



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 10 December 2024 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, NE24 2AS.

Present:

Councillors: K Nisbet (Chair), M Richardson (Vice Chair), A Barrass, A Cartie, C Jones, J R Potts, J Reid, S Stanger, W Taylor, A Watson.

Also Present: D Carr, G Davey.

Officers: M Wilkinson (Town Clerk), E Brown (Deputy Town Clerk), D Clough (General Services Officer), F Hotak (Committee and Research Officer)

Invited Guests: 2 from NCC **Members of the Public:** 3

Allotment holders' questions:

The Chair of the meeting opened the session and invited members of the public to ask questions related to allotments. One member of the public inquired about a change in policy regarding fires at the Bolam Avenue allotments. Although he had already received a response from the Council, he remained unsatisfied with the current policy. The Chair assured him that the issue would be discussed further and be brought back to the committee.

Minute No	
1	Apologies for Absence B Erskine
2	Disclosure of Interests Grant of Dispensations None
3	Minutes of the previous Environment Committee To note that the minutes of the previous meeting on the

	Environment Committee held on 19 September 2024 were agreed as a true record at the Full Council meeting on 10 October 2024.
4	Actions arising from the previous minutes None.
5	Environment Budget Monitoring Report The budget monitoring report was noted for information. The Town Clerk highlighted certain key areas of the budget, where there was an overspent e.g. Axwell Drive play area, due to additional expenditure at the location and extra fencing costs. However, he noted that the Council is expected to remain on target for the rest of the budgeted activities. An update was also given on the progress of the Skate Park, where the scheme costs are being supported by contributions from 2 Country Councillors using their MLIS funds.
6	Decision Report 1 – Bus Shelters The committee RESOLVED to accept the quotation 1 (£7,015.00) for installation of two new bus shelters and the moving of an existing shelter (£9,450) including traffic management. The costs for locating two shelters are being met by a County Councillor using their MLIS funds.
7	Decision Report 2 – Defibrillators (Brierley Road and Portland Wynd) The committee RESOLVED to agree to accept the Defibrillator and installation (£3,500) at Brierley Road. The cost is being met by a County Councillor using their MILS funding. However, the committee did not RESOLVE to agree to accept the installation of a defibrillator within the residential housing development at Portland Wynd, because of no permission being granted by the developer. The Town Council was asked to write to the developer outlining the Council disappointment in this matter.

<p>8</p>	<p>Decision Report 3 – Cultivator/Rotovator</p> <p>The General Services Officer presented his report to the committee to consider to not replace the Cultivator/Rotovator on the grounds of health and safety and management.</p> <p>After discussions, it was agreed not to purchase a new Cultivator/Rotovator, but to hire a contractor where deemed necessary, to carry out work at any necessary vacant allotments.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Decision Report 4 – Environment Committee budget for 2025/26</p> <p>The Town Clerk presented the report on the Environment Committee's proposed budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year. After a thorough discussion, the proposed budget was approved for further consideration and recommendations to the Governance Committee.</p> <p>Additionally, it was agreed that an assessment of 2-3 play areas would be conducted, and the findings would be incorporated into proposals regarding which play area(s) should be covered in the upcoming year.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Delegated Actions</p> <p>There were no delegated actions to consider.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Enforcement</p> <p>Reports circulated on a monthly basis. Members were reminded that any queries should be raised with the Town Clerk upon receipt of the reports.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>No other business noted.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Date & Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Environment Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House on Thursday 27 February. Allotment holder question time starts at 6.00 pm and the Committee will commence directly following that.</p>

14	<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 were instructed to withdraw.</p>
15	<p>Minutes of the previous Partnership Board meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting of the Partnership Board held 28 November 2024 were agreed as true record.</p>
16	<p>Decision Report 5 – The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of a Partnership between Northumberland County Council and Blyth Town Council.</p> <p>The Town Clerk presented his report and highlighted key recommendations from the Partnership Board that should be considered in the new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). After thorough discussions, the Committee resolved to agree with the Partnership Board's recommendations, with amendments aimed at creating a MoU that is more timeline-based, measurable, and specific in its tasks.</p>

The meeting closed at 7.22 pm

Members of the Environment Committee

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