



Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 12th October 2017 in St James Church Rooms, Pottergate, Alnwick at 7.15pm

- Present** Cllrs A Symmonds, S Allcroft, P Broom, G Castle, P Edge, A Fletcher, J Humphries, G Mavin, J McDougall, R Moore, M Swinbank, G Watson, L Wearn and C Westendarp.
- In attendance** W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk; J Pibworth, Assistant to the Town Clerk; T Kirton, Project & Funding Officer; a member of the public for Item 1; Dr Graham Syers and Tony Brown from Alnwick Medical Group for Item 4 and Gill Barrett and Tracey Young for Item 5.
- C17/94** **Questions from the public**
Joseph Murray, an Alnwick resident, explained that there had been anti-social behaviour problems around Dodds Lane over the last three weeks. He felt that although the new CCTV system was a wonderful good idea it was pushing people out of the town centre into the lanes between 11pm and 2am. He felt that on some occasions it was like to Wild West.
- Councillor Symmonds advised that the Town Council were always happy to listen to any issues residents had and how these could be addressed.
- Mr Murray felt that there had been so many cuts to essential services and that more police on the ground were needed. He felt that when people are allowed to get away with things once they would continue causing problems. He also reported that his experience of 101 had not been good.
- Councillor Watson felt that every crime should be reported and recorded and that people need to keep reporting every issue.
- Mr Murray advised that they were reporting every incident and had videoed some of the incidents. People were also installing their own CCTV cameras.
- Councillor McDougall thought that some of the issues were related to the nearby Safe House whose residents were not from Alnwick. She was also aware that one of the local houses had been empty for about eight months.
- Councillor Symmonds said that the Town Council had good liaison with the police and would report Mr Murray's concerns to them.
- Councillor Broom reported that there had also been a number of incidents over the weekend which the CCTV system should have picked up.
- Councillor Symmonds advised that the CCTV cameras installed by the Town Council should have been picked up the incidents.
- Mr Murray reported that on one occasion an ambulance had been called to an incident.
- C17/95** **Apologies for absence**
Cllrs Aynsley, Grisdale, Harrington and Patience.

C17/96

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Castle and Moore declared a non-pecuniary interest in NCC matters and Councillor Castle declared a non-pecuniary in Item 10. Loan Request from Alnwick Football Club Juniors.

C17/97

Update from Alnwick Medical Group (Dr Graham Syers and Tony Brown)

Dr Sayers (GS) reported that the practices had merged in July 2017 and which had been challenging. He reported that there was work still to be done but that all the staff were determined to make the merger work. The practice currently had two doctors and two nurse practitioners on maternity leave so staff were spread thinly at present, the practice was trying to find two temporary doctors and that a doctor was starting shortly.

Tony Brown (TB) reported that some of the issues they were encountering had been expected. He reported that 60% more patients were being dealt with since the merger which equated to 750 – 900 more patient contacts a week. They were busy than had been expected and that the staff should be congratulated on coping with the merger.

TB reported that three new receptionists would be starting soon to help cope with the amount of calls to the surgery most of which were between 8.00 and 9.30am.

Councillor Allcroft thought that the system where doctors ring you back was superb.

Councillor Watson advised that he always had a good experience when dealing with the surgery. He asked what plans the surgery had to cope with the growing population within Alnwick. GS advised that GPs role were changing so demand means that doctors only see people with complex issues such as the elderly so the ability to know every patient was not like it used to be.

Councillor Castle asked if developers were allocating money for NHS services. TB advised that there might be money available to expand the service.

GS advised that the surgery needed to think long term about general health.

TB advised that staff met at 10.30am every day to discuss patient needs.

Councillor Wearn reported that she had been seen in a very short timescale. She asked if there were any plans to extend the use of the internet. TB advised that telephone demand was currently very high and that the practice would be using the text service from the following week. He added that patients can choose their preferred method communication. He explained that the practice wanted to be a beacon practice. He also explained that a practice newsletter was being thought about.

Councillor Symmonds felt that the team from both surgeries had bonded well and expressed his thanks on behalf of the Town Council.

C17/98

Presentation by Pathfinder Northeast (Gill Barrett and Tracey Young)

Gill Barrett (GB) issued a report on the Project Upskill Northumberland.

