



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 February 2025 following the Special Full Council meeting which started at 5:30 pm in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, NE24 2AS.

Present:

Councillors: W Taylor (Chair), A Cartie (Vice-Chair), A Barrass, D Campbell, G Davey, S Davey, B Erskine, K Nisbet, J R Potts, and S Stanger.

Also Present: Cllr M Richardson.

Officers:

M Wilkinson (Town Clerk), E Brown (Deputy Town Clerk), M F Hotak (Committee and Research Officer)

Invited Guest(s) – 0

Members of the Public – 0

Before addressing the agenda items, the Chair welcomed Cllr D Campbell to her first Community Development Committee meeting.

Minute No	
1	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors D Carr and C Jones.
2	Disclosure of Interest and Grants of Dispensation None.
3	Minutes of the previous Community Development Committee

Special Community Development Committee- Tuesday 18 February 2025 Chair's Initials ()

	Minutes of the previous Community Development Committee meeting held 26 November 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.
4	Actions arising from the previous minutes None.
5	Submariners Association presentation As the representative of the Submariners Association sent their apologies for the meeting, a brief presentation was submitted and shared with members regarding the Association's expectations from the Town Council to conduct their exhibition in collaboration with Blyth Battery. Members discussed and acknowledged the importance of launching events to commemorate the submariners in Blyth. They agreed to invite the representative of the Submariners Association to future Community Development Committee meeting for further discussion. Additionally, members proposed that this topic could be addressed in an Event Working Group meeting. The Town Clerk commented that the Community Grant was spent and there were funds available in 2025/26 budget. It was suggested that individual Councillor contributions from their Small Scheme budgets could be an option if the Committee agrees.
6	Grant funding visit update The Chair, Cllr W Taylor, informed members about his recent visits to grant recipients funded by the Council for services in Blyth. Cllr Taylor was accompanied by Cllr A Cartie and the Principal Officer during these visits. He reported that the visits were positive and impactful, with the fund recipients expressing their gratitude to the Council for supporting their work in the Blyth community. The Chair also requested a round of applause to acknowledge the collective efforts of the committee members.

7	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>The Town Clerk presented a report highlighting that, following the Community Development Committee meeting on 13 February 2024, it was agreed to make a regular payment of £5,000 every six months to the Blyth Food Bank, subject to ongoing review.</p> <p>He informed the committee that a visit to the Food Bank took place on 3 February 2025, revealing a continued high dependency on their services, with a slight increase in referral numbers from the last review.</p> <p>Members discussed the good work of the Foodbank and the other donations they received and RESOLVED to make an additional donation of £5,000 to the Food Bank, with a further review scheduled to take place in six months.</p>
8	<p>Delegated actions</p> <p>There were no delegated actions to be considered.</p>
9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The Chair informed members that a number of events to come in upcoming days, notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On Tuesday 25 February 2025, Media Day, Phoenix Theatre, Blyth - On Wednesday 26 February 2025 and Friday 28 February 2025, Skatepark engagement day - 3 May 2025 VE Day - 8 May 2025 will be the official celebration of VE Day, there would be flag ceremony at 8:00 am at Ridley Park, and at the Town Centre Church Bell at 6 pm and the lighting of the Beacon at 9:30 - Blyth Live will happen on 21 June 2025. <p>Further details will be provided in due course.</p>
10	<p>Date & Time of next meeting</p> <p>This to be agreed in an another meeting.</p>

11	<p>Part II</p> <p>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 are instructed to withdraw.</p>
12	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Blyth Community Flood Plan</p> <p>The Deputy Clerk presented her report and highlighted that on November 26, 2024, the Committee resolved to collaborate with the Environment Agency (EA) on a Blyth Community Flood Plan.</p> <p>Committee members engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the plan review and ultimately RESOLVED to adopt the Blyth Community Flood Plan and work in partnership with the EA.</p> <p>It was noted that the list of locations included in the plan should be updated regularly to reflect any changes.</p>

The meeting ended 7:05 pm

Members of Community Development Committee

W Taylor (Chair)	B Erskine
A Cartie (Vice-Chair)	C Jones
A Barrass	K Nisbet
D Campbell	J R Potts
D Carr	M Robson
G Davey	S Stanger
S Davey	C Jones