

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

**Present:** Cllrs A Symmonds (Mayor), S Allcroft, G Castle, D Farrar, K Gray, B Grisdale, B Hewison, S Patience, R Roberts, J Thompson, R Waddell and S Walton.

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

### **C12/128. Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the public.

**C12/129. Apologies:** Cllrs J Bell, M Harrington, K Moore and B Thompson.

### **C12/130. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Grisdale declared a pecuniary interest in Minute C12/141 regarding an invoice he had submitted. Councillors Allcroft and Farrar declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute C12/138 regarding Alnwick in Bloom and Councillor Castle declared a non-pecuniary interest in County Council matters.

### **C12/131. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (10<sup>th</sup> January 2013)**

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

These were agreed and duly signed by the Mayor.

### **C12/132. Matters Arising not on the Agenda**

Referring to Minute C12/126 (a), The clerk reported that NCC have a new chewing gum removal machine and intend to have a spring campaign which will include Alnwick and referring to Minute C12/136 (c) he reported that the NCC Enforcement Officer was investigating the condition of Clayport Square.

### **C12/133. Mayor's Report**

The Mayor's report for the period 10<sup>th</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> February had been circulated with the agenda.

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

### **C12/134. Northumberland Local Development Plan, Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation.**

Charlotte Colver, Planning Officer, Northumberland County Council attended the meeting and outlined details of the core strategy issues and options consultation. She explained that Alnwick was defined as a service centre and was a key hub for retail, education and services. She explained that it was anticipated the Core Strategy would be adopted in 2014. An informal drop in session was to be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at St James's Centre, Pottergate. Comments needed to be submitted by 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Councillors agreed to submit any comments to the clerk by the 7<sup>th</sup> March and a paper would be presented to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED: To receive the update and a further report to be brought to the next meeting.**

### **C12/135 Updates**

#### **a) Transfer of Allotments**

The clerk confirmed that the transfer of the allotments at St George's and Cawledge View from Northumberland County Council to the Town Council had been completed.

**b) Transfer of Swansfield Park**

The clerk reported that further information had been received about the possible transfer of Swansfield Park to the Town Council. The County Council had confirmed that they were willing to proceed with this, but a meeting was still needed to finalise the details. Councillors were concerned about a drainage problem in the south west corner and possible expenditure that might be necessary to resolve this. They were also concerned about the liability issues if anyone fell on the path due to ice which could form due to the water problem. A further report would be brought to the next meeting.

**c) Neighbourhood Plan consultation**

Councillor Patience updated councillors on the issues and options consultation which would end on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Over 450 questionnaires had been returned, 2 Market Place events had been held and a meeting had been held in Denwick, with the Parish Council.

**d) Play area consultations**

The clerk reported that consultation was taking place regarding the play areas at Glovers Green, Tanners Garth and Cawledge View. This comes to an end on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**e) Council website**

Screen prints of the new website design were circulated and Councillor Grisdale explained them to councillors. Councillors were positive about the appearance and clarity of the new site.

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

**C12/136. Proposed rent levels at St George's and Cawledge View allotments**

The Recreation and Amenities Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 recommended that the Council agrees rents on these allotments of £25 for a full allotment and £15 for a half allotment with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.

**RESOLVED: The rents for St George's and Cawledge View allotments be £25 for a full allotment and £15 for a half allotment from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.**

**C12/137. Proposal to install a bench near the bus stop at Oaky Balks**

In October, the Council had decided to investigate further the need for a seat at the Oaky Balks bus stop; this followed a request from a resident. Having looked at the site the installation of a seat would be problematic, given the width of the pavement and surrounding area. However it would be possible to install a slimmer timber bench seat. The Recreation and Amenities Committee had recommended that this matter be considered by the Council, with a view to proceeding.

**RESOLVED: To install a bench at the bus stop at Oaky Balks**

**C12/138. Request from Alnwick in Bloom for the Town Council to take on the ownership of the planters in the town and wooden tubs**

In the town centre there are 20 two tier planters, these are located on Fenkle Street, Bondgate Within and in the Market Place. When the Alnwick Community Development Trust went into administration, the administrator had indicated that the planters were transferring from the Trust to the Alnwick in Bloom Committee. However it would appear that no paperwork or correspondence was received by the Committee and they feel that they are not in a position to take on ownership. The Committee had asked if the Town Council would be prepared to take on the ownership of the planters, this was supported by the administrator. Each planter is thought to have cost about £700 (a total therefore of £14,000). In addition, the

in Bloom Committee was proposing to purchase 12 wooden tubs and work in partnership with Friends of the Earth to undertake some summer planting. It was also requested that these tubs should be owned by the Town Council. The Clerk outlined that that to insure the planters all risks, would add approximately £55 to the insurance premium for this year and given the value of the wooden tubs and the policy excess, there seemed little benefit to naming them on the policy. Councillors were supportive of taking on the ownership of the planters and tubs with all risks insurance cover on the planters. In discussions it was confirmed that the planting of the tubs and their watering and maintenance would continue to be the responsibility of the In Bloom Committee.

