

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 13th February 2014 in the Council Chamber, Clayport Street, Alnwick at 7pm

Present: Cllrs B Grisdale (Mayor), P Allcroft, S Allcroft, P Broom, D Farrar, G Castle, C Goodfellow, M Harrington, P Holt, J Humphries, G Mavin, S Mavin, K Moore, S Patience, R Roberts, M Swinbank and A Symmonds.

In attendance: Inspector P Truscott, Northumbria Police, W Batey, Chief Officer & Town Clerk and J Pibworth, Administration Assistant.

C13/138. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

C13/139. Apologies

None.

C13/140. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Symmonds declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 16, New Storage requirement, due to his involvement with the Alnwick Music Festival. Councillor Castle declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 16 New Storage requirement, due to his involvement with the Alnwick Christmas Lights and Councillor Castle declared a non-pecuniary interest in any County Council matters on the agenda.

C13/141. Presentation by Inspector Paul Truscott

Inspector Paul Truscott gave the Council an update on policing matters in the town. He outlined that it had been a challenging year and that crime figures had increased slightly but over the recent months the levels had dropped. He informed councillors of incidents that had happened in the town the previous weekend and the police response. In answering questions he outlined the 101 service for lower priority incidents, talked about measures to deal with speeding motorists and gave assurances about the retention of Alnwick Police Station.

RESOLVED: That the update be received.

C13/142. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (16th January 2014)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Council meeting held on 16th January 2014 were agreed as a true record.

These were duly signed by the Mayor.

C13/143. Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Referring to Minute C13/126, Councillor Castle informed the Council that the new School Crossing Patrol staff were still not in place as they were waiting for the CRB checks to come back. He confirmed that these should take about four weeks and that as soon as the CRB checks came back the appointments would take place.

Referring to Minute C13/128, Swansfield Park play area - the clerk outlined that Northumberland County Council will be publicising the transfer of ownership of Swansfield Park play area from the County Council to the Town Council, by running adverts for a two week period.

Referring to Minute C13/128, Swansfield Park play area - a picture had appeared in the local paper of broken glass found in Swansfield Park. The clerk confirmed that this was a broken bottle and that it had been removed on Monday. He assured councillors that the park is inspected on a weekly basis and any necessary action taken. A suggestion was made that a sign be put in the park with the relevant phone numbers / website address for people to report any issues.

Referring to Minute C13/129, Investigation of a replacement mechanism for the former Community Development Trust - a request was made for the clerk to distribute the full document produced from the session on 7th December to all councillors.

C13/144. Mayor's Report

The agenda papers included a link to the Mayor's diary.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

C13/145. Car Parking Update

Northumberland County Council are progressing plans for free parking in the town. They have invited up to six people from the town to a meeting at County Hall on the 28th February 2014 at 10am to discuss the plans and give an update. Four councillors, the clerk and a representative from the Chamber of Trade will attend.

RESOLVED: That four councillors (Councillors Symmonds, Roberts, Holt and G Mavin) plus the clerk and a representative from the Chamber of Trade attend the meeting

C13/146. Proposed Town Spring Clean

Councillor Broom had previously suggested an organised spring clean of the town before Easter. This would involve volunteers litter picking and tidying up and businesses owners getting their premises ready for the season. April 6th was the suggested date as this was the start of the school holidays. It was confirmed that Alnwick in Bloom would also take part in the Spring Clean.

A suggestion was made that all the groups Alnwick Town Council supply funding to be asked to either promote or take part in the Spring Clean. The clerk highlighted that risk assessments would need to be carried out and that everyone taking part would need to be briefed.

A suggestion was also made that the Northumberland Gazette runs an article asking householders to tidy the area in front of their houses as a part of the Spring Clean.

RESOLVED: That April 6th 2014 be the date for the Spring Clean, that groups who Alnwick Town Council give funding to be asked to take part in or promote the Spring Clean. Risk assessments will need to be carried out and a briefing session devised and delivered.

