



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL Special meeting held at 5:30 pm on Tuesday 18 February 2025, in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Blyth, NE24 2AS.

Present:

Councillors: A Barrass (Mayor), A Cartie (Deputy Mayor), D Campbell, G Davey, S Davey, B Erskine (part), K Nisbet, J R Potts, M Richardson, S Stanger, W Taylor, and A Watson.

Officers:

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

Members of the Public: 0

Min No	
1	Apologies for absence Apologies received and were accepted from Councillors D Carr, C Jones, and J Reid.
2	Disclosure of Interests and Grant of Dispensations None.
3	Mayor's Announcements None.
4	Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 January 2025 The minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 January 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.

5	<p>Actions outstanding from Previous Minutes</p> <p>None.</p>
6	<p>Committee meeting Minutes for approval</p> <p>The Community Funding Sub-Committee meeting minutes held 12 November 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.</p>
7	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>'Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England' consultation</p> <p>The Deputy Clerk presented a report regarding the proposed responses to the above consultation.</p> <p>The Council considered and AGREED the proposed responses provided in Appendix 1 as a corporate response to this consultation.</p>
8	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Committee membership</p> <p>The Town Clerk presented a report as circulated with the agenda on the changes to Council Committee membership following the Newsham ward by-election that occurred in January 2025. Members acknowledged the updates to the Committee membership with Cllr D Campbell joining the Community Development and Environment Committees. Cllr Nisbet joining the Governance Committee.</p> <p>It was noted that at the request of Cllr C Jones and Cllr D Carr, she would swap with Cllr D Carr for the Partnership Board (PB) meeting.</p>
9	<p>The next Annual General meeting date</p> <p>Due to the national VE Day on 8 May 2025, it was agreed that the next Annual General meeting to be held on 13 May 2025.</p>

<p>10</p>	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Project Shield</p> <p>The Town Clerk presented a report on Project Shield, which aims to address and reduce anti-social behaviour in communities. This initiative is a collaboration involving multiple parties, including Northumberland County Council (NCC), Northumbria Police, Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service, local partners such as Town Councils, youth organisations, local businesses, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p> <p>After a thorough discussion, the Council RESOLVED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support in principle this valuable work, to tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour using a data and intelligence-led approach to target hot spot areas. • Consider any funding once the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has been notified of any finance to assist this project. News expected in the next few weeks. <p>Cllr K Nisbet requested details on crime rates and positive work being done to reduce them be publicised by the Town Council.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>The Deputy Clerk presented a report on the feedback received regarding the Draft Blyth Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Following a detailed discussion, the Council RESOLVED to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accept the recommended amendments from the Planning Consultant (refer to Appendix 1). 2. Approve the recommended Officer responses to the feedback (refer to Appendix 2). 3. Retain the small, wooded area in the southern part of LGS20.

12	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Hire of Council Chamber</p> <p>The Deputy Clerk presented a report regarding a recent request from a resident to use the Council Chamber for public purposes.</p> <p>After a thorough discussion, it was RESOLVED that the request to use the Council Chamber for public meetings could not be approved, as it is prohibited in the lease and further security issues.</p> <p>It was suggested that alternative venues within the community, which are available for public use, be explored instead.</p>
13	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Commitment to support youth provision</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk presented a report and highlighted the position of Blyth Town Council and its past commitment to supporting youth services in the community.</p> <p>Members discussed and AGREED supporting youth services as a strategic priority to work with and support youth provision now and in the future.</p>
14	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None.</p>
15	<p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that a Special Full Council meeting to be held on 27 February 2025.</p>
16	<p>Part II</p> <p>There were no agenda item for Part II in this meeting.</p>

The meeting closed at 6:25 pm

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

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