

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on
Thursday 11th August 2016
in St James Church Rooms, Pottergate, Alnwick at 7.15pm**

- Present** Cllrs A Symmonds, S Allcroft, P Allcroft, S Bell, P Broom, P Edge, W Grisdale, M Harrington, P Holt, J Humphries, G Mavin, S Mavin, K Moore, A Shilton and M Swinbank.
- In attendance** W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk, J Pibworth, Assistant to the Town Clerk.
- C16/48 Questions from the public**
None.
- C16/49 Apologies for absence**
Cllrs G Castle and S Patience.
- C16/50 Declarations of Interest**
Councillors Shilton and Swinbank declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.
- C16/51 Mayor's Report**
The Mayor reported that he had opened the new Pets at Home Store in Alnwick. The Manager had advised that the store wanted to be involved in the local community. They had given money towards the refreshments at the Music Festival.
He had also attended the Civic Reception for the Music Festival at Northumberland Hall. The turnout was very good and the performances had been well received. He thanked Councillor Edge for introducing spoken word events and a poetry evening to the festival.
Councillor Holt reported that she had thoroughly enjoyed the Music Festival and had attended events almost every day. She felt it had been beautifully catered for especially the lunch for the people from the Pottergate Centre.
- C16/52 Minutes of the Last meeting**
The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 14th July 2016 were tabled for approval.
RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2016 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.
- C16/53 Matters Arising**
C16/39 UPDATE ON POLICING MATTERS IN ALNWICK – the Town Clerk advised that the police were investigating using the old High School site for dog training.
C16/40 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – the Town Clerk advised that NCC were still finalising the text first and the final version should be with the Town Council shortly.
- C16/54 Local Transport Plan Priorities 2017-18 (from Planning Committee)**
A copy of the recommended LTP priorities for 2017-18 along with the feedback from NCC were issued and Councillor Swinbank gave an update on the Local Transport Plan Priorities. He advised that a Working Group had met on August 9th to review the LTP submitted to NCC in 2016-17 and the feedback received from NCC.
A draft LTP document had been produced which had been discussed at the Planning Committee earlier that evening and recommended to Full Council for approval.
The recommended LTP priorities for 2017-18 from the Planning Committee are:

Overarching Issue and Location	Priority / suggested actions
<p>Poor condition of The Cobbles and footpaths in the town centre causing serious issues for pedestrians (including disabled, elderly and buggy users) and cyclists</p> <p>Main Town Centre area including Bondgate Within, Market Place and Market Street</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improvements to give better pedestrian access across the Cobbles on Bondgate Within/Market Street car parking areas ii. Improvements to the railed area at the top of the Bondgate Within Cobbles to give better access especially for those in mobility scooters and with buggies iii. Improve the paved area at the pedestrian crossing and location of crossing light to give better access for mobility scooter users iv. Repairs to areas of damaged town centre paving including the broken drainage channels in the vicinity of the Market Place (we understand this may already be underway by local office) v. Implement the outstanding 'tactile cone' drop kerb are installed (under NCC's Improvements for Pedestrians and Cyclists programme)
<p>Dangerous junctions and locations in the Town Centre for bus users, cyclists and pedestrians especially school children which could result in an increase in accidents and may result in fatalities</p> <p>Wagonway Road / Victoria Road</p> <p>St James's roundabout</p>	<p>To improve pedestrian / cyclist safety by implementing traffic calming measures and restrictions at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Victoria Road (Wagonway Road) - install a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the Co-Op and extrude the footpath to give better vision to pedestrians and cyclists (especially children travelling to the new school) ii. Victoria Road (St James's roundabout) - install a 'safe' crossing area to give better vision to pedestrians and cyclists (especially children travelling to the new school) could reduce road width and priority access for traffic iii. Implement the 20mph limits outside schools action under NCC's Traffic Management programme
<p>Safety concerns and congestion for cyclists and pedestrians in the vicinity of the new High School at the following locations:</p> <p>Oaks roundabout</p> <p>Willowburn (Sainsbury's)</p> <p>Slip road from Northbound A1 to Willowburn roundabout</p> <p>Weavers Way</p> <p>South Road</p>	<p>Improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists on routes to the new high school by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Creating a 'safe cross area' at the Oaks Roundabout by using raised crossings with deeper refuges on North and if possible East approaches ii. Creating a 'safe cross area' by using raised crossings outside Willowburn Sports Centre iii. To investigate how to implement a 'safer crossing point' on the slip road from the Northbound A1 (e.g. wider island, improved signage for pedestrians and motorists) iv. Extending the pavement at Weavers Way bus turning area to create footpath link for pedestrians between the rear of the ISOS development and access to the new path to the high school v. Create a safe crossing place in a suitable location on South Road in the vicinity of the proposed new Aldi store (we understand this is in the existing programme)

Councillor Moore asked about the exact location of the pedestrian crossing on Victoria road as he was concerned about the crossing being too close to the Co-Op as he felt people would park on the zig zag lines. Councillor Swinbank advised that an exact location was yet to be agreed.

Councillor Grisdale reported that he had attended site visits and the proposed location was right outside the Co-Op but that this would need consultation as it was in a residential area.

Councillor Swinbank reported that the pedestrian crossing in Victoria Road was also a priority for Councillor Castle.

Councillor Holt advised that she received more comments about Wagonway Road / Victoria Road than any other area of the town.

RESOLVED: To agree the LTP priorities for 2017-18 and submit to NCC by August 31st 2016.

C16/55 Future Budget Issues in Northumberland

Councillor Symmonds advised that the Town Council had received correspondence from NCC which had started to highlight the potential level of cuts in future budgets.

The Town Clerk advised that NCC needed to make a £20m a year saving from 2018-19. There were a series of services listed for potential cuts.

Councillor Moore said that he was pleased to see the potential reduction in the amount of grass cutting and that these areas could be replaced with wildflowers.

Councillor Grisdale advised that NCC were asking Alnwick Town Council, as they have budget raising powers, to think about what they needed as a Town Council. He thought that this should be looked at by the Finance & Policy Committee.

Councillor Symmonds advised that each committee should look at the areas that were under their areas of responsibility. He felt that this did not mean that the Town Council should raise the precept significantly. He also felt that the Town Council should talk to NCC about what they can do as a town council.

Councillor Grisdale felt that the need was to prioritise on keeping the community going. He added that NCC might not know what they can do, at this stage.

Councillor Symmonds felt that the Town Council needed to be responsive to the cuts and how they would undertake services around the town. He felt that the Town Council needed to think about working in true partnership with other people.

Councillor S Mavin felt that, as each town councillor would have their own list of priorities which would all be different, it would be useful to ask NCC for a list of all the non-statutory services they currently provide.

The Town Clerk advised that each committee could take the relevant services covered by their roles and responsibilities and review the potential cuts.

Councillor Edge asked if when the Town Council would know the level of the budget cuts and which services would be effected. The Town Clerk advised that the letter from NCC suggests working in partnership. He added that the 2017-18 budget process would take place from now until November and that NCC would talk to the Town Council about any potential cuts. He also advised that the Town Council may need to budget for some of the services that might be affected.

The Town Clerk advised that a list could be produced of the NCC non statutory services e.g. TIC's, grass cutting, sports centres, toilet cleaning.

Councillor Symmonds felt that there had been some good communication in the past between the Town Council and NCC.

Councillor G Mavin commented that he was going to optimistic that NCC will work with the Town Council and could be very keen to talk to them about maintaining jobs.

Councillor Harrington reminded councillors that, with the new development to the south of the town, there will be an increase in the number of residents in Alnwick.

Councillor Grisdale advised that the Town Council contact NALC for information / support.

Councillor S Allcroft asked what percentage of NCC's total budget the £20m accounted for and how much each of the Towns / Parishes was meant to save.

Councillor Symmonds advised that the budget cuts can only affect non-statutory services. He added that the Town Council should not just agree to undertake everything NCC want them to do.

The Town Clerk explained that it was similar to the issue with CCTV. NCC had notified the Town Council that they were withdrawing the service in Alnwick and the Town Council had made suitable provision for this in the 2016-17 budget.

