



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on Thursday 19 September 2024 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, NE24 2AS.

Present:

Councillors: K Nisbet (Chair), A Barrass (VC), B Erskine, J R Potts, J Reid, M Richardson, S Stanger, W Taylor, and A Watson.

Also Present: Cllr G Davey and Cllr D Carr.

Officers: M Wilkinson (Town Clerk), E Brown (Principal Officer), Jason Russell (General Services Officer), and M F Hotak (Committee and Research Officer).

Invited Guests: Peter Bowman (NCC Area Manager)

Members of the Public: 1

Public Questions:

A member of the public asked about the progress of his complaint sent to BTC dated 27 August 2024 about the boundary fence for the allotments at 23rd Avenue. The Town Clerk informed that we are still waiting to receive the quotes, and the fencing issue will be resolved soon.

The Chair of the meeting asked the General Services Officer to send an email to the complainant about the progress of this issue.

Cllr Watson, as ward member, requested to attend any site visit with the General Services Officer.

Minute No	
1	Apologies for Absence Councillors A Cartie, C Jones, and M Robson.
2	Disclosure of Interests Grant of Dispensations

	<p>Cllr Davey requested a dispensation to participate in discussions regarding agenda item 15 relating to the Partnership.</p>
3	<p>Minutes of the Previous Environment Committee meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the previous Environment Committee meeting held 28 May 2024 were agreed in Full Council meeting on 18 July 2024.</p>
4	<p>Actions arising from Previous Meetings</p> <p>None.</p>
5	<p>Decision Report 1 – Environment Budget Monitoring Report:</p> <p>The Town Clerk presented an overview of the Environment Committee Budget and informed members that the work of Skate Park will be complete before the end of November this year.</p> <p>A query was raised regarding the payment of the S106 for the skatepark that when will the payment be claimed. The Town Clerk informed this will be paid once the work is complete.</p> <p>A query was raised regarding the rebate from the partnership for 2023/24. The Area Manager responded that they are awaiting an update from the Finance Department.</p>
6	<p>Decision Report 2 – Allotment Lanes</p> <p>Members discussed and RESOLVED to agree with the appointment of contractor A (Northumberland County Council) to carry out the repairs to the Bolam Allotment Lanes.</p>
7	<p>Decision Report 3 - Birdsmouth Fencing</p> <p>Members discussed and RESOLVED to agree with the appointment of contractor A (Scott Fencing) to carry out the installation of Birdsmouth fencing between Axwell Drive and Brierley Road.</p> <p>Due to the need to consider access for grass cutting and any emergency vehicles, it was agreed that the NCC Area Manager</p>

	would visit the site to consider operational impacts, so that the extents of the fencing could be determined.
8	Decision Report 4 – Defibrillator Members RESOLVED to Agree to accept responsibility for the defibrillator located at Broadway Pavilion.
9	Delegated Actions There were no delegated action/s to consider.
10	Enforcement This was noted for information.
11	Officers’ information Report (Read only) This was noted for information.
12	Any Other Business The Town Clerk provided an updated on the Skate Park which was progressing well. He further provided an updated on the planning application for lighting; Public Protections had now withdrawn their objections and a decision was awaited. A member enquired about the number of bookings for the free skateboard sessions; this information was being collated. The Town Clerk informed of anti-social behaviour at the Axwell Drive Play Area site and the need to hire security to monitor the site on the evening that the wet pour safety surfacing was setting. The security team reported abuse and anti-social behaviour at the site and the police were called.
13	Date & Time of Next Meeting The next meeting of the Environment Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House on Tuesday 10 December 2024. Allotment holder question time starts at 6.00 pm and the Committee will commence directly following that.
14	Part II

	Resolved that under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended; that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, that the press and public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting.
15	<p>Decision Report – Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)</p> <p>The Area Manager presented a report on the progress and challenges faced and the proposal for changing to a quality-based method. The members had an opportunity to ask questions.</p> <p>The Area Manager was thanked for his input by the Chairman, and he left the meeting.</p> <p>Following lengthy discussions, it was RESOLVED to defer renewing the agreement until an itemised cost breakdown of the agreement and services within was provided.</p> <p>Minutes of the Partnership Board meeting held 10 September 2024</p> <p>Minutes of the Partnership Board meeting held 10 September 2024 were agreed as true record of the meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The meeting ended at 7:56 pm</p>

Members of the Environment Committee

K Nisbet (Chair)	J Reid
A Barrass (Vice-Chair)	M Richardson
A Cartie	M Robson
B Erskine	S Stanger
C Humphrey	W Taylor
C Jones	A Watson
J R Potts	