

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 8th November 2012 in the Council Chamber, Clayport Street, Alnwick at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs A Symmonds (Mayor), S Allcroft, J Bell, D Farrar, K Gray, B Grisdale, M Harrington, B Hewison, G Knox, K Moore, S Patience, R Roberts, J Thompson and R Waddell.

In attendance: W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk.

C12/87. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

C12/88. Apologies: Cllrs G Castle, B Thompson and S Walton.

C12/89. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Patience, Hewison, and Roberts declared a pecuniary interest regarding the Neighbourhood Plan update (minute 12/95) and Councillors Patience, Roberts, Grisdale and Farrar declared a pecuniary interest in the payment to the Friends of the Bullfield Community Orchard (minute C12/98).

C12/90. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (11th October 2012)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2012 were agreed as a true record.

These were agreed and duly signed by the Mayor.

C12/91. Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Referring to minute C12/73, the clerk reported that the Howling Lane Bus Shelter had now been removed and was being stored at the cemetery. Referring to Minute C12/74 Councillor Grisdale suggested the Council write and congratulate Caroline Stewart on her success at the North East Women Entrepreneur of the Year Awards and referring to minute C12/79 Councillor Farrar offered to assist with the accessibility of the new website. The clerk also outlined that an engagement coffee morning was planned for Saturday 22nd December (minute C12/86b).

C12/92. Mayor's Report

The Mayor's report for the period 11th October – 3rd November had been circulated with the agenda. The Mayor also highlighted that he would be attending the memorial service for Her Grace Duchess Elizabeth on 5th November and also drew attention to the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

C12/93. Feedback on Pavement inspections and consideration of the future surface of the Cobbles, Bondgate Within

The Mayor reported that Councillors Grisdale and Castle together with the clerk and himself, joined Mr Steve Mason from the Highways Services of NCC to carry out a town centre footpath inspection on Wednesday 7th November. A list of defects had been drawn up and a programme to deal with pavement defects was due to start next week. Councillor Grisdale had taken photographs and it was agreed that these would be circulated. It had also been agreed to replace a section of paving in Bondgate Without (approximately from the Fleece to Wager Cottage). The inspection had revealed that the surface of the cobbles on Bondgate Within were in need of major attention and a meeting was being arranged with Neighbourhood Services for them to consider options. It was suggested the Recreation and Amenities Committee could look at the repair of the cobbles as a future agenda item.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and the repair of the cobbles be considered by the Recreation and Amenities Committee at a future meeting.

C12/94. Allotment Rents for 2013

The clerk reported that the current allotment rents were:

- Ratten Row (with water supply) full plot - £35 and half plot £25, and (without water supply) full plot £30 and half plot £25 and
- St James's - full plot £25 and half plot £15.

These rents had been increased in 2012 by up to £10 per plot and some of the intended works particularly at Ratten Row have not yet been carried out. In view of this it was proposed that rent levels should stay the same.

RESOLVED: The rents for Ratten Row and St James's allotments for 2013 be held at the same level as 2012.

C12/95. Update on the Alnwick & Denwick Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Patience gave a verbal update on the issues and options consultation due for December/January. This would include an event in the Market Place on 22nd December, workshops in the High School and a questionnaire distributed to all households. She also highlighted that she had visited Much Wenlock in Shropshire to look at their neighbourhood plan progress.

RESOLVED: That the update be received.

C12/96. Minutes of Planning, Highways and Transport Committee (11th Oct 2012)

The Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee (11th Oct 2012) were tabled for approval

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on 11th October 2012 were agreed as a true record.

C12/97. Correspondence

The clerk reported that the following correspondence has been received since the last meeting, these were discussed and actions agreed as listed:

Date	Detail	Action if any
17 th Oct	Duchess's Community High School – request for volunteer for Year of Reading	Circulated to Councillors. Cllr B Gridsale volunteered
23 rd Oct	Unit 5 St Thomas Close workshop, completion of lease	Noted
24 th Oct	Can e:News	Circulated
26 th Oct	NALC – DCLG Consultation on Code of Practice on Data Transparency (for Council's with income or expenditure above £200,000).	Not applicable at present. Noted
27 th Oct	NCC- Proposed Bus shelter at Willoughby's Bank, to be provided by developer, comments requested and confirmation that Town Council will take over	Ward Councillors contacted and response made supporting provision
30 th Oct	NCC – Request received for dog bin/dual purpose bin on the Avenue between the Police Station and the South School	Decided that signage would be better, given the existing litter and dog bins in the street.
30 th Oct	Alnwick CAB – information on free debt advice service	Available from the clerk on request
3 rd Nov	Alnwick Lions – wish to discuss Alnwick becoming a festival town	Agreed to invite to next meeting of Recreation & Amenities Committee

RESOLVED: That the correspondence received be noted and actioned as outlined.

C12/98. Financial Matters – Payments.

HMRC	£1541.46	Tax and NI contributions for Oct
Wages Account	£3000	
Adam Douglas & Son	£444	Legal advice – Mechanics Institute
Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	£33.38	Play area parts
npower	£140.05	Cemetery Chapel bill
Viking	£77.64	Paper & Stationary
W. R Batey	£28.60	Postage
Colin Harris Website Development	£900	Deposit on new website design
CBS World	£35.98	Envelopes
Diamond Business Systems	£114.35	Photocopier Toner
Alnwick Playhouse	£2800	Donation from Civic Ball
Northumberland Estates	£3057	Civic Ball costs
Parish Websites Ltd	£200	Hosting & Support for 2011/12 and 2012/13
Clear Channel	£104.40	Repair to Bus Shelter
Northumbria in Bloom	£200	Entry Fee for 2013
Friends of the Bullfield Community Orchard	£136.50	Trees for Community Orchard
Glendale Paints	£18.60	Materials
Royal Mail Group	£100	Freepost Licence Renewal and Postage
Contagious	£500	Passion for Northumberland event
W. R. Batey	£59.68	Refreshments Remembrance Sunday

The following payments are now paid by direct debit and were reported for information		
BT	£60.56	Phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge. Paid 28 th Oct.

The above payment to the Alnwick Playhouse was the profit made on the Civic Ball. Income came from ticket sales, donations, and a raffle and auction on the evening. Approval was also given to make the following payments after Remembrance Sunday; a donation of £75 to The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, £175 to D Hogg (Black Olive) and to purchase £20 gift tokens for each of the three volunteers helping at the church and the reception.

RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £9638.89 and to note the direct debit payments of £60.56.

C12/99. Councillor issues

Councillor Waddell raised the unsightly skip placed at the front of a shop in Bondgate Without, which has been there for some time. The clerk agreed to follow up with the County Council Planning Enforcement Officer.

C12/100. Any Other Urgent Business

- a) Councillor Roberts updated councillors on a complaint about mud on the road arising from the Thomas Percy development site. This had been investigated and dealt with by Melanie Thew, Planning Enforcement Officer.
- b) Councillor Patience raised the need for the Constitution to be reviewed regarding the public participation procedures. The Mayor confirmed that an annual review of the Constitution would commence early in the new year.
- c) Councillor Thompson highlighted the lack of information available about the Police and Crime Commissioner elections which were to be held on 15th November.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.