

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18 October 2017 at 7.00 pm at Newbiggin by-the-Sea Sports and Community Centre.

PRESENT:

Councillors: M Peden (Chairman)
M Boon A Bromwich-Alexandra L Burns
M Cholerton S Harrison A Thompson

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 9 members of the public

OPEN SESSION There were no questions from members of the public.

C053/17 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor E Hartley.

C054/17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A Member queried Minute C048/17 and the allocation of resources for works and fittings at the new office. The Town Clerk explained that all works and fittings had been set out in the report recommendations and there had been a consensus to proceed with all except the furniture at that stage.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C055/17 MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 21 September 2017 confirming the appointment of Elaine Brown as Deputy Town Clerk were received for information.

C056/17 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Chairman declared a non pecuniary interest as a director of Newbiggin Development Trust and Councillor Thompson as a trustee of Newbiggin Development Trust.

C057/17 NEWBIGGIN DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Stuart Todd as a director of Newbiggin Development Trust confirmed that it had been established in May 2016 and had three directors with others involved as trustees. The registered office was now established at the offices of Howarth Estates at the former Alcan site.

He reported to the meeting that the grant support received from the Town Council had been deposited in the Trust account and it was moving forward with project plans in line with the 10 year Newbiggin Town Plan.

Schemes were being developed with partners to address the long-standing problem of the intersection of the promenade with the lifeboat ramp which presented difficulties for pedestrians particularly the disabled and those with prams while fishermen were finding it increasingly

difficult to launch boats in the bay. Better facilities were required and plans would be shared with the public. Changes at Blyth Harbour were producing a need for facilities for deeper water vessels and there could be a transfer of small boats to the boat park. A mooring facility in the bay for trawlers could also help support tourism. The Trust had met with the Freeholders and the County Council and was awaiting tender returns.

A scheme for the lagoon area had been discussed with Alcan previously and agreed in principle with the power station owners. There had been informal discussions with the new company following transfer of the sites which would progress after completion of the biomass project conversion.

Twinning arrangements with Withernsea in East Yorkshire had taken place with support from the Carnegie Trust.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Todd for the report and he withdrew from the meeting.

C058/17 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2016-17

The external auditors BDO had concluded their audit of the Town Council accounts for 2016-17 and the Annual Return incorporating their report and certificate had been circulated. This confirmed that the information in the return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters were required to be drawn to the authority's attention.

The Town Clerk confirmed that that notice of conclusion of the audit had been given and that the return and certificate were available on the web site.

It was **RESOLVED that:** the Annual Return including the External Auditors' certificate be received and accepted.

C059/17 TOWN CENTRE OFFICE

The Town Clerk reported on progress with the new office accommodation and the visit by Members to look at the facilities. A risk assessment would be progressed to consider any issues to be addressed beyond the access arrangements and CCTV coverage.

A site meeting with Arch and its signage contractor had been held and confirmed that the requirements to incorporate the full name of the Town Council on the fascia and the logo screens to the windows could be accommodated. It would be necessary to progress with an application for Advertisement Consent under the Planning Regulations which should be authorised now.

Before occupation it would be necessary to have blinds fitted to the windows and workstations suitable for individual employees installed. If these were not available from the County Council new ones would have to be purchased and with the appointment of the Deputy Town Clerk a suitable laptop computer was also required.

It was **RESOLVED that:**

- i) the above arrangements and acquisitions be progressed from the allocation;
- ii) Advertisement Consent be sought for the signage arrangements.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Boon moved the motion set out in the agenda and referred to the previous schemes and planning history stressing the need to maintain the wildlife corridor and separation of the local communities.

An addendum was moved to begin the process to develop a Neighbourhood Plan to address a range of planning issues. Councillor Harrison withdrew from the meeting at this stage. The Town Clerk confirmed that it had always been intended to develop such a plan and gave an explanation of the process timing and resources required.

The motion and addendum were seconded and it was unanimously **RESOLVED that:**

In response to the withdrawal of the Core Strategy and recent planning approvals, that will result in the expansion of the built environment of Ashington and North Seaton up to the eastern Parish Boundary along its entire length abutting the A189 Spine Road, Newbiggin by-the-Sea Town Council calls upon Northumberland County Council to:

- i. take all steps necessary to ensure that its policies; planning decisions; emerging Core Strategy recognise the strategic importance of protecting and maintaining an open space and wildlife corridor alongside the eastern boundary of the A189 from Woodhorn bridge roundabout through to North Seaton roundabout and to the River Wansbeck;
- ii. gives significant weight to and ensure that the objectives of the Wansbeck District Local Plan are strictly adhered to in relation to the land to the east of A189 in particular:

Objective 3 – To protect and improve the quality of the environment;

Objective 4 – To conserve and enhance the diversity of wildlife species and habitats;

Objective 5 – To ensure the needs of open space, recreation and other community facilities can be met;

Objective 6 – To enhance the character and distinctiveness of individual settlements and prevent them from merging;

- iii. work towards the creation of a linear open space parkland and wildlife corridor at least 200 metres in width along the boundary of A189 within the Newbiggin by-the-Sea Parish Boundary between the roundabouts at North Seaton and Woodhorn bridge to ensure separation of the settlements of Newbiggin by the Sea and Ashington within which no built development shall be allowed;
- iv. The Town Council make the requested representation to Northumberland County Council and begin the submission of a Neighbourhood Plan which would also include the content of the motion dealing with objectives 2-5 and 8 of Wansbeck District Plan but would emphasise all 11 objectives.

Signed by the Chairman:

Date:.....