

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013 in the Council Chamber, Clayport Street, Alnwick at 7pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs B Grisdale (Mayor), P Allcroft, S Allcroft, P Broom, C Goodfellow, D Farrar, M Harrington, B Hewison, P Holt, J Humphries, G Mavin, S Mavin, K Moore, S Patience, R Roberts, M Swinbank and A Symmonds.

**In attendance:** W Batey, Chief Officer & Town Clerk.

### **C13/87. Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the public.

### **C13/88. Apologies:** Cllr G Castle.

### **C13/89. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors S Mavin, G Mavin, S Allcroft and P Allcroft declared non-pecuniary interests in the Food Festival Agenda item.

### **C13/90. Presentation on Dog Control In Alnwick**

Peter Simpson Public Health Protection Manager from Northumberland County Council gave a short presentation to the council on local dog control. He outlined the 365 day service given including the free micro-chipping, dealing with 1400 strays last year, the 4 dog control areas in operation in the county and the dog fouling 'Don't Stand for it' campaign. Previous activity in Northumberland relating to fines for dog fouling had been very low, but in 2013 Mr Simpson outlined that 69 fines had been issued in the year to date. In Alnwick 8 fines had been issued, the worst area being Barresdale and 10 strays had also been picked up. Councillors highlighted Swansfield Park, Fisher Lane and Clayport Gardens as areas that would benefit from patrolling by the dog warden. In answer to a question it was confirmed that it was best if the County Council gather evidence for a fine or prosecution as their staff were trained to do this. The Mayor thanked Mr Simpson for his presentation.

### **C13/91. Feedback on the 2013 Food Festival**

Carys Thomas and Karen Larkin from the Food Festival attended the meeting and Carys gave a short presentation outlining feedback from the 2013 Food Festival. The 2013 event had been a great success, the event had broken even and preparations were now commencing on next year's event which will be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Some of the grant funding previously available would no longer be available, this may mean a more modest festival is planned for next year. Carys said it would be helpful if the Council could guarantee a grant for next year and look to see if event insurance could be arranged through the Council. Councillors were supportive of the event and discussed some potential areas for improvement including better communication with stall holders. The Mayor thanked Carys and Karen for attending and updating the Council.

### **C13/92. Presentation on the proposed new Fire Station in Alnwick**

Chief Fire Officer Alex Bennett, delivered a short presentation on the subject of Fire and Rescue Service modernisation and the relocation of Alnwick Fire Station. He was joined by other members of the project team. He outlined that there was a need to improve the facilities in Alnwick as the existing fire station needed £1m spent on it, because of this it was better to look at a new location and the best value for money would be obtained by sharing with other services on a new depot location on the Lionheart Industrial Estate. In terms of the current activity, significant fires had been reduced by 40% over the last 10 years and 300 smoke alarms had been fitted in Alnwick over the past 5 years. Mr Bennett said that there were currently 21 on-call fire officers in Alnwick, 2 appliances and a young firefighters group (for ages 13-18) had 12 members. Whilst the proposed new station was slightly further out of town, this was not seen as a significant issue, costs were estimated at £5m

and this would help drive revenue savings. Some resource sharing would take place with other services. In answers to questions it was confirmed that a planning application was being worked on, and the construction period was 12 months. It was also confirmed that transport provision would be considered for the Young Fire Fighters scheme. The Mayor thanked the team for the presentation. It was agreed that the Clerk would put together a proposed response to the consultation for the next Council meeting.

#### **C13/93. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (10<sup>th</sup> October 2013)**

It was highlighted that Councillor Hewison had been present at the meeting, the draft minutes were therefore amended.

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013 were agreed as a true record.**

These were duly signed by the Mayor.

#### **C13/94. Matters Arising not on the Agenda**

Referring to Minute C13/81, the Mayor confirmed the half day visioning and strategy day was on 7th December.

#### **C13/95. Mayor's Report**

The agenda papers included a link to the Mayor's diary. The Mayor also informed councillors of his attendance at the Larger Parish Council's meeting and at the preview of ITV's 'Tales from Northumberland'.

**RESOLVED: That the report be received.**

#### **C13/96. Procedures for dealing with correspondence sent to all councillors**

At the last meeting a draft guidance note was circulated regarding correspondence. This has now been considered by NALC and the Northumberland County Council Development Control Dept. and some minor changes made. The revised document had been circulated to Councillors.

**RESOLVED: That the Guidance Note be approved**

#### **C13/97. Community Parking Plan Update**

It was reported that at the last meeting the Community Parking Plan for Alnwick was approved for submission to Northumberland County Council. All areas producing a parking plan have been given an update by the County Council. This made it clear that if disc zones were put in place, then, because of the costs associated with this, they would not be reviewed after 12 months; furthermore the County Council would provide the discs and a nominal charge levied. Councillors discussed the update and some felt that schemes could be put in place to ensure good availability of discs such as them being sold by local shopkeepers for 50p, with 30p being passed back to the County Council. It was agreed to make this response to the County Council.

