



ALNWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Room 5, 27 Fenkle Street
Alnwick
NE66 1HW

Your Ref:

Our Ref: FC/11/2015

Clerk to Council
Bill Batey
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Dear Councillor

6th November 2015

The next meeting of the Council will be held on **Thursday 12th November 2015** in St James Church Rooms, Pottergate, Alnwick at **7.15pm**. You are hereby requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

Bill Batey
Clerk to Town Council

Agenda

1. Questions from the Public
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Last Meeting (8th October 2015)
5. Matters Arising
6. Mayor's Report
7. Core Strategy Response
8. County Council issues
 - a) Joint Meeting of ATC and NCC -12th Oct
 - b) Consultation on proposed changes to the fire and rescue service
 - c) Meeting on Economic Development in Alnwick
 - d) 2016/17 Precept Arrangements
9. Minutes of the Committees
 - a) Planning, Highways & Transport Committee Meeting (8th October 2015)
 - b) Finance and Policy Committee (15th October 2015)
10. Approval of Investment Strategy
11. Notes of Meeting with Northumberland Estates
12. Allotment Rents 2016
13. Correspondence
14. Feedback Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Initiative Meeting
15. Financial Matters –Payments
16. Any Other Urgent Business

In Private

1. Approval of Private Minute – Finance & Policy Committee 15th October 2015
2. Funding Request from Alnwick Young People's Association Ltd (Gallery Youth)

Declarations of Interest

To receive disclosures of pecuniary interests from Councillors, on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest. If you become aware, during the course of the meeting, of an interest that has not been disclosed under this item you must immediately disclose it.

Agenda item 6**Mayor's Report**

An update on the mayor's diary can be obtained at <http://alnwickmayor.wordpress.com/>

Agenda item 7**Core Strategy Response**

Consultation of the Pre Submission Draft of the Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy is ongoing until 25th November 2015. A proposed response will be considered at the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee earlier in the evening and this will be put forward for approval.

Recommendation: To approve the Core Strategy response.

Agenda item 8**County Council matters****a) Joint Meeting of ATC and NCC – 12th October**

The notes of the joint meeting with Northumberland County Council on 12th October have been circulated and can be discussed.

b) Consultation on proposed changes to the fire and rescue service

Correspondence has been received from the Fire and Rescue Service which outlines that the service has to save £500,000 in 2016/17 on top of the £3m already cut since 2010. Detailed analysis, and the professional expertise of firefighters, have been used in developing the proposals. Should the proposed changes be approved the fire and rescue service will continue to have 21 emergency response vehicles across the county and, through the introduction of smaller fire appliances and flexible staffing, in some areas cover will be increased.

The proposals are:

- Removing the retained (on-call) fire appliance from West Hartford Community Fire Station. The station will still have two fire appliances staffed round the clock. The retained fire appliance only attended 8.4% of incidents within the last five years. There is also cover from Pegswood Community Fire Station.
- Replacing the second retained (on-call) fire appliance at Alnwick Community Fire Station and the retained (on-call) fire appliances at Ponteland, Seahouses and Wooler Community Fire Stations with smaller fire appliances. Alnwick will continue to have a retained (on-call) appliance as well as a smaller fire appliance. The smaller appliances can attend all of the incidents the larger traditional fire appliances can attend. With the introduction of flexible staffing arrangements the appliances could respond to certain incidents staffed by less than four firefighters; as a result it will increase the amount of times they are available and enhance the emergency response cover. The smaller appliances are also much more cost effective to lease and run than larger traditional fire appliances.

- Closing Haydon Bridge Fire Station with cover to be provided by Hexham, Haltwhistle and Allendale Fire Stations. Over the last five years there were only 96 incidents in Haydon Bridge and over half (57%) of these incidents were small fires or false alarms. A third of incidents (33%) within the Haydon Bridge area were attended by surrounding stations.
- More joint working with other Fire and Rescue Services and agencies to reduce costs.

There will be no changes to Pegswood, Hexham, Berwick, Amble, Belford, Bellingham, Haltwhistle, Prudhoe, Rothbury and Holy island.