RESOLVED: i) To obtain a list of non-statutory services from NCC, ii) To add NCC budget cuts to the relevant Committee agendas for discussion.

C16/56 Request on behalf of Local Living (Councillor Swinbank)

Councillor Swinbank explained that Local Living were a local Social Enterprise who were putting together a Leader grant application to energise the markets including recruitment of additional staff and replacing their van. The grant application was being considered when Brexit happened and this has held up decisions being notified. Alnwick Markets have written to Anne-Marie Trevelyan to help for her help in lifting Purdah so that decisions can be notified. They have asked if the Town Council would also write to Anne-Marie with the same request.

Councillor Broom supported the request as the Town Council should help local organisations.

Councillor Grisdale explained that Northumberland Estates were also helping.

RESOLVED: To write to Anne-Marie Trevelyan requesting her help to get a bid reply.

C16/57 Minutes of Committees

Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee Meeting (14th July 2016) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning, Highways & Transport Committee meeting held on 14th July 2016 were agreed as a true record.

Minutes of the Cemetery Committee Meeting (21st July 2016) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Cemetery Committee held on 21st July 2016 were agreed as a true record.

Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting (28th July 2016) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee held on 28th July 2016 were agreed as a true record.

C16/58**Correspondence**

The following correspondence had been received since the last meeting:

Date	Detail	Action if any
19 th July	NALC enews	Available from clerk on request
26 th July	NALC enews	Available from clerk on request
27 th July	NCC – Lion Bridge Update – works to start 5 th September	To note

RESOLVED: To accept the correspondence.

C16/59**Financial Matters – Payments**

The following invoices had been received/payments were due:

PAYEE	TOTAL	VAT	DETAIL
HMRC	£3,373.38	£0	Tax/NI July 2016
Wages	£7,000	£0	Transfer to Wages Acc.
NCC (i)	£1,714.48	£0	Housing needs survey (1 st payment)
NCC (i)	£3,110.99	£0	Housing needs survey (2 nd payment)
J Pibworth	£10.00	£1.66	Stationery for office
CPS	£264.00	£44.00	Outdoor stage parts
Alnwick Paint & Glass	£14.54	£2.43	Materials for play areas
Alnwick Paint & Glass	£5.93	£0.99	Materials for play areas
Panel Systems (ii)	£2,982.53	£497.09	Indoor stages for Music Festival (payment received from NCC for £1,424.44 towards this)
Chris Bowden	£500	£0	Repair and repointing to cemetery chapels and store and clearing gutters
Playdale Ltd	£275.08	£45.85	Play area parts
St James's Church Centre	£300	£0	Room Bookings 4/16 – 7/16
Mr J Farmer (Castle North Plumbing & Heating)	£48.00	£0	Repair of water leaks

CBS	£99.00	£16.50	Business cards
CBS	£39.60	£6.60	Invoice stamp
Local Living	£600	£0	Grant Payment for Food Festival
TOTAL	£20,337.53	£615.12	

- (i) Stage payments for the Housing Needs Survey.
- (ii) Payment for internal stage. Paid out of grant given to Music Festival. Recreation & Amenities Committee have agreed a further £1,000.

The following payments were now paid by direct debit and were reported for information:			
npower	£169.07	£8.05	Electricity bill for Cemetery Chapel
npower	£46.57	£2.22	Electricity bill for Cemetery Store
npower	£103.98	£4.95	Electricity for Robertson's Fountain
BT	£54.47	£7.58	Cemetery Office
BT	£33.46	£5.58	Fenkle Street

RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £20,337.53; ii) To note the direct debit payments of £407.55.

C16/60 Feedback from Community Safety Hub

Councillor Moore reported that there was no feedback as there had not been a recent meeting.

C16/61 Any Other Urgent Business

Councillor Grisdale asked why the press had not attended the meeting. The Town Clerk advised that on this occasion he had not received any notification of their non-attendance. Councillor Grisdale felt that a regular update to the Gazette from the Town Council would be useful.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.