**RESOLVED: That the Clerk responds to the County Council with suggestions about the distribution of parking discs.**

#### **C13/98. Core Strategy Consultation**

Northumberland County Council had released its Housing, Employment and Green Belt preferred options consultation. This runs until 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014. It was explained that as part of the consultation there will be a drop in session and exhibition at the Council Chambers, Clayport Street, Alnwick on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November between 3.00pm and 6.00pm followed by a discussion session between 6.30pm and 8.30pm. The plan sets out

the general scale and distribution of new development to meet needs up to 2031. For Alnwick, the main proposals are 1,000 new dwellings (equating to 50 per year on average), some new areas of housing to the south of the town and around 5 hectares of additional land for employment uses to the south of the town.

**RESOLVED: Councillors note the consultation events and agree to receive a fuller report at the next meeting incorporating comments from the Alnwick & Denwick Neighbourhood Plan team.**

**C13/99. Minutes of Committees**

a) Planning, Highways and Transport Committee (10<sup>th</sup> October 2013)

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013 were agreed as a true record.**

**C13/100. Correspondence**

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Action if any</b>
15 Oct	Via NCC, request from resident to move dog bin from the side of 37 Swansfield Park Road to further into the Park	Councillors agreed to a relocation
17 Oct	Cllr J Fell, Alnwick Canada. Pleased about twinning and sending a local calendar	Noted
28 Oct	NALC – e news	Available from the clerk on request
4 Nov	NCC – Clayport Street and Lagny Street added to gritting and snow clearance sites	Noted

**RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted**

**C13/101. Financial Matters – Payments.**

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

HMRC	£1841.90	Tax/NI payment for Oct
Wages Account	£4000	
npower	£717.42	Electricity – Cemetery Chapel
Diamond Business Systems	£474.	New Copier
John Gray	£336	Hedgecutter Repairs
Azure Printing	£155.14	Remembrance Sunday Orders of Service
Bailiffgate Museum	£18	Room Booking
Glendale Paints	£12.65	Materials
Chris Bowden	£150	Seat Repairs
Royal British Legion	£19	Poppy Wreath
Johnston Publishing	£178.80	Vacancy Adverts
Royal Mail	£103.20	Response Services Licence Renewal
The Play Practice	£394.80	Wetpour Repair kits – play areas
Colin Harris	£900	3 <sup>rd</sup> installment for website
Alnwick Cricket Club	£15	Neighbourhood Plan meeting room hire
W R Batey	£288.25	Postage £15, Wine Glasses £20 (Remembrance Sunday) Wage slips £6.90, Cleaning Equip £8.77, Refreshments £55.61, £181.97 Tree Guards

Northumbria Fencing	£638	Gate and fence at Ratten Row
H2Flow	£223.20	Allotment Water Supply Repairs
Northumberland County Council	£2343.60	Extra Grass Cuts
M Cranston	£50	Pest Control – Allotments
M Weatheritt	£534	Bus Shelter Repairs
CBS Ltd	£30	Photocopying
James McClean	£101.57	Equipment & Hedge cutter service
A Symmonds	£22.50	Mileage – Area Committee
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£13,547.03.</b>	

In addition approval was also given to make the following payments after Remembrance Sunday; a donation of £75 to The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, a donation of £19 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, £80 to Grannies for catering and to purchase £25 gift tokens for each of the three volunteers helping at the church and the reception.

The following payments are now paid by direct debit and were reported for information		
BT	£104.71	phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge paid 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct 13
npower	£217.03	electricity Cemetery Store and Roberston's Pant.

**RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £13,796.03 and to note the direct debit payments of £321.74**

#### **C13/102. Feedback Local Multi-agency Crime Prevention Initiative Meeting**

Councillor Moore highlighted that the meeting earlier in the day had looked at campaigns and action regarding using mobile phones when driving and speeding. Some local training was taking place for volunteers using equipment to check car speeds. This could result in motorists getting a police warning. He also reported that 12 cars had been taken off the road due to antisocial behaviour.

#### **C13/103. Allotment Rents 2014**

The Allotment Working Group has met and considered the proposed rents for next year and had recommended increases of either £5 or £10 per plot. These suggested increases would be the first for 2 years.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Proposed Rents</b>	<b>Rent Period</b>
Ratten Row	Full Plot £40 with water £35 without water Half plot £30 with water £25 without water	Jan -Dec
St James's (site has water)	Full plot £35 Half Plot £25	Jan-Dec
St George's (no water supply)	Full plot £30 Half Plot £20	April-March
Cawledge View (no water supply)	Full plot £30 Half Plot £20	April-March

**RESOLVED: The allotment rents for 2014 be approved**

**C13/104. Any Other Urgent Business**

Councillor Goodfellow asked for the Swansfield Road crossing patrol issue to be raised at the next meeting.

Councillor Hewison asked for a progress report on a proposed gate on the footpath from Royal Oak Gardens to Alnmouth Road.

Councillor Farrar informed councillors of the Tree Planting at the Cemetery being carried out on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November and encouraged councillors to attend.

Councillor Symmonds and County Councillor Cairns updated the Council with information regarding the painting of lines on the Market Place to show the proposed parking bays. Painting was proposed as studs could not be used. Consultation would take place on the proposals in January.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.