Should Cabinet approve the proposals for consultation, details of the consultation process will be available shortly after at www.northumberland.gov.uk. It will include attendance at Area Committees, Scrutiny and public meetings.

The Town Council will be consulted as part of the formal consultation process.

c) Meeting on Economic Development in Alnwick.

Following a request from the Town Council the County Council is arranging a date for a meeting to take place looking at Economic Development in Alnwick. This will involve County officers and officers from ARCH. All councilors will be invited. The proposed date and agenda will be outlined at the meeting.

d) 2016/17 Precept Arrangements.

NCC has set a deadline for the submission of the 2016/17 precept information as 1st February 2016. The Town Council will look to agree its budget and set its precept on 14th January 2016. The Indicative Council Tax Base (Band D equivalents) for 2016/17 is 2608.98, an increase of 50.53.

Recommendation: To note and discuss the County Council matters

Agenda item 10

Approval of the Investment Strategy

At the Finance and Policy Committee meeting on 15th October a draft investment strategy was agreed for submission to this meeting. The strategy is based on government guidance which is followed by most Town & Parish Councils. A copy of the draft strategy has been sent with the agenda

Recommendation: To approve the Investment Strategy.

Agenda item 11

Notes of Meeting with Northumberland Estates

The notes of the meeting between the Town Council (the Mayor and Clerk) and Colin Barnes (Northumberland Estates) held on 12th October will be circulated for information/discussion.

Recommendation: To note.

Agenda item 12 Allotment Rents 2016

The Allotment Working Group has met and considered the proposed rents for next year and has recommended increases of £5 on some plots.

Site	Proposed Rents	Rent Period
Ratten Row	Full Plot £45 with water £35 without water Half plot £35 with water £25 without water	Jan-Dec
St James's (site has water)	Full plot £45 Half Plot £30	Jan-Dec
St George's (no water supply)	Full plot £35 Half Plot £20	April-March
Cawledge View (no water supply)	Full plot £35 Half Plot £20	April-March

Recommendation: The allotment rents for 2016 be approved

Agenda item 13 Correspondence

The following correspondence has been received since the last meeting:

Date	Detail	Action if any
12 th Oct	NALC – enews	Available from the clerk on request
14 th Oct	CAN News Autumn	Available from the clerk on request
19 th Oct	Highway Agency – A1 in Northumberland	Circulated to Councillors
27 th Oct	NCC – Supported Bus Service meetings – invitation to attend.	Alnwick meeting is on 16 th Nov 5pm-7pm in St James (Embleton Room). Details to be circulated to Councillors
30 th Oct	NCC – re toilets – confirming no change in Alnwick	To be Circulated to Councillors
6 th Nov	NALC - enews	Available from the clerk on request

Recommendation: That the correspondence received be considered.

Agenda item 15 Financial Matters –

a) Payments

The following payments are due (as at 5th November); this list will be updated at the meeting, if necessary.

PAYEE	TOTAL PAYABLE	VAT ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION
HMRC	£TBC	0	Tax/NI payment for October
Wages Account	£5,000	0	
British Legion Poppy Appeal	£19	0	Wreath for Remembrance Sunday
Electratest (UK) Ltd	£54	£9	PAT testing -Cemetery
Electratest (UK) Ltd	£54	£9	PAT testing -Fenkle Street
Johnston Publishing	£400.80	£66.80	Advertising for vacant post
W R Batey	£95.19	£15.86	Stationary from Viking Direct
NCC	£2343.60	£390.60	3 additional grass cuts
Peter Nyssen Ltd	£239.50	£39.92	Bulbs
Azure Printing	£325.60	0	Neighbourhood Plan printing
Azure Printing	£55.31	£0	Neighbourhood Plan Consultation statement printing
TOTAL	£8,587.00 plus HMRC	£522.18	

The following payments are now paid by direct debit and are reported for information

BT	£95.36	£15.89	Phone Bills Cemetery and Cemetery Lodge paid Oct 28th
BT	£27.30	£4.55	Phone Bill Fenkle Street paid 26 th Oct
npower	£372.60	£17.74	Cemetery Chapel paid 26 th Oct.

Recommendation: To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £8,587.00 and to note the direct debit payments of £495 26