

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in the Council Chamber, Clayport Street Alnwick at 7pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs A Symmonds (Mayor), J Bell, W Grisdale, M Harrington, G Knox, K Moore, S Patience, R Roberts, B Thompson, J Thompson, R Waddell, S Walton, G Watson.

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

### **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the public.

**C11/193. Apologies:** Cllrs S Allcroft, E Blakey, G Castle, K Gray and B Hewison.

### **C11/194. Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared

### **C11/195. Update on the Heritage Lottery Grant bid by Bailiffgate Museum.**

Jane Mann attended the meeting and outlined to councillors that a Stage 1 Heritage Lottery Grant application had been successful and £9,000 had been allocated to write Stage 2, which needed to be submitted by June 14<sup>th</sup>. A small project team was working on the bid and there was an 80% chance of a stage 1 applicant getting through stage 2. The bid will cover upgrading the museum and setting up 10 outreach projects (five in the town and five in outlying areas). If the bid is successful it is estimated that it will bring £350,000 into the town. Jane asked if the Town Council would pledge support for the submission and if possible give a donation, any donation could be given before September. Councillors were impressed with the skills and energy amongst the volunteers who were progressing the bid. In answer to a question, Jane outlined that it cost £30,000 per annum to keep the museum running.

**RESOLVED: That the Town Council supports the Heritage Lottery Grant application being submitted for Bailiffgate Museum.**

### **C11/196. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (12<sup>th</sup> January 2012)**

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 were agreed as a true record.**

These were agreed and duly signed by the Mayor.

### **C11/197. Matters Arising not on the Agenda**

Referring to Minute C11/180, it was reported that correspondence regarding the Tree Preservation Order had not yet been circulated by Councillor Castle. Referring to Minute C11/191, the clerk outlined that he had received clarification that the introduction of civil parking enforcement will not assist with enforcement against vehicles parking in the market place, this will remain a police matter because it is classified as a 'moving traffic offence'. Councillor Watson promised to circulate a copy of the Parking Order. It was agreed to invite a county council representative and the new police inspector for the Alnwick area to a future meeting to discuss the unsatisfactory state of affairs.

### **C11/198. Mayor's Report**

The Mayor's report for the period 12<sup>th</sup> January – 9<sup>th</sup> February had been circulated with the agenda.

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

### **C11/199. Minutes of Committees**

The Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee (12<sup>th</sup> January 2012) were tabled for approval.

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning Highways and Transport Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 were agreed as a true record.**

### **C11/200. Review of the Constitution.**

At the Council meeting in April 2011 a new council constitution was approved. It was also agreed to keep the constitution under review. It was proposed that a working group be established (to which all councillors be invited) to look at any suggested changes and report back to the March 2012 Council meeting.

**RESOLVED: A Constitution Working Group be established to meet on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012 and report back to the next Council meeting.**

### **C11/201. Memorial seat – for the late Davey Hume**

It was reported that the Christmas Lights Committee and the family of the late Davey Hume wished to have a memorial seat placed in the town, in his memory. The area near to the Hotspur Statue has been suggested. A total of about £700 had been collected towards the seat. It was suggested that a timber seat on Pottergate near to the Hotspur Statue, be replaced with a similar style memorial seat to the one adjacent. The cost was likely to be £826.97 plus VAT, plus the cost of a memorial plate (which will be installed by the seat manufacturer).

**RESOLVED: The Town Council agree the provision of the memorial seat (as outlined above) with a contribution of £700 being received.**

### **C11/202. Proposed Civic Ball**

The Mayor proposed that the Town Council organise a Civic Ball in October 2012, in the Alnwick Castle Guest Hall, with a view to raising funds for the Alnwick Playhouse. At this stage he requested support for the event. Councillors asked questions about the likely cost of tickets, it was outlined that this was difficult to say at present until all costs were known, but the tickets would need to cover costs and raise funds for the Playhouse. Similar Civic Ball's were organised in the past, by Alnwick District Council.

