

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 13th June 2013 in the Council Chamber, Clayport Street, Alnwick at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs B Grisdale (Mayor), S Allcroft, P Broom, G Castle, D Farrar, M Harrington, K Moore, S Patience, R Roberts, and A Symmonds.

In attendance: W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk Heather Cairns, County Councillor.

C13/21. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

C13/22. Apologies: Cllr B Hewison.

C13/23. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Grisdale declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute C13/29 regarding Bailiffgate Museum as he is the Council appointed trustee and Councillor Castle declared a non-pecuniary interest in county council matters. Councillor Allcroft and Councillor Castle declared non-pecuniary interests regarding the private agenda item relating to the co-option of councillors.

C13/24. Mayor's Report

The agenda papers had included a link to the Mayor's blog which he had set up as a record of his civic year. He explained the blog would be kept as an on-going record and councillors could log onto the site at any time. Councillors complimented Councillor Grisdale on his imaginative approach.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

C13/25. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (9th May 2013)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th May 2013 were agreed as a true record.

These were agreed and duly signed by the Mayor.

C13/26. Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Referring to Minute C13/20, Councillor Castle explained that the commencement date for the Market Place parking scheme was not now the 16th July, he hoped that this would start soon after this date.

C13/27. Approval of the 2012/13 Annual Return and Accounts.

Draft 2012/13 accounts had been tabled and approved at the last meeting. The clerk advised of some minor changes and circulated a copy of the income and expenditure account for 2012/13. He reported that the internal audit had been successfully completed and took the councillors through section 1, 2 and 4 of the annual return. The return and associated documents needed to be submitted to the external auditor before the 25th June.

RESOLVED: that the Accounts and the Annual Report be approved

C13/28. Parking in Alnwick

The Town Council had received a letter from the Leader of NCC regarding the manifesto promise to offer the opportunity for free parking for communities across Northumberland. The letter outlined that council officers had been asked to work with local councils over the summer to establish a community based parking plan to help the County Council to support the local issues and the most appropriate methods of managing parking issues. The work is

to be concluded by the Autumn. Councillors discussed the best way to respond to this and after discussions it was agreed to establish a working group of the full council and invite a representative of the Chamber of Trade and the Neighbourhood Plan transport lead. The meeting group would meet once the county council start the procedure.

RESOLVED: the Town Council establishes a working group of the full council and including a representative from the Chamber of Trade and the transport lead on the Neighbourhood Plan, to meet with the County Council officers.

C13/29. Request for Financial Support from Bailiffgate Museum

A letter from Bailiffgate Museum had been circulated with agenda papers, this requested urgent financial assistance with roof works. The estimated cost of the works was £7,000 plus VAT. Councillors were supportive of assistance being given but the letter was not entirely clear about the level of financial support already available and the possible shortfall. Questions were also asked about responsibility for the roof and other funding being sought. Subject to satisfactory answers being received councillors were supportive of giving a grant of up to £2,000, however this would mean the Museum was unlikely to receive a further grant in the normal grant round later in the year.

RESOLVED: A grant of up to £2,000 be offered to the Museum subject to clarification being received about the need, other funding sources and total costs.

C13/30. Request for Council to take on responsibility for an armillary for Sir George Biddell Airy.

Sir George Biddell Airy was born in Alnwick in 1801 and went on to become the 7th Astronomer Royal. To commemorate his birth a project was underway to install an armillary in Green Batt Gardens. The Project Coordinator (Mrs Elizabeth Jones) had asked if the Town Council would include the armillary on their assets and insurance policy. It was understood that the armillary will cost in the region of £5,000 with an additional cost of up to £1500 for a plinth and installation. Councillors were supportive but asked for more information on for example, ownership, materials, and location,

RESOLVED: The Council agree in principal to include the armillary on their assets and insurance, subject to obtaining further information.

C13/31. Minutes of Committees

a) Planning, Highways and Transport Committee (9th May 2013)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on 9th May 2013 were agreed as a true record.

b) Cemetery Committee (6th June 2013)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Cemetery Committee held on 6th June 2013 were agreed as a true record.

c) Recreation & Amenities Committee (6th June 2013)

Referring to minute RA 13/05, Councillor Roberts highlighted that the discussion about litter bins at the bus station had also included looking at recycling street bins, The minutes were amended to reflect this.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee held on 6th June 2013 were agreed as a true record.

C13/32. Correspondence

The clerk reported that the following correspondence has been received since the last meeting, these were discussed.

Date	Detail	Action if any
29/5/13	CANNY News	Available from the clerk on request
29/5/13	NCC – Proposed changes to the planning system	Copy circulated to planning committee
15/5/13	Food Festival – Letter of thanks for grant	Noted
16/5/13	NCC -Community Agreements to support areas of risk of flooding	Noted
17/5/13	NCC – Member Training information on Code of Conduct	Will be utilised in Member Training
2/6/13	Barclays Bank. Confirmation of Mandate Changes	Noted
6/6/13	Linda Lytollis – complaint about Shambles public toilets	Discussed by Recreation & Amenities Committee on June 6th
11/6/13	Local resident – allegations of on-going unauthorised business activity on Green Batt	Councillor Castle to take up with Enforcement Officer at NCC
11/6/13	Abbeyfields – invitation to open day	All councillors invited
11/6/13	Alnwick Spring Show – report for Council	Available from the clerk on request

RESOLVED: That the correspondence received be noted.

C13/33. Financial Matters – Payments.

The clerk reported that the following invoices had been received for payment:

HMRC	£1,854.68	Tax and NI
Wages Account	£4,000	
AFS Country Store	£17.62	Rat Poison
Thompson Business Equipment	£89.29	Files, Wages Books
Diamond Business Systems	£54	Photocopier Service Charge
Northumberland Estates	£144	3 new benches
The Farm Bakery	£111	Buffet Civic Awards
Azure Printing	£18.48	Certificates for Civic Awards
Colin Harris	£900	Website installment
Northumbrian Water	£19.40	Cemetery
Northumbrian Water	£77.10	Cemetery
NALC	£811.24	Annual Subscription
TOTAL	£8,096.81	

The following payments are now paid by direct debit and were reported for information		
BT	£87.22	Phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge Paid 28 th May 13

RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the above payment amounting to £8,096.81 and to note the direct debit payments of £87.22.

C13/34. Councillor Issues

Councillor Castle raised dog fouling complaints he had received relating to the area between Alnwick South School and Lindisfarne School. Councillors had a wide ranging discussion about dog fouling, enforcement, the need for feedback on activity, evidence

required to prosecute etc. It was agreed to invite the local dog warden to a future council meeting.

RESOLVED: to invite the dog warden to a future council meeting.

C13/35. Any Other Urgent Business

Councillor Moore highlighted a town twinning visit taking place in late June/early July and a civic welcome being planned for Monday 1st July.

Councillor Patience updated Councillors on the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation event taking place on 18th June at the St James' Church Rooms. All councillors were invited.

In Private

C13/36. Co-option of new councillors – consideration of applications

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.