

**Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on
Thursday 28th May 2015
in the Mechanics Institute, Percy Street, Alnwick at 7.00pm**

Present: Councillors P Broom (Chairman), P Edge, P Holt, G Mavin,
S Mavin, S Patience, A Shilton, M Swinbank and A Symmonds.

In attendance: W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk. Anne Kidd, Northumberland Community
Voluntary Action (NCVA)

RA 15/01 Apologies

Councillors M Harrington, D Farrar and R Roberts.

RA 15/02 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Shilton and Swinbank declared a non pecuniary interest in Item 4 regarding
the proposal to fill the food festival gap, as they are the council's representatives on
Local Living.

RA 15/03 Volunteers Fair and Events –an update

The Chairman introduced Anne Kidd from NCVA, Anne outlined the proposals for a
volunteer event on 2nd June which would assist organisations to recruit and look after
their volunteers and the Volunteer Fair proposals for 27th June in the Northumberland
Hall. Councillor G Mavin outlined the publicity arrangements through the Northumberland
Gazette and the arrangement to try to get a flow of people into the Northumberland Hall.
Councillors discussed the events and made suggestions regarding those attending,
refreshment arrangements and the need for local rather than national organisations. In
answer to a question Councillor G Mavin indicated that it was hoped a minimum of 20
organisations would attend on the 27th June.

RESOLVED: That the update be received.

RA 15/04 Working Group Membership for 2015/16

Councillors considered the working groups for 2015/16.

RESOLVED: The 2015/16 working group membership be as follows: 1. Communications- Councillors Broom, Farrar, G Mavin and Swinbank; 2. Allotments- Councillors Farrar, Harrington, Patience, Roberts and Edge; 3. Events- Councillors Broom, S Mavin, G Mavin, Patience, Shilton and Swinbank and World War 1- Councillors Broom, Holt, S Mavin, Symmonds and Edge.

RA 15/05 Budget Update

The Clerk circulated the committee budget papers for 2015/16. These showed the final
outturns for 2014/15 and expenditure as at 22nd May 2015. The clerk highlighted that
the budgets for Town Twinning and Mayoral Gifts would be transferred to the Finance
and Policy Committee and that £15,175 had been carried forward to 2015/16 from the
previous year. This had been added to the budget. The expenditure as at 22nd May was
£690.98.

The clerk explained that the Rothbury Highland Pipe Band had unfortunately had to
cancel the arrangement for Armed Force Week, this meant that the parade through
town was unlikely to take place this year unless an alternative band could be found. The
flag raising and lowering ceremony are both planned as normal.

The Committee considered a proposal from Alnwick Markets to hold a 2 day town market to fill the gap left by the postponed 2015 Food Festival. The event is planned in the Market Place with an actively promoted trail leaflet signposting businesses around the town. It was noted that £1100 had been budgeted for the Food Festival and it was proposed that £600 of this be given towards the market event, with the remainder being used for the ongoing Food Festival equipment storage costs at Willowburn.

RESOLVED: To pay a grant of £600 towards the running costs of the two day Town Market, which is replacing the Food Festival in 2015.

RA15/06 Preparation for the Tour of Britain Cycle Race

Councillors previously had been made aware that the Tour of Britain Cycle Race is passing through Alnwick on 9th September 2015 and the section through Alnwick will be televised. The Clerk explained that communities are being encouraged to embrace the event and undertake local activities which will complement the County Council work. Councillors discussed some ideas and suggested working with the Chamber of Trade to look at for example, town bunting, shop window competitions etc.

RESOLVED: To form a working group to which all committee councillors are invited to agree how best to prepare for the Tour of Britain.

RA 15/07 Updates:

a) Allotments

The Town Clerk gave an update:

St James - reported that the rents had now all been paid and all allotments were fully let.

Ratten Row - Most rents have been paid with only about £240 outstanding.

St Georges - Two allotments has been let since last meeting.

The Clerk reported that as requested he had approached Northumberland Estates about securing a new 3 year lease for Ratten Row, (the existing lease runs until March 2016). The Estates had indicated that a new 3 lease was available (running from March 2016) but at an increased rent of £120 per annum and with the other terms and conditions remaining the same. Councillors were in agreement to progress this.

RESOLVED: To progress a new 3 year lease for Ratten Row allotments.

b) Public Conveniences

The Town Clerk advised the committee that the County Council had confirmed that in their opinion, the recent works at the Market Street toilets represented value for money and reminded the committee that there was an outstanding invoice for £3,000, being the Town Council's contribution to the scheme. The initial scheme of works had been agreed with the Town Council. Councillors discussed if the invoice should be paid and many felt the works undertaken had been less than satisfactory. Some felt that the issue was more to do with the standards of cleaning. It was proposed that the Council should reluctantly pay but that the County Council should be asked to ensure standards of maintenance and cleanliness are improved. It was also suggested that the County Council could look at further toilet improvements as part of the Northumberland Hall refurbishment works.

RECOMMENDED: That The Town Council now pays the outstanding invoice but expresses disappointment with some of the works undertaken and asks the County Council to ensure improved standards of maintenance and cleaning are put into operation.

c) Play Areas

The Clerk informed Councillors that the newly seeded area adjacent to the proposed play area at Glovers Green play area was now growing well and he had met Bill Pringle from NCC at the area to see if anything further was needed. The target date for the installation of equipment was the end of June.

RESOLVED: To receive the updates.

RA 15/08

Smoking outside businesses and the provision of bins.

This matter had been raised at the last meeting with NCC and they subsequently had asked for the Town Council to identify the main problem areas. Councillors discussed this and the following locations were identified, The Alnwick Gate, The Fleece, The George, Penny Black's The Working Men's Club, The Dirty Bottles and the path from Fenkle Stree Morrisons.

RESOLVED: To forward details to NCC of the locations where cigarette litter a problem.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm