

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on
Thursday 8th October 2015
in St James Church Rooms, Pottergate, Alnwick at 7.15pm**

Present Cllrs W Grisdale, (Chair), S Allcroft, P Allcroft, P Broom, G Castle, P Edge, G Mavin, S Mavin, K Moore, S Patience, R Roberts M Swinbank and A Symmonds.

In attendance W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk. H Cairns, County Councillor.

C15/78 Questions from the public

None.

C15/79 Apologies for absence

Cllrs. D Farrar, M Harrington, P Holt, J Humphries and A Shilton.

C15/80 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Castle declared a non-pecuniary interest in county council matters. Councillors Grisdale, Castle, Patience and Roberts declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9a (Neighbourhood Plan) and in item 9b (Town Team).

C15/81 Minutes of the Last meetings

Minutes of the Full Council meeting on (10th September 2015) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

C15/82 Matters Arising

C15/70 The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council's response had been submitted and acknowledged.

C15/72 NCC regularly checked the Greenwell Lane recycling area felt it had improved. Councillors felt it was a particular problem at weekends when less cleansing staff were employed.

C15/83 Mayor's Report

The Mayor's Report is on his blog www.alnwickmayor.wordpress.com. The Mayor thanked the deputy Mayor for deputising for him for the Tour of Britain visit, induction of the new priest at St Paul's and the Battle of Britain event. He also informed councillors that the manager from the new McDonald's has offered to come to a council meeting in the near future and outline their plans for Alnwick.

C15/84 Remembrance Sunday Arrangements 2015.

It was reported that the 2015 Remembrance Sunday service will be held on Sunday 8th November in St Paul's Church Alnwick starting at 2.30pm. After the service there will be a march to the war memorial for the laying of wreaths in remembrance. Councillors are invited to the service and to participate in the march. Refreshments for guests will be served afterwards in the Northumberland Hall.

RESOLVED: To note the arrangements.

C15/85

County Council Matters

a) Joint Meeting of ATC and NCC – 12th October 2.30pm

The next joint meeting with Northumberland County Council is due to take place on 12th October. Agenda items already put forward included an update on building refurbishments/disposals in Alnwick, County Council budget position in 2016/17 and the implications for local councils, and economic development in the town. Councillors discussed other possible agenda items and agreed to add a) Youth Service Funding, b) Building on corner of Wagonway Road/Park View – boarded up, NCC owned? What is proposed? c) Wheelie Bins obstructing Back Lane between Howick Street and Percy Street. d) 'Bradley Hall' signage/adverts around town which have recently appeared d) Corn Exchange – Who is responsible for cleaning the steps etc.? and e) the nearby recycling point in St Michaels Square is being misused.

b) Town & Parish Council Conference – 24th September.

The Mayor and Clerk attended the Town & Parish Council Conference held at Cramlington on September 24th; A brief written report of the event was presented.

c) Consultation on a Homelessness Strategy for Northumberland

Councillors were informed that Northumberland County Council is developing a Homelessness Strategy which outlines the Council's plans to reduce and prevent homelessness by tackling the main causes and improving access to both permanent and temporary accommodation. The Council has prepared a draft strategy and would like input to it. The consultation on the draft Homelessness Strategy runs until Friday 30 October 2015. Once adopted, the Homelessness Strategy will be the County Council's main strategic plan for the prevention of homelessness in Northumberland, covering the period to 2021.

RESOLVED: Any comments to be submitted to the clerk by October 23rd 2015.

C15/86

Updates on:

a) The Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk informed councillors that the Alnwick & Denwick Neighbourhood Plan has now been submitted to NCC for Examination. The Town Council was waiting to hear who has been appointed as the Independent Examiner. It is hoped that this will be confirmed shortly and that this stage, including the final consultation will be completed by Christmas. It was also reported that the Town Council had successfully applied for a grant towards the finalisation of documents, updating the website, and printing costs. This grant was for £2659 and had been received. Copies of the submission documents were available for councillors. In the discussion questions were asked about the consultation being organised by NCC and the possible need to review the wording of some policies given the passage of time.

b) Town Team

Councillors were informed that the Town Team was formed in 2012 to front a bid to become a Portas Pilot. Whilst the bid was unsuccessful, the Team did subsequently receive a grant of £10,000 towards town promotion. The Team continues to meet and is chaired by the Mayor. A brief paper was circulated outlining details and current activity. Councillors welcomed the update but it was pointed out that this was the first

such report to the Council. Whilst the level of activity did not seem great, it was highlighted that a key function of the team was the bringing together of town centre organisations into a single forum to discuss issues.

RESOLVED: To receive the updates.

