



## BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Full Council held at 6.30 pm on Thursday 21 July 2022 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Blyth. NE24 2AS**

**Present:**

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

**Officers:** Joseph Hughes, Town Clerk, Malcolm Wilkinson, Deputy Town Clerk, Maureen Hawthorne, Committee Clerk

**Also Present:**

**Members of the Public: 1**

**Invited Guest(s): 0**

<b>Min No</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  Councillors: S Stanger
<b>2</b>	<b>Disclosure of Interests and the Grant of any Dispensations</b>  None
<b>3</b>	<b>Proposed Solar Farm on Land of Low Horton Farm</b>  The presentation did not go ahead due to technical issues within the invited group.
<b>4</b>	<b>Mayor's Announcements</b>  The Mayor said that since being elected in May 2022 he has attended around 30 engagements, both in Blyth and around the North East, including Blyth Live and the Carnival where he was trained to be a drummer.

	<p>Other highlights included the Picnic in the park and, during Jubilee week the Mayor and other Councillors helped in presenting commemorative medals to school children in Blyth. He also attended a number of events under the Blyth Fest banner, which was piloted this year and went extremely well. The Mayor referred to the £600,000 secured for the Tall Ships project from the heritage lottery. He had the pleasure of meeting the new High Sheriff of Northumberland whose family is connected to Blyth, indirectly, as manufacturers of the Mayoral chains.</p> <p>The Queen’s baton relay was very successful, Dame Tanni-Grey Thompson was the final baton bearer at this stage.</p> <p>Another highlight was the Croftway Academy’s Got Talent – very difficult to judge as there were so many talented children participating. The Mayor attended the Isabella Heap award night and extended his congratulations to those people who received a John Muir award.</p> <p>The Mayor had the pleasure of meeting Savannah Stublely, who lives in Blyth and is competing in the Commonwealth Games in the 50kg lightweight boxing competition. He proposed the Town Council write extending their best wishes during the games.</p> <p><b>Action: Town Clerk to write a letter.</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>The following minutes were noted as a true record</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Minutes of the AGM held on 12 May 2022</li> <li>b. Minutes of the Special Full Council held on 30 June 2022</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Potts referred to Item 12 “Councillor Potts nominated himself as Chair” and clarified that “As was past custom and practice, to aid the running of the Annual Meeting, the Labour Councillors had submitted to Council officers and all members, a written list of the nominations they would make at the meeting and the proposed names of Chairs and Vice chairs were read out during the meeting by Councillor Potts.”</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes resolved by the following Standing Committees (<i>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</i>)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee held on 9 June 2022.</li> </ul>

7.	<p><b>Minutes to be considered by Standing Committees for approval (<i>for information only</i>)</b></p> <p>a. Minutes of Community Funding Sub Committee held on 26 May 2022 (part I &amp; II)</p> <p>b. Minutes of Community Funding Sub Committee held on 7 June 2022 (Part I &amp; II)</p> <p>c. Minutes of Community Funding Sub Committee held on 23 June 2022 (Part I &amp; II)</p> <p><b>Temporary suspension of the meeting occurred. It resumed after a short break.</b></p>
8.	<p><b>Decision Report 1 – Mayor’s Annual Event and Chosen Charity</b></p> <p>The Mayor referred to the report and said he would like to hold an annual event with a donation from the ensuing proceeds to a chosen charity. In order to progress this he proposed a small working group including Councillors and volunteers and hopefully some input from the Events Assistant, where possible.</p> <p>Council unanimously agreed to the proposal.</p>
9.	<p><b>Decision Report 2 – Audio/Video Recording of Meetings</b></p> <p>Members reviewed the information contained in the report, including the table showing the number of public attendance over a 3.5 year period as well as the costs. Following discussion it was agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk will speak to NCC to explore further the system they use.</p> <p><b>Action: DTC to speak to NCC</b></p>
10.	<p><b>Decision Report 3 - Chains of Office</b></p> <p>A detailed discussion took place on the pros and cons of purchasing two additional sets of Chains of Office with some Councillors not in agreement. Councillor Reid moved not to buy the chains of office, this motion was seconded with a vote taken. The outcome was for=7 and against=8.</p> <p>Councillor Potts moved that the Council support the funding of the chains and this was seconded. A vote was taken with the results for=8 and 7=against therefore the motion was carried.</p>

11.	<p><b>Review of CCTV Policy (amended policy)</b></p> <p>Members noted the amendments to the policy which will come into effect when the SLA is signed.</p>
12.	<p><b>Partnership Working Group</b></p> <p>Members agreed the recommendation from Mr Kemp’s report to create a Partnership Board, consisting of the following members:</p> <p>Chair of Environment Committee ( who will Chair the Board)  Chair of Community Development Committee  Chair of Governance Committee  The Mayor</p> <p>In addition: one Labour Group member – Grant Davey, one Conservative Group member (tbc), on Liberal Democrat member (tbc). It is also hoped a member of NCC, who is not a BTC Councillor, will also join the board.</p> <p>The Board will have the ability to alter the workload of the Partnership Team within its current annual budget, but any additional funding will require the approval of BTC.</p> <p>It was noted that Terms of Reference will be written for the Board.</p>
13.	<p><b>Local Transport Plan</b></p> <p>Councillor Potts commented that NCC are changing the process. A detailed discussion took place, where concerns were raised again around the lack of speed restrictions near schools. Reference was made to a meeting at NCC sometime ago where Councillor Reid raised a motion to that effect which was approved.</p> <p><b>Action: The Town Clerk will write to NCC to say BTC would like the LTP to focus on traffic calming and safer streets e.g. speed restrictions at all schools in Blyth. He will also endeavour to locate the minutes where Councillor Reid’s motion was agreed at NCC regarding Council Policy on speed restrictions.</b></p>
14.	<p><b>Delegated Decisions Report</b></p> <p>There were no delegated decisions.</p>

<b>15.</b>	<b>Information Report</b>  There were no items for information.
<b>16.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
<b>17.</b>	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>  The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Thursday 13 October 2022 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House. Public Question Time starts at 6.00 pm and Council will commence directly afterwards.
<b>18</b>	<b>Part II</b>  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 is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded, and they were instructed to withdraw.  <b>Part II – Honorary Freedom of the Town nomination</b>

**MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**

Councillor W Taylor (Mayor)  
Councillor K Nisbet (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor A Barrass  
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 S Stanger  
Councillor A Watson