Tracey Young (TY) advised that she was liaising with the project to look at youngsters from more angles as she felt that young people were not enjoying work experience every time.

Gill Barrett (GB) reported that the project would be looking at how young people in the local community can be helped with upskilling as this is not available locally. She explained that the natural route for young people was university and that programmes were needed to be able to show them what 'a day in the life of' was really like. She advised that they were looking for funding and that they had spoken to many people including Anne Marie Trevelyan. She welcomed any input or suggestions.

Councillor Castle asked about the current work experience schemes and whether they

were currently available and did they work. GB advised that most young people had to find their own work experience so very often many undertake work experience which is not useful or meaningful.

Councillor Mavin asked how much information the pupils from DCHS were given about opportunities and what information was given to them. GB advised that the level of information given to pupils was not good and was not started early enough in the school curriculum.

TY added that core subjects had squeezed other subjects, including careers advice, to the edge of the curriculum and that they might be allocated one week a year.

Councillor Mavin asked how far the project would be offered. GB advised that the project would be offered from Berwick to Amble. Councillor Mavin felt that the project could be expanded to offer work experience in Tyneside.

GB explained that they had a good network of businesses who were willing to give talks to students but need businesses who are willing to give funding or wider opportunities such as work experience. TY added that the aim was to get businesses to identify potential future employees.

Councillor Castle asked if Pathfinder Northeast was a Charity as this often meant more funding was available. GB advise that it was currently a business but that she had a meeting with NCC the following day.

Councillor Westendarp asked if the project was in fact the careers advisor at DCHS. GB advised that they were.

C17/99

Mayor's Report

The Mayor issued his report to councillors.

Saturday 16th September found me presenting medals and certificates to the children who had undertaken the Summer Reading Challenge 2017 at Alnwick Library. The scheme with the theme Animal Agents, is for children aged 4 – 11 and I am very pleased to report that over 100 children took part in the scheme this summer.

September 17th was the Battle of Britain Service at St Michael's Church.

That weekend turned out to be a very full one for myself as it was also the Alnwick Food Festival which provide a great array of stalls and produce.

October 1st I attended a concert at the Northumberland Hall by the Northumberland male voice choir called "Voicemale" who were performing in a joint concert with the German choir "Chor des Herrn K" who were visiting the area. I was joined for the evening by Nic Best, Mayor of Morpeth.

October 5th I attended the Town & Parish Council conference at County Hall with Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk.

C17/100

Minutes of the Last meeting

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 14th September 2017 were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2017 were agreed as a true record.

C17/101 Matters Arising

C17/89 The Assistant to Town Clerk advised that she had spoken Simon Roberson from BT who had advised that there had been some issues with the new box outside Barter Books this was now in place and Superfast Broadband should be operational across Alnwick by the end of October.

Councillor Castle added that Broadband would be available on the Taylor Whimpey development within 12 months and that this was due to the Town Council.

C17/102 Feedback a) Civic Visit to Time Kommune, Norway b) Parish Council Conference

a) Civic Visit to Time Kommune, Norway - Councillor Mavin reported that the Civic Visit to Time Kommune by himself, Councillor Westendarp and the Town Clerk had been very useful. They had been extremely impressed by the services provided for the residents, the quality of the buildings they visited including a new library, the long-term investment strategy and particularly the enthusiasm of the people they met. A detailed report was distributed to councillors listing several areas they felt Alnwick could adapt and benefit from.

b) Parish Council Conference – The Town Clerk reported that he the Mayor and Deputy Mayor had attended the Conference on October 5th at County Hall. Over 60 Town & Parish Councils attended the conference had a useful market place event prior to the actual conference where delegated had been able to speak to NCC Officers from various departments including planning, public protection and neighbourhood services.

Key points - General:

Core Strategy - following its withdrawal in July discussions are on-going about changes, particularly the proposed new housing numbers. NCC hope to consult on 1st draft in Spring 2018. Until adoption Neighbourhood Plans (where made) will be used along with former District Council plans.

County Hall - NCC confirmed commitment to County Hall and are consulting on options for the Ashington site.

Finances - An independent review of Finances is being undertaken.

Arch and Active Northumberland – reviews will be completed before Christmas.

Precept – unlikely to be local council precept issues arising from the NCC 2018/19 budget setting as NCC are willing to talk about transfers.

Post 16 transport – being reviewed.

Housing Need – new Government Guidance had been issued on the new approach required for Housing Need.

Working together – commitment given to work with Town & Parish Councils.

Local Services:

Each local council has been allocated £1/2m to tackle repetitive potholes

Looking to improve the LTP process.

A 'who's who' has been published to help contacting NCC.

Weed control to be improved by undertaking two visits a year.

Parking studies are being undertaken in 3 towns, including Alnwick. In additional Amble is also being reviewed.

Happy to consider partnership arrangements.

Points made in question session:

Communication could be better in some instances, particularly NCC responding to emails more timely.

Room for improvement on project management of small schemes.

Some but not all local councils had close working relationship with their County Councillor.

Councillor Mavin felt that the Town Council might want to prepare for conversation with NCC about Planning within the Core Strategy covering areas such as roads through new developments for buses.

Councillor Swinbank felt it was important that the Neighbourhood Plan and NCC's revised Core Strategy did no conflict with each other.

Councillor Castle felt it would be good to influence any changes to the Core Strategy early in the process.

RESOLVED: To accept the updates.

Councillor Castle left the meeting for the next item.

C17/103

Loan Request from Alnwick Town Juniors

The Town Clerk advised that this was the first time the request for a loan had been discussed in public. He reminded councillors that the project was for Alnwick Town Football Club Juniors to provide a full sized all weather floodlit artificial pitch, changing facilities, improved playing pitches and car parking at Greensfield. Alnwick. The facilities will also be available to the school.

A Planning Application had been submitted at the end of October.

The total costs of the project was just over £1mill of which £450k had been secured from NCC and £400k from the Football Foundation. In order to progress the project Alnwick Town Council had asked Alnwick Town Council to take a loan for the remaining £190k on behalf of the Alnwick Town Juniors.

The lease is complete and awaiting signatures. Councillors were reminded that:

- a) The Town Council need to apply to the Secretary of State to borrow £190,000 on behalf of Alnwick Town Junior Football Club to go towards their proposed Clubhouse and Changing Rooms at Greensfield.
- b) The Town Council need to do public consultation on the proposed project, this will start next week through a press release and the Council's website. This needs to be submitted with the Secretary of State application.
- c) A report will be bought back to Full Council meeting in December 2017 or January 2018.
- d) The expected building is to start on site, in March 2018.

Councillor Watson asked who would be responsible if the football club defaulted on the loan repayments. The Town Clerk advised that Alnwick Town Council would responsible. He added that the Duke of Northumberland would guaranteed 50% of the loan repayments for 15 years so the most the Town Council would pay would be £6,333 each year.

Councillor Edge asked who had inspected the tender process for the work. The Town Clerk advised that NCC had done this.

Councillor Swinbank asked if the contracts for the work would be signed before the Town Council gave the loan. The Town Clerk advised that the loan was capped at £190k so no additional costs would be incurred.

Councillor Edge asked if any planning comments were made how these might affect the project. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council had made planning comments but at this stage did not know how these might be viewed.

The Town Clerk reminded councillors that the Town Council had been offered a place in the Alnwick Town Juniors board.

RESOLVED: To accept the update.

Councillor Castle re-joined the meeting.

C17/104 Minutes of Committees

Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting (14th September 2017) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14th September 2017 were agreed as a true record.

Minutes of the Cemetery Committee Meeting (21st September 2017) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting held on 21st September 2017 were agreed as a true record.

Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting (28th September 2017) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on 28th September 2017 were agreed as a true record.

Councillor Broom reported that the Recreation & Amenities had recommended to Full Council that the allotment rents for 2017/18 be the same as 2016/17 and that some quarter plots be made available at Ratten Row at a cost of £20 per year.

RESOLVED: To set the allotment rents for 2017/18 the same as for 2016/17 and that some quarter plots be made available at Ratten Row at a cost of £20 per year.

C17/105 Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received since the last meeting:

Date	Detail	Action if any
19 th & 27 th Sept	NLC enews	Circulated to councillors
19 th Sept	CAN – Enews also AGM held on 1 st Nov	Circulated to councillors
20 th Sept	CAB – details of opening hours	Displayed on Notice Board
22 nd Sept	James Matthewson – formation of Hotspur Development Trust	Copies sent to councillors
27 th Sept	NCC – unauthorised obstructions (pavement signs)	Referred to Planning Committee

1 st Oct	NCC – details of Joint NCC/local council meeting on 19 th Oct	Circulated to councillors
4 th Oct	NCC – Street Lighting Update	Copy sent with agenda

Councillor Castle explained that the Joint NCC/local council meeting on 19th Oct was to bring NCC and Town & Parish Councils closer together.