C15/87 Section 106 Priorities

It was reported that planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), commonly known as s106 agreements, are a mechanism which make a development proposal acceptable in planning terms, that would not otherwise be acceptable. Under the new County Council Planning Protocols changes have been made to pre application processes and an opportunity given to local councils to get involved in discussions. If engaging in the pre-application process there will automatically be an opportunity for Ward members and Town/Parish Council's to get involved in Section 106 discussions. Whilst it is not envisaged that S106 discussions will crop up often, it was recommended that the town council does have some views on its priorities which could be put forward into any discussions and negotiations. Councillors were supportive if trying to identify 10 priority projects and it was suggested that this work could be commenced by the Finance and Policy Committee.

RESOLVED: To refer the identification of S106 priority projects to the Finance & Policy Committee for consideration.

C15/88 Minutes of Committees

Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee Meeting (10th September 2015) were tabled for approval. The minutes were amended to reflect Councillor S Mavin was not present.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning, Highways & Transport Committee meeting held on 10th September 2015 were agreed as a true record.

Minutes of the Cemetery Committee Meeting (17th September 2015) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Cemetery Committee held on 17th September 2015 were agreed as a true record.

Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting (24th September 2015) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 24th September 2015 were agreed as a true record.

C15/89 Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received since the last meeting:

Date	Detail	Action
17 th Sept	NCC –Town & Parish Liaison Working Group – changes to membership	Available from the clerk on request.
24 th Sept	NCC – Press Release on Northumberland Hall works.	Noted
1 st Oct	NCC – Updated Parking Map	To be added to website

1 st Oct	Time Kommune – Acceptance of an Invitation for a civic part to visit Alnwick in August 2016 to mark the 30 th anniversary of the twinning arrangement	Noted and for visit itinerary to be finalised in early 2016.
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C15/90 Feedback Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Initiative Meeting

No update as no recent meeting.

C15/91 Financial Matters – a) Mid-Year Accounts

The clerk tabled the mid-year expenditure and income account (up to 30th September) and outlined its contents to councillors. This showed income at £250,724 as the full year precept had been received. Cemetery Income was on target and allotment rents were yet to be collected. Expenditure was £144,813 and the clerk highlighted the cemetery expenses (£18,647) which included driveway works and playground expenses (£15,245) which included Glovers Green replacements. There were no matters of concern raised.

a) Payments

The following invoices had been received/payments were due:

PAYEE	TOTAL PAYABLE	VAT ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION
HMRC	£2,586.43	0	Tax/NI payment for September
Wages Account	£5,000	0	
Northumbrian Water	£1,583.22	0	Water Bills- Ratten Row, Cemetery (2) and Robertson's Fountain.
C Bowden	£1200	0	Seat Repairs 2x £100 and Pointing £1000
Local Living	£612.50	0	Willowburn Unit rental July - Sept
Argyle Planning Consultancy	£1160	0	Plan Coordinator fee July - Sept
Northumbrian Water	£41.70	0	Water Rates - cemetery
Proludic Ltd	£3,264	£544	Seesaw Replacement – Glovers Green
Northumberland College	£773.10	0	Training Courses for Town Handyman
Mr Peter Rule	£50	0	Tour of Britain photography competition winner
Thomas Sherriff & Co	£164.41	27.40	Machine parts
Glasdon (UK) Ltd	£854.52	142.42	3 new bins
Streetscape	£564	94.00	Wetpour kits
Petty Cash	£40	6.66	Petrol
Fife Plant Hire	£45.60	7.60	Cemetery Materials
James McLean	£63.80	10.63	Tools and Equipment
Alnwick International Music festival	£1425	£0	Balance on the 2015 grant
TOTAL	£14,428.28	£832.71	

The following payments are now paid by direct debit and were reported for information			
BT	£93.98	£15.65	Phone Bills Cemetery and Cemetery Lodge paid Sept 28th
BT	£27.40	£4.60	Phone Bills Fenkle Street telephone bill
npower	£15.37	0.73	Town Hall Clock
npower	£114.57	5.46	Robertson's Fountain

RESOLVED: a) To receive the mid-year expenditure and income account, and b) To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £14,428.28 and note the direct debit payments of £251.32.

C15/92 Any Other Urgent Business

- a) Councillor Castle informed Councillors that the Christmas Lights switch on was on 20th November.
- b) Councillor Symmonds suggested the council have an 'away day' to consider future strategy and budgets. He suggested the Mayor and Clerk look at a possible programme.
- c) Councillor Edge informed councillors of National Poetry Day (8th October) and activities taking place in the Alnwick and Morpeth Library to raise awareness.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm