

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 13th December 2012 in the Council Chamber, Clayport Street, Alnwick at 7pm.

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

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

C12/101. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

C12/102. Apologies: Cllrs S Allcroft, J Bell, G Castle, B Hewison, B Thompson and S Walton.

C12/103. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gray declared a pecuniary interest regarding a payment being made to his son (Minute C12/110). Councillors Symmonds, Harrington and Moore declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute C12/112 regarding the Mechanics Institute as they are all council representatives on the management committee.

C12/104. Presentation on the proposed skate park in Alnwick North

The proposed presentation was rescheduled for the next meeting in January at the request of the skate park group.

C12/105. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (8th November 2012)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Council meeting held on 8th November 2012 were agreed as a true record.

These were agreed and duly signed by the Mayor.

C12/106. Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Referring to Minute C12/93, the clerk explained that a meeting had taken place with County Highways regarding the condition of the cobbles. The Mayor outlined that allotment rents were being collected on 15th December (Minute C12/94) and it was highlighted that the skip outside the shop on Bondgate Without had now been removed (Minute C12/99).

C12/107. Mayor's Report

The Mayor's report for the period 9th November to 7th December had been circulated with the agenda. The Mayor highlighted the Rotaract coffee morning and the meeting held with Northumberland Estates and the clerk promised to circulate some notes of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

C12/108. Minutes of Committees and Recommendations

a) The Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee (8th Nov 2012) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on 8th November 2012 were agreed as a true record.

b) The minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee (29th Nov 2012) were tabled for approval. The clerk explained that the pecuniary interests declared were all in fact non-pecuniary and the draft minutes should be amended accordingly.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Recreation & Amenties Committee held on 29th November 2012 (as amended) were agreed as a true record.

- c) The minutes of the Cemetery Committee (4th Dec. 2012) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Cemetery Committee held on 4th December 2012 were agreed as a true record.

The Committee (Minute CEM12/9) had recommended a new schedule of fees and charges, to apply from 1st April 2013. These were broadly in line with those charged by Amble Town Council and represented an increase of approximately 5%.

RESOLVED: That the recommended fees and charges be approved for implementation from 1st April 2013 and inclusion in the 2013/14 budget.

- d) The minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee (4th Dec 2012) were tabled for approval. The clerk explained that the pecuniary interests declared in relation to membership of organisations were all in fact non-pecuniary interests and the draft minute should be amended accordingly.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on 4th December 2012 (as amended) were agreed as a true record.

The Committee had made a recommendation to the Council regarding short term fixed rate Council investments, this was updated at the meeting and it was recommended that the Council invest £50,000 in a business bond with Santander for a 12 month period at an interest rate of 2.3%.

RESOLVED: To invest £50,000 in a business bond with Santander for a 12 month period.

C12/109. Correspondence

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

Date	Detail	Action if any
12 th Nov	NCC – precept required by 22 nd Jan 2013	Council will set its precept on January 10 th
15 th Nov	NCC – response re skip on Bondgate Without	To note
16 th Nov	NALC – E news	Available from the clerk on request
19 th Nov	NCC – Public Transport Newsletter	Available from the clerk on request
19 th Nov	Grace – sexual violence project, request for volunteers	To note
29 th Nov	CAN – CANNY news	Available from the clerk on request
6 th Dec	CAN – Can eNews Extra	Available from the clerk on request
6 th Dec	NCC – Assistance available to parish councils with potential budget problem arising from meeting the costs of May 2013 elections	ATC have budgeted for these costs

RESOLVED: That the correspondence received be noted.

C12/110. Financial Matters – Payments.

HMRC	£1638.49	Tax and NI contributions for Nov
Wages Account	£2000	
Azure Printing	£210	Printing Orders of Service Remembrance Sunday
Northumberland County Council	£51.18	Removal of a seat
Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	£32.29	Play area parts
Hobberlaw Plants	£225	Planting Winter bedding/bulbs in Floral Clock
St James's Church Centre	£96	Room Hire Neighbourhood Plan
Diamond Business Systems	£54	Photocopier Contract
David Orange	£350	Tree Survey in Cemetery
John Gray Ltd	£373.26	Repairs to hedgecutter
W. R. Batey	£229.40	Printer cartridges £179.40 and Postage £50
Clear Channel Ltd	£870	Removal of Bus Shelter
TOTAL	£6,129.62	

The following grants were approved for payment by the Finance and Policy Committee on 4th December:

Alnwick and District Playhouse Trust	£1,000
Northumberland Credit Union	£400
Northumberland Touring Theatre Company	£500
Alnwick Community Centre	£500
Alnwick Branch of Arthritis Care	£100
Alnwick Young Peoples Association	£500
Lionheart Radio & Media	£500
Alnwick and District CAB	£800
Alnwick Sporting Club	£400
RE-NU-IT	£300
Hospice Care North Northumberland	£500
Alnwick & District Sports Council	£350
Alnwick Stroke Club	£100
Friends of the Bullfield Community Orchard	£400
Alnwick Town FC	£350
Carers Northumberland	£500
Alnwick Amateur Boxing Club	£350
Choysez	£200
North East Equality & Diversity (NEED) Ltd	£250

At the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee on 29th of November it was agreed to pay a grant of £500 to the Alnwick Spring Show.

The following payments are now paid by direct debit and were reported for information		
BT	£78.33	Phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge Paid 27 th November.
npower	£128.56	Bills for Robertson's fountain, Town Hall clock and cemetery (paid in October)

RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £6,129.62, to authorise the grant payments of £8,500 and to note the direct debit payments of £206.89.

C12/111. Any Other Urgent Business

Councillor Patience updated councillors on the Neighbourhood Plan 'Issues and Options' consultation events to be held on Tuesday 18th December and Saturday 22nd December.

Agenda items in Private

Exclusion of the Public and Press

The following resolutions was moved and seconded, to exclude the public and press.

“That pursuant to Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds that if members of the public were present during the discussion of these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Section 100 1 and paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act”.

The item considered in private was:

C12/112. Mechanics Institute Update

The meeting closed at 7.46pm.