

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 11th October 2012 in the Council Chamber, Clayport Street, Alnwick at 7pm.

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

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

C12/70. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

C12/71. Apologies: Cllrs J Thompson and S Walton.

C12/72. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Patience, Hewison, Roberts and Castle declared a pecuniary interest regarding the Neighbourhood Plan update (minute 12/80). Councillor Castle declared an interest in relation to County Council matters.

C12/73. Consideration of the removal of the Howling Lane Bus Shelter

At the last meeting of the Council, Councillors had considered a request from Sgt. Neville Wharrier to consider the removal of the Howling Lane Bus Shelter, due to an increase in anti-social behaviour. Councillors had resolved to discuss the matter further at this meeting. It was reported that Councillor Castle, the Mayor and the clerk had met Sgt. Wharrier at the bus shelter to review options. It was explained that in recent weeks complaints had dropped off, but they had been high over the summer. It had been suggested that the police could look at additional patrols and there was a possibility that the glazing in the shelter could be replaced by a less flexible material to reduce noise levels caused by banging on the shelter glazing. Mr Craig Brown of 11 Howling Lane attended the meeting and outlined the problems he faced living next to the shelter. He described the regular anti-social behaviour which had gone on for a number of years and handed the council a petition signed by 13 residents requesting the removal of the shelter. Another resident attended the meeting and supported Mr Brown. Councillors questioned Mr Brown about any possible options that could be tried as a last resort, but he felt that he and other residents had already put up with enough. Councillors debated the possible removal and if anything else could be done, but the majority were in agreement with Mr Brown.

RESOLVED: That the Howling Lane Bus Shelter be removed as soon as possible.

C12/74. Issues facing Businesses in the Castle Quarter of Alnwick

Representatives of businesses in the Castle Quarter of the town had been invited to the meeting to outline and discuss the issues that they faced. A number of business owners attended and Caroline Stewart spoke as their representative. Caroline asked the council to consider assisting the Castle Quarter businesses by looking to provide signposting to their part of town, to support and promote their area when talking to other parties and to support the relocation of the market into Fenkle Street when festivals and events are held in the market place. Councillors were supportive and asked questions about the website, inclusion in leaflets and links with Alnwick Castle and Gardens.

RESOLVED: That the footfall and signage issues should be considered as part of the Town Team project and the Council will use its influence to suggest the market be relocated into Fenkle Street when it needs to be moved because of events.

C12/75. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (13th Sept 2012)

Councillor Roberts highlighted that Minute 12/69 (e) related to a seat and not a bus shelter, this amendment was agreed.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2012 were agreed as a true record.

These were agreed and duly signed by the Mayor.

C12/76. Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Referring to minute 12/68, the clerk reported that a meeting with NCC had been arranged for Tuesday 16th October at 9.45am.

C12/77. Mayor's Report

The Mayor's report for the period 13th Sept – 11th October had been circulated with the agenda. The Mayor also highlighted the Charity Ball on 12th October and thanks those who had made donations.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

C12/78. Consideration of replacing the functions of the former Alnwick Community Development Trust.

Councillors wished to explore the possibility of replacing the functions of the former Alnwick Community Development Trust and discussed how best this could be done. A working group was suggested to look into the issues and lessons to be learnt from the previous trust. Councillors Grisdale, Patience, Roberts, Castle, Hewison and Symmonds volunteered to be on the working group.

RESOLVED: That a working group be established to look at how best to replace the former development trust functions.

C12/79. Progressing the replacement of the Town Council website.

The clerk reported that one new quote had been received for the new website, this followed on from the previous quotes and the selected firm going into administration. The new quote was from Colin Harris, Website Development from Amble. A panel had interviewed Mr Harris and Councillor Patience, who had been involved in the interview, recommended acceptance of the quote at a cost of £3000 plus VAT and hosting. This was within the budget identified.

RESOLVED: that the Council accepts the quote from Colin Harris Website Development at a cost of £3000 plus VAT and hosting.

C12/80. Update on the Alnwick & Denwick Neighbourhood Plan

A verbal update was given on the production of the various issues and option papers for the plan; these were being discussed and finalised in the steering group meetings. Councillor Patience updated councillors on the consultation proposals which included a questionnaire in December and events in the market place

RESOLVED: That the update be received.