**RESOLVED: That the Town Council support the organisation of a Civic Ball, in order to raise funds for the Alnwick Playhouse**

### **C11/203. Correspondence**

The clerk reported that the following correspondence has been received since the last meeting:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Action if any</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	NCC – letter re devolution of services 2012/13 (special expenses to be levied for play areas and war memorials in 2012/13).	Does not apply to Alnwick Town Council
19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	CANNY News Jan 2012	Available from the clerk on request
24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	British Legion – invitation to councillors to the presentation evening for Long Term Poppy Sellers on Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the RAFA Club, Lisburn St.	Councillors to let the clerk know if they wish to attend.

24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	NCC dates for next joint NCC/parish council meetings. The north area dates were either 6pm 12 <sup>th</sup> March (Stannington Village Hall) or 6pm 15 <sup>th</sup> March Bell View Resource Centre Belford.	The Mayor and Clerk to attend
24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	NCC – letter re applications to carry out work on protected trees. The Town Council will be consulted on TPO applications and NCC will make decisions within 8 weeks. The council will not be consulted on tree works within conservation areas (TCA's). All TPO's and TCA's will be determined under delegated powers.	Noted
27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	CPRE Spring 2012 newsletter	Available from the clerk on request
1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	CPRE A guide to neighbourhood planning	Available from the clerk on request
2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	NCC – Bus service 813 – letter attached with agenda	Discussed – see below
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Mr Hutchinson, Green Batt – Letter regarding the Hopper's commercial business	Discussed – see below
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Resident of Howling Lane – antisocial behaviour at the Howling Lane bus shelter	Referred to the police to investigate
Jan/Feb	Various letters of thanks from organisations receiving grants	Noted

Councillors discussed the letter from Northumberland County Council regarding bus service 813 and considered if the Town Council was prepared to contribute to subsidise this service in order for it to continue to run. Some councillors felt that paying a subsidy for a service with so little usage would be a dangerous precedent and regrettably felt the council should not assist.

Councillors also considered a letter received regarding Hopper's commercial business on Green Batt from Mr Hutchinson, a local resident. The letter indicated that enforcement action was being taken by the county council, but that the progress seemed slow. Councillors were sympathetic to the unsatisfactory conditions and wished to support Mr Hutchinson and receive an update from the county council. Councillor Watson agreed to circulate photographs of the rear yard.

**RESOLVED: That the correspondence received be noted, the Council agrees not to contribute towards the subsidy of bus service 813 and requests the County Council for an update on Hopper's commercial business.**

#### **C11/204. Financial Matters – Payments.**

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

Inland Revenue	£1113.35	Tax and NI
Wages Account	£5500	Transfer to wages account
W R Batey	£226.60	Printer cartridges (£186.60), Small Lottery Licence (£40),
A Symmonds	£18	Mileage – Area Committee Jan 12

n power	£221.74	Cemetery Chapel
robson print	£112.80	
The Cryer	£168	Questionnaire Distribution – neighbourhood plan
l.w.d solutions	£102	Website domain registration and hosting – neighbourhood plan
Azure printing	£32.40	Posters – neighbourhood plan
Greenlay (Grass Machinery) Ltd	£100.27	Wheel Kit
Royal Mail	£131.51	Survey returns to 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan.- neighbourhood plan
J McLean Ltd	£28.99	New Rigger Boots
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£7,755.66</b>	

The following payments are now paid by direct debit and are reported for information		
BT	£84.06	Phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge Paid 29 <sup>th</sup> January
npower	£170.68	Electricity bills for the cemetery buildings, Town Hall clock and Robertson's fountain.

**RESOLVED: a) To approve and authorise the payments amounting to £7,755.66 and to note the direct debit payments of £254.74**

#### **C11/205. Councillor Issues**

Councillor Moore raised his concerns about drinking activities at the Summer Seats. Further instances had occurred since the last council meeting. The clerk reported that the matter had been raised by the police at the meeting earlier that day of the LMAPS group and the police had indicated that the Community Support Officers will be monitoring further. Councillor Moore proposed that the 3 seats be removed. Councillors debated this, but it was felt that the policing options should be explored first.

#### **C11/206. Any Other Urgent Business**

- a) Councillor Roberts asked if the date of the June Council meeting would be moved because of the Olympic torch celebrations. The Clerk agreed that this would be on the next agenda.
- b) Councillors requested consideration be given to the implications for the Food festival (if any) following the resignation of the Chairman.
- c) Councillors requested information about dog fouling enforcement, the clerk agreed to contact the County Council.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm