

## Alnwick Town Team

Minutes of the meeting of Alnwick Town Team meeting held at 6pm on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at The Pavilion, Alnwick Garden.

**Present:** Cllr. Alan Symmonds (Chairman), Mark Brassell (MB) (Alnwick Garden), David Lovie (DL) (Civic Society), Philip Angier (PA), (Local Living), Elizabeth Jones (EJ) (Alnwick in Bloom), Cllr. Gordon Castle (GC), Tim Kirton (TK) (Alnwick Town Council)

### **1. Visit to the new Alnwick Garden Adventure Golf Course**

The Chairman thanked MB for the Town Team's visit to the new Alnwick Garden Adventure Golf course just prior to the meeting, which had been interesting and hugely enjoyable.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Carlo Biagioni (CB) (Chamber of Trade). David Taylor (Chamber of Trade) had to leave before the meeting started belatedly at 6pm.

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

These were approved as a true and correct record.

### **4. Matters Arising**

The Chairman advised that the NCC car parking survey is under way.

### **5. "More in Morpeth" Website and suggestion of similar in Alnwick**

TK had circulated Cllr. George Mavin's note and the More in Morpeth website address prior to the meeting; the website had been visited by those present at this meeting. Cllr. Mavin had suggested in his note that if the Town Team think this is worth investigating for Alnwick, the Alnwick Chamber of Trade takes the lead on investigating how it was created, the costs involved and whether we could attract grant funding for a similar website in Alnwick.

MB said that he was greatly impressed by the More in Morpeth website and suggested that community grant aid for such a website for Alnwick could be accessed via Alnwick Garden Trust. The organisation that offers website grants for charities is the Transform Foundation (see <http://www.transformfoundation.org.uk/>)

GC said it should be appreciated that the three partners involved in the Morpeth Town Team are far more greatly resourced than those in Alnwick. This was noted.

PA said that we needed to consider how such an Alnwick website would fit in with other social media as many of Alnwick's tourism businesses are already geared into existing social media rather than a static website such as this.

It was agreed that the Alnwick Chamber of Trade and TK be asked to contact the Morpeth Chamber of Trade for further investigation and report back to the Town Team. **Action: Carlo Biagioni, Tim Kirton.**

TK to advise Cllr. Mavin of this. **Action: TK**

## **6. Alnwick Christmas Lights Switch-on and Lantern Parade**

GC confirmed the Christmas Lights would be switched on by the Duchess of Northumberland in Alnwick Market Place at 7pm on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

MB confirmed Spark would lead the Lantern Parade on the 18<sup>th</sup> November. Owing to technical issues, instead of the Market Place video which had been mentioned at previous TT meetings, flyers which list the Christmas events at the Alnwick Garden and in Alnwick town would now be distributed at the Lantern Parade. **Mark appealed for any publicity and any other information from the Chamber of Trade and any other interested parties, to be supplied by the print deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October. Action: Chamber of Trade**

PA reported that Local Living are working on having traders around the Market Place on the 18<sup>th</sup> November.

## **7. Updates**

### ***a) Town Council (Tim Kirton)***

**Willowburn Industrial Estate:** The appeal against the refusal of planning permission for housing at this site would be by both Northern Commercial and Harris and Sheldon but it is still unknown when that appeal might be submitted.

**CCTV:** All cameras installed and operational. An additional camera has been funded by the Town Council which looks from the bus station offices directly onto the “hot spot” between Pizza Royale, Chapel Lane and the bus station.

On the evenings of Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017 several shop windows had been broken in the Market Street/Clayport/Fenkle Street areas. The new Town Council CCTV system had recorded good quality images of at least one of the people involved and the police were pursuing appropriate action. CCTV images are still being trawled through for evidence.

**Fingerpost signage:** The two new fingerposts, associated fingers and the map lectern were delivered to the Council earlier on the day of this meeting and would be erected as soon as possible, hopefully in the next week or so.

**Business Forum Meeting, November 21<sup>st</sup>:** TK reminded all that the next Business Forum meeting will be held on Tuesday November 21<sup>st</sup> with registration at 5.30pm for a 6pm start; the subjects and venue are to be confirmed.

### ***b) Alnwick in Bloom (Elizabeth Jones)***

EJ expressed her thanks for the kind comments made at the last meeting regarding Alnwick in Bloom’s winning of five Northumberland in Bloom gold awards.

The Alnwick in Bloom Awards have also been held, in the Garden Pavilion for which the Chairman and EJ expressed thanks to MB for hosting. Attendance at the event had been rather low, which had generated a comment in the Northumberland Gazette.

The “It’s Your Neighbourhood” presentations would take place in Newcastle in November.

The Chairman expressed his congratulations to Alnwick in Bloom for their five NiB gold awards, to all those who won AiB awards and his thanks for their hard work throughout the year.

EJ left the meeting at 6.15pm to attend another meeting.

### **c) Alnwick Garden (Mark Brassell)**

- Halloween props are now being installed for the Garden's events, the Christmas decorations would be installed after Halloween
- The Alnwick Garden has won the prize for the Outstanding Social Enterprise at the North-East Charity Awards. The Chairman expressed his congratulations to MB on behalf of the Town Team.
- The "Come Die With Me" event referred to at the last meeting had been very successful.
- MB advised that this year's Northumberland Sleepout at The Alnwick Garden would take place on November 20<sup>th</sup> and asked Town Team members to raise awareness of and encourage sponsorship of this event. The concept of the Sleepout is that CEOs and Business Leaders raise money to fight poverty and homelessness by sleeping out in the open for a night. Last year the event raised just under £6000 which went to four charities including The Alnwick Garden Trust. Mark is trying to raise £800 this year and has a Just Giving page at <http://www.justgiving.com/Mark-brassell1> and any help anyone can give would be greatly appreciated. Mark would also appreciate it if Town Team members could circulate notice of the Sleepout to their contacts if they feel they could assist. It's also not too late to join the Sleepout if people are able, email [info@ceosleepoutuk.com](mailto:info@ceosleepoutuk.com) **Action: All**

### **(d) County Council**

It was reported that the positions of Town Champions at Northumberland County Council had been dissolved and consequently Dave Campbell would no longer be attending Town Team meetings. The collective thanks of the Town Team were expressed to Dave Campbell for his work with the Town Team over the years and these would be passed on to DC. **Action: TK**

GC reported that arrangements for the use of the Playhouse as a hub were 90% complete; the TIC is definitely moving into the Playhouse but the leases with NTC are not yet completed.

Lindisfarne Middle School: Northumberland Adult Learning Service (NALS) an NCC body providing for adults with special educational needs and training is now in situ and it is hoped that "Engage", a similar privately-run body, will soon follow with other potential usage for special needs education still being negotiated. NALS has also given a one-year contract to the caretaker at the building. The future of the pre-war part of the former school remains unsure.

### **(d) Chamber of Trade**

No report owing to CB and DT being unavailable.

### **(e) Local Living/Alnwick Markets**

PA reported that the Food Festival went very well and traders were happy. Footfall had been slightly lower than last year because of the weather but revenues had been slightly up. LL are now gearing up for the Christmas Market on the weekend of December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **8. Any Other Business**

PA reported that Charlie McNeill from Alnwick Rotary is holding a "Race Night" on November 10<sup>th</sup> in the Northumberland Hall to support their work for local charities. For further details contact Charlie at [charliemac8083@gmail.com](mailto:charliemac8083@gmail.com)

## **9. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 5.30pm** at The Pavilion, Alnwick Garden.

The meeting closed at 6.40pm