C12/81. Minutes of Committees

- a) The Minutes of the Planning Highways and Transport Committee (13th Sept 2012) were tabled for approval

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning Highways and Transport Committee held on 13th September 2012 were agreed as a true record.

b) The Minutes of the Cemetery Committee (20th Sept 2012) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Cemetery Committee held on 20th September 2012 were agreed as a true record.

c) The Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee (20th Sept 2012) were tabled for approval after an amendment was made to show apologies from only Councillor Patience.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 20th September 2012 were agreed as a true record

d) The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee (27th Sept 2012) were tabled for approval. Minute 12/21 was amended to show that it was Councillor Farrar who suggested people on the allotment waiting list receive an annual update.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 27th September 2012 were agreed as a true record.

C12/82. Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday 2012

It was reported that the 2012 Remembrance Sunday service would be held on Sunday 11th November in St Michael's Parish Church Alnwick starting at 2.30pm. After the service there would be a march to the war memorial for the laying of wreaths in remembrance. Councillors were invited to the service and to participate in the march. Refreshments for guests would be served afterwards in the Council Chamber Clayport Street.

RESOLVED: the arrangements be noted.

C12/83. 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
20 th Sept	NCC – Review of Bus service 460. Ellingham - Alnwick	Agreed to support Ellingham Parish council to find a workable solution
20 th Sept	Northumberland Estates – Copy of Vision for Alnwick document	Available from the clerk on request
21 st Sept	NCC – TPO made on woodland to the west of the former Thomas Percy School	Agreed to write to support TPO
27 th Sept	NCC – Election costs for Parish elections 2013	Already noted in 2012/13 budget
27 th Sept	NCC – updated key contacts	Available from the clerk on request
27 th Sept	NCC – Joint meeting of NCC and town/parish councils – 8 th Oct. Morpeth	Mayor and Clerk attended, feedback to be circulated by clerk
1 st Oct	NCC – Public Access Live – Planning consultations to occur electronically from 02/01/13	Clerk to write to NCC expressing concern at proposals especially for large applications in areas with poor broadband.
3 rd Oct	NCC – Workshop on Core Strategy scheduled for 30 th October, Stannington.	Councillors to consider if they wish to attend
5 th Oct	Colin Hierde – regarding Music Festival noise levels	To pass on to Music Festival

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

C12/84. Financial Matters – Payments.

HMRC	£1671.11	Tax and NI contributions for Sept
Wages Account	£4000	
Northumbrian Water	£312.84	Water bills:- Ratten Row allotments, cemetery (2 bills) and Robertson's fountain. (Paid 4 th Oct).
Northumbrian Water	£40.65	Second half year installment of water charge at cemetery.
W.R.Batey	£189.37	Postage £59.61, photocopying £12.10, card £20.58, Civic award refreshments £49.28, Neighbourhood plan meeting refreshments £10.31, Town Council seal £17.99, Candles for Civic ball £19.50
James McLean Ltd	£6	Drill Bit
Northumberland County Council	£859.22	Supply and fixing of 3 dog bins and a new litter bin
Argyle Planning Consultancy	£2320	Neighbourhood plan consultancy
Ray Thompson	£200	Band for Civic Ball
A Symmonds	£20.70	Mileage
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£19	Poppy Wreath

The following payments were now paid by direct debit and are reported for information		
BT	£68.92	Phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge Paid 27 th September.

It was also agreed to make an additional donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal of £19. The clerk highlighted that it may also be necessary to make payments relating to the charity ball before the next meeting, but confirmed that the event would make a profit which would go to the Alwick Playhouse.

RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £9638.89 and to note the direct debit payments of £68.92

C12/85. Councillor issues

- a) Councillor Issue – (Councillor Roberts), the possibility of a seat at the top of Oaky Balks Councillor Roberts outlined that she has been asked by a local resident to look at the provision of a seat at the top of Oaky Balks, near the bus stop. Whilst some councillors were supportive, others were concerned at the precedent of providing a seat without fully investigating the need.

RESOLVED: To investigate the need and potential location and report back to a future meeting.

C12/86. Any Other Urgent Business

- a) Councillor Castle updated councillors on the County Council road surfacing programme for the town.
- b) Councillor Roberts highlighted the outstanding minute from April regarding the engagement activities and asked that these be addressed over the next 6 months.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.