</b></p> <p>A discussion took place around the recommendation not to approve replacing the equipment. Members on the whole greed</p>

	<p>that they would like to explore the possibility of Council meetings being streamed on YouTube. Questions were asked about whether the public could request to record the meeting and, whether an individual Councillor could do the same. Councillor Davey suggested this should be explored further taking not account GDPR and seeking advice from the Information Commissioner.</p> <p>Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the recommendation not to replace current audio/video equipment within the Council Chamber because of the current process in place when recording the minutes of meetings. Officers will look at the costs involved in streaming meetings on YouTube and also take advice from the Information Commissioner/GDPR regulations regarding individuals recording/videoing Committee meeting.</p> <p><b>Action: Officers to carry out investigative work.</b></p>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Delegated Decision Report</b></p> <p>There were no delegated decisions to report</p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Information Report</b></p> <p>There were no items for information.</p>
<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Storm Damage to Allotments</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that the costs to repair the damage caused by the storm were not included in the budget and proposed that the work is carried out using budget from two financial years (2021/22 and 2022/23). The GSOP has surveyed the damage and taken action to secure estimates for the work. As some of the damage has been caused by a fallen tree owned by NCC, it was agreed that Officers will ask NCC to make contribution towards the repairs.</p> <p>Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to agree the action of the Town Clerk outlined in the report.</p> <p><b>Action: Officers to ask NCC to make a contribution towards repairs.</b></p>

	<p><b>Partnership Agreement</b></p> <p>A member of the public has raised concerned around the management of the partnership on two occasions. The Town Clerk proposed an independent person is appointed to carry out an investigation. Members agreed to this proposal and the Town Clerk will approach Mr Peter Kemp to carry out the work.</p>
<b>14</b>	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Thursday 12 May 2022 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House. Public Question Time commences at 6.00 pm and Council will commence directly afterwards.</p>

**MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**

Councillor M Richardson (Mayor)	Councillor M Robson
Councillor J R Potts (Deputy Mayor)	Councillor S Stanger
Councillor A Barrass	Councillor W Taylor
Councillor D Carr	Councillor A Watson
Councillor A Cartie	
Councillor G Davey	
Councillor S Davey	
Councillor B Erskine	
Councillor C Humphrey	
Councillor C Jones	
Councillor K Nisbet	
Councillor J Reid	