C13/147. Minutes of Committees

a) Planning, Transport and Highways Committee (January 16th 2014)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning, Transport and Highways Committee held on January 16th 2014 were agreed as a true record.

b) Cemetery Committee (January 30th 2014)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Cemetery Committee held on January 30th 2014 were agreed as a true record.

c) Recreation & Amenities Committee (January 30th 2014)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee held on January 30th 2014 were agreed as a true record.

C13/148. Correspondence

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

Date	Detail	Action if any
22 Jan	NCC – Letter re NCC savings for 14/15	Available from the clerk on request
24 Jan	NCC – introduction of local Alnwick number for contacting NCC (01665 660733)	Councillors noted
28 Jan	Information Commissioner – confirmation of data protection registration	Councillors noted
28 Jan	NCC Queens Baton Relay Announcement - we are awaiting further information	Councillors noted.
3 Feb	SEN Magistrates -Thank you for supporting the Mock Trial Competition and inviting any Councillors to attend on Saturday 15th March.at Bedlington starting at 10am	Councillors interested should notify the clerk.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted and actions taken as listed.

C13/149. Feedback Local Multi-agency Crime Prevention Initiative Meeting

Councillor Moore updated the council on the last LMAPS meeting. He reported that the Fire Service had dealt with two fires in the last week relating to wood burning stoves. They had confirmed that these were due not being swept properly or regularly enough. The necessary certificates from chimney sweeps need to be obtained and maintained especially for stoves in rented accommodation.

C13/150. Financial Matters – Payments

The following invoices had been received for payment (as at 13th February).

HMRC	£1052.74	Tax/NI payment for Jan
Wages Account	£4000	
CBS World	£12.48	Photocopying
npower	£445.24	Electricity - Cemetery Chapel (paid Jan 20th)
James McLean	£14.52	Drill bits and bolts
Urban Hygiene Ltd	£36.95	Graffiti wipes
WR Batey	£22.20	Postage
R V Roger	£364.50	New trees for Cemetery
Weasdale Nurseries Ltd	£125.64	New trees for Cemetery
Glendale Paint	£34.99	Glendale Paints
Colin Harris	£1080	Final instalment for website

Frank Flannigan (Depot Hire Ltd)	£192.00	1 x Skip Hire
D Lowes	£537.60	Allotment clearance
TOTAL	£8,086.91	

In addition, within the 2013/14 budget the Alnwick Show had been awarded £500, and at the recent Recreation and Amenities Committee Groundwork North East were awarded £1,000 towards initial scheme costs for the Alnwick Cycle Track and £150 was agreed to be paid to the Magna Carta Barons Association towards the first phase of the Heritage Lottery Fund for the national Magna Carta anniversary costs.

The following payments are now paid by direct debit and were reported for information		
BT	£98.49	phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge paid 28th Jan 14
npower	£69.56	Electricity – cemetery

RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £9,568.86 and to note the direct debit payments of £168.05.

The clerk also highlighted that a replacement cheque was to be issued to 'Central Bank 5RRF' replacing cheque 106927 (issued on 4/11/13).

C13/151. Any Other Urgent Business

Councillor Moore commented on the amount of potholes in Victoria Terrace and Wagonway Road. Councillor Castle confirmed that these had been repaired.

Councillors were informed that Northumberland County Council had produced a list of the toilet facilities they will be refurbishing, subject to budget approval. Once this programme is confirmed the Town Council would be in a better position to decide if it needs to get further involved.

Councillor S. Allcroft had met Ian the town's new Handyman whilst he was tidying the path at the side of Column Field and she wanted to note the good work he was doing.

PRIVATE AGENDA ITEMS

Exclusion of the Public and Press

The following resolution 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 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act”. The items considered in private were:

C13/152. Co-option of a new Town Councillor

C13/153. New Storage Requirement for the Council's stage and Community Festivals

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.