



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held at 6.00pm on Thursday 27 February 2025 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, NE24 2AS.

Present:

Councillors: K Nisbet (Chair), M Richardson (Vice Chair), A Barrass (part), A Cartie, B Erskine, J Potts, J Reid, S Stanger, A Watson.

Also Present: Cllr D Carr, Cllr G Davey, and Greg Gavin (Head of Neighbourhood Services, NCC).

Officers: M Wilkinson (Town Clerk), E Brown (Deputy Clerk), S Humphery (Principal Officer), and M F Hotak (Committee and Research Officer).

Invited Guests: 0 Members of the Public: 5

Allotment holders' questions:

A resident enquired about Lane repairs at Bolam site and Depth of surface that blocked access from carpark. It was noted that the work on Lane repairs at Bolam site is still in progress and yet to be completed. The depth of surface that blocked access from carpark to be looked at.

Minute No	
1	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received and accepted from: Councillors D Campbell, S Davey, C Jones, and W Taylor.
2	Disclosure of Interests Grant of Dispensations None.
3	Actions arising from Previous Meetings The Town Clerk highlighted few issues from the previous meeting including allotment fires, bus shelter that are brought

	<p>to this meeting for discussion as separate agenda items.</p> <p>He also updated on the defibrillator request that the Council is in discussions with the landowner.</p>
4	<p>Environment Budget Monitoring Report</p> <p>The budget monitoring report was noted for information.</p>
5	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Bus shelter improvement in Blyth (Application for funding)</p> <p>The Committee RESOLVED to agree the application for funding to improve bus shelter provision within Blyth.</p> <p>It was also noted that if the application successful, a further report would be brought to the Environment Committee for a decision on final locations.</p>
6	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Allotment fires</p> <p>The Committee discussed and RESOLVED to change the current policy regarding allotment fires.</p> <p>The change would allow the continued burning of allotment waste from 1 April to 30 September requested at the previous meeting by Blyth Small Holding & Allotment Association.</p> <p>This change would include the recommended caveats and a trial period to ensure respect and consideration was given to neighbours. Council would also do more to encourage composting.</p>
7	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Play area refurbishment</p> <p>Based on the Officers' recommendations, the Committee discussed and RESOLVED to agree the refurbishment of Cottingwood Green and St John's MUGA play areas in 2025/26.</p> <p>If S106 funding is available, Council will also look at other play areas for refurbishment.</p>

<p>8</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>9</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Date & Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>This will be agreed after the meeting schedule for 2025/26 is finalised.</p>
<p>11</p>	<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>
<p>12</p>	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Partnership budget</p> <p>The Committee discussed and RESOLVED to request an additional £24K be approved by the Council for the budget of the Partnership services to be met.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Skate Park</p> <p>Verbal presentation following the completion of the Isabella Skatepark.</p> <p>A verbal update was presented by the Town Clerk to the Committee. He highlighted overall the process of the Skate Park project, how it was started and how it successfully completed despite various challenges throughout the project.</p> <p>Councillors praised the fantastic facility and the success of project. They including the Chair also thanked all the Officers that were involved in the completion of this project.</p>

The meeting closed at 7:25 pm

Members of the Environment Committee

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