RESOLVED: To receive the correspondence.

C17/106

Financial Matters

a) Payments

The following invoices had been received/payments were due:

PAYEE	TOTAL	VAT	DETAIL
Petty Cash	£100.00	£16.67	Fuel for van (June – Aug) Paid 21/9
NCC	£2081.83	£346.97	Junction boxes to fit CCTV cameras to 4 lighting columns
AGS Security & Security Ltd	£540.00	£90.00	Additional CCTV Camera
J Pibworth	£43.94	£6.49	In Bloom Awards and Civic Gifts
NCC	£172.80	£28.80	CCTV Signage
Madelor Ltd	£40.00	£0	Hosting charge for Neigh Plan website
WR Batey	£146.48	£19.41	Civic gifts £85.01 Painting materials £61.47
Local living	£612.50	£0	Willowburn Unit rent July – Sept
NCC	£12960.00	£2160.00	Planting summer/spring 2017/18
NCC	£469.58	£78.26	Hanging baskets (9)
Glasdon	£183.34	£30.55	Bin lock replacement kits (3)
RBL Poppy appeal	£50.00 *	£0	Poppy wreath
Standard Life	£664.55	£0	J Pibworth Pension contribution Apr - Sept
NFU	£1139.75	£0	WR Batey Pension contribution Apr - Sept
James McLean	£151.32	£25.22	Tools, padlocks, supplies
Petty Cash	£100	£16.67	Fuel for van Sept / Oct
Furnitubes International	£4198.80	£699.80	New fingerposts
J Pibworth	£79.20	£0	Car Mileage for September

Eclipse Translation	£852.00	£142.00	Translation of Town leaflet into Chinese and Dutch
Azure Printing	£132.73	£0	Printing copies of ADNP
NCC	£2268.00	£378.00	Watering hanging baskets
Adam Douglas	£540.00 *	£90.00	Legal fee for Gallery Youth
TOTAL	£27,526.82	£4,431.69	

* Indicates LGA 1972 s137 Expenditure (Total £590).

The Town Clerk also advised that the payment to RBL Poppy appeal was increased to £50 the previous year and asked if councillors wished to do the same this year. Councillors agreed to increase the payment to RBL Poppy Appeal to £50.

He advised that he would like to make grant payments to Alnwick in Bloom (£1265) and Gallery Youth (£1550).

The following invoices were paid by direct debit & were reported for information:			
BT	£34.73	£5.79	Fenkle Street (22/9)
BT	£54.91	£9.15	Cemetery Lodge (28/9)
npower	£48.71	£2.32	Town Hall Clock (10/10)
Nest	£575.78	£0	Pension contributions for September
O'Brien	£82.56	£13.56	Trade Waste Cemetery Sept (14/9)

RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £30341.82 and to note the direct debit payments of £796.69.

C17/107 Appointments

The Town Clerk reported that Councillor Watson had expressed an interest in filling the vacancy on the Finance & Policy Committee.

The Town Clerk also reported that Councillor Westendarp had expressed an interest to become the Town Council representative with Alnwick & Denwick Relief in Need Charity.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Watson to the Finance & Policy committee and Councillor Westendarp as the Town Council representative with Alnwick & Denwick Relief in Need Charity.

C17/108 Any Other Urgent Business

Councillor Swinbank recommended that councillors attend the Planning Training undertaken by NCC as this had been very useful.

Councillor Castle reported that the old DCHS field fire was being investigated and dealt with by NCC and the Police.

Councillor Castle reported that The Maltings was only being used as a marketing name only for the development.

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.

C17/109 PRIVATE AGENDA ITEMS

Exclusion of the Public and Press

The following resolution was moved and seconded, to exclude the public and press.

“That pursuant to Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, on the grounds that if members of the public were present during the discussion of this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Section 100 1 and paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act”. The item discussed was:

1. Approval of the private minutes of meeting on 14th September 2017

RESOLVED: To approve the private minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2017.