**RESOLVED: That the Town Council agrees to take on ownership of the planters and tubs.**

**C12/139. Minutes of Committees**

- a) The Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee (10<sup>th</sup> January 2013) were tabled for approval.

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

- b) The Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee (31<sup>st</sup> January 2013) were tabled for approval.

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee held on 31st January 2013 were agreed as a true record.**

**C12/140. 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>
16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	NCC – Transfer of proposed services delayed until 2014	Noted
17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Magistrates Court – invitation to sponsor schools mock trial competition	Discussed, Councillors resolved to pay £100 sponsorship
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	NCC -Public Transport Newsletter	Available from the clerk on request
25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	NCC – Consultation on residents permit parking proposals at Green Batt	Discussed and Council response - supportive provided an additional space was provided for the resident of 32 Green Batt.
4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	NCC – information on green waste collection scheme	Noted
30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Lionheart Radio – show sponsorship proposals	Discussed, Councillors agreed to support a young person’s show
Jan	Various letters of thanks for grant support	Noted
	Northumberland Estates - Three year Allotment Lease for Ratten Row	To be signed by the Mayor
	Dog Bin request – South Road	To be considered by the clerk for the next council meeting

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

### C12/141. Financial Matters – Payments.

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

Inland Revenue	£1,402.02	Tax and NI
Wages Account	£2,000	Transfer to wages account
Town & Country Tree Surgeons	£2,980	Tree Works in Alnwick Cemetery
Rickerby	£56.47	Safety Boots
Complete Business Supplies	£27.50	Photocopying
Royal Mail Group Ltd	£78.66	Postage Returns Neighbourhood Plan
K W Purvis	£180	Gravel
Bill Gridsdale Design	£437.50	Neighbourhood Plan Leaflets and questionnaire design
Azure Printing	£45.88	Neighbourhood Plan Stickers
Northumberland County Council	£102	Hire of Northumberland Hall for Consultation
Northumberland County Council	£10,800	Planting in 2012/13
The Cryer	£280	Neighbourhood plan leaflet distribution
Scottish Fuels	£953.02	Diesel oil
James McLean	£5	Tools
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£19,348.05</b>	

The following payments were now paid by direct debit and were reported for information		
BT	£81.54	Phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge Paid 28 <sup>th</sup> January
npower	£188.01	Electricity bills paid 10 <sup>th</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> January

**RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £19,348.05 and to note the direct debit payments of £269.55**

### C12/142. Any Other Urgent Business

- a) Councillor Hewison raised the condition of the Tenantry Column which seemed to be subject to regular damage. The clerk agreed to take up the matter with Northumberland Estates and Northumberland County Council.
- b) Councillor Castle updated Councillors on the Local Transport Plan. A study looking at the options for the South Road/Denwick Lane Junction is due to be presented to the County Council in June. Pavement works had commenced on Bondgate Without.
- c) Councillors Castle and Symmonds reported that they had attended a meeting with the Chamber of Trade and there was a general commitment to raising the profile of Alnwick. It was agreed to invite the Chamber of Trade to a subsequent meeting to discuss the arrangements for tour buses visiting the town.
- d) Councillor Waddell raised the new signs at the entrance to the Oaky Balks Estate. Unlike the old signs these were only single sided which were not as effective.
- e) Councillor Farrar highlighted the NCC proposal for no grants to be given to local councils in 2014/15 to assist with the impact of the council tax base changes. It was suggested that this could be followed up at a future area committee meeting.
- f) Councillor Hewison reported that the light at the top of the War Memorial was not working. The clerk agreed to investigate
- g) Councillor Gridsdale highlighted the continuous problem with dog fouling which the clerk agreed to discuss with the dog warden.
- h) The clerk outlined that the Royal British Legion were having a regional Armed Forces Day event in Alnwick on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June. This included a march through the town and event at the castle. In the light of this, it seemed sensible to work with the British Legion to support this event and march rather than organising the normal Saturday march, which this year would have been on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Councillors were in favour of this.

## **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:

### **C12/143. Mechanics Institute Update**

The Minutes of 10th January 2013 in relation to the Mechanics Institute were approved

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.