

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 10th October 2013 in the Council Chamber, Clayport Street, Alnwick at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs B Grisdale (Mayor), P Allcroft, S Allcroft, P Broom, G Castle, C Goodfellow, D Farrar, M Hewison, P Holt, J Humphries, G Mavin, S Mavin, K Moore, S Patience, R Roberts, M Swinbank and A Symmonds.

In attendance: W Batey, Chief Officer & Town Clerk.

C13/71. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

C13/72. Apologies: Cllr M Harrington.

C13/73. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Roberts, Moore, Castle, Symmonds, Humphries, Farrar, G Mavin and S Mavin declared non-pecuniary interests in the Alnwick Playhouse agenda item. Councillor Castle declared a non-pecuniary interest in county council matters.

C13/74. Update from Alnwick Playhouse

Jo Potts Manager of the Alnwick Playhouse informed Councillors of current developments. She outlined the success of the films live streamings, the refurbishment outside and the establishment of the new cafe. She also explained how the online booking system had been a great success. Future efforts will be directed at delivering an outreach project, upgrading technology, a new boiler and trying to establish young people at the core of the building. After a range of questions the Mayor thanked Jo for her excellent and enthusiastic presentation.

C13/75. Mayor's Report

The agenda papers included a link to the Mayor's diary.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

C13/76. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (12th September 2013)

These were amended to delete Councillor Roberts from the declaration of interests.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th September 2013 were agreed as a true record.

These were agreed and duly signed by the Mayor.

C13/77. Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Referring to Minute C13/63, Councillor Castle informed the Council that county council officers had visited to assess the pavement areas requiring attention and referring to Minute C13/64, explained that it looked like a funding package was emerging for the Community Sports Development Officer post.

C13/78. Community Parking Plan

Councillors had been circulated with a copy of the proposed Alnwick Community Parking Plan. This had been agreed by the Car Parking Working Group the previous evening. Councillors were supportive of the document and the policy outlined. Councillor Symmonds congratulated the County Council administration for giving the local community decision making options.

RESOLVED: To approve the Alnwick Community Parking Plan for submission to Northumberland County Council.

C13/79. Finance & Policy Committee Membership

Councillor Swinbank had asked if it was possible to obtain a seat on the Finance and Policy Committee. He was currently the only councillor who sat on one committee (with the exception of Councillor Castle who does so because of his county council workload). The committee had 12 councillors but Councillors were supportive of creating an additional place.

RESOLVED: To increase membership of the Finance and Policy Committee to 13 Councillors and elect Councillor Swinbank to the vacant seat.

C13/80. Proposed Visioning and Priorities day

The Mayor outlined his proposals for a visioning half day this could look at establishing a successor organisation to the Alnwick Community Development Trust and look at future council priorities and budget requirements. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate suggested dates once the facilitator had given some options. Costs for the event are likely to be modest covering for example room hire and light refreshments.

RESOLVED: To proceed with a half day visioning and priorities day.

C13/81. Procedures for dealing with correspondence sent to all councillors.

The clerk presented a proposed guidance note based upon advice from NALC. Councillors discussed this and Councillor Castle felt that further advice should be taken regarding references to planning predetermination. It was agreed that this be researched and brought back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: Approval be deferred and the matter considered again at the next meeting.

C13/82. Minutes of Committees

a) Planning, Highways and Transport Committee (12th September 2013)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on 12th September 2013 were agreed as a true record.

b) Finance & Policy Committee (19th September 2013)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on 19th September 2013 were agreed as a true record.

c) Recreation & Amenities Committee (26th September 2013)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee held on 26th September 2013 were agreed as a true record.

d) Cemetery Committee (26th September 2013)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Cemetery Committee held on 26th September 2013 were agreed as a true record.

C13/83. Correspondence

The clerk reported that the following correspondence has been received since the last meeting, these were discussed.

Date	Detail	Action
13th Sept	NCC- Handbook of county councillors	Available from the clerk on request
13th Sept	NCC – Changes to NCC website	Available from the clerk on request
13th Sept	NALC - news	Available from the clerk on request
17th Sept	NCC – Tyne and Wear Transport. Bus Quality Contracts scheme	Available from the clerk on request
23rd Sept	M Quinn (Allendale) concerns re NCC Housing Needs Survey	Referred to Housing Lead for Neighbourhood Plan
27th Sept	NCC – Parish Liaison meeting 24th Oct	Mayor to attend
30th Sept	E Sims, Regional Broadband Controller, Information on Fast Broadband for Northumberland	Available from the clerk on request
1st Oct	NCC – Area committee/Parish Council Meeting agenda – 14th Oct	Mayor and Clerk to attend
1st Oct	Community Foundation – Introducing Northumberland's Vital Signs	Available from the clerk on request
8 th Oct	Cllr Jim Fell, Alnwick, Canada request to establishing a twinning link	Agreed

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted and the Council agrees to establish a twinning link with Alnwick/Haldimad in Canada.

C13/84. Financial Matters – Payments.

It was reported that the following invoices were paid under delegated authority given at the last meeting.

HMRC	£1884.40	Tax/NI payment for Sept
Wages Account	£4000	
Northumbrian Water	£41.80	Second half year sewerage charges
Northumbrian Water	£922.57	Water bills Robertson's Fountain, Ratten Row, Cemetery supplies (2)
Alan Symmonds	£60.75	Mileage for area committee meetings in June, July and Sept.
W R Batey	£46.00	Photocopying £9.60, Postage £33.40 Car Parking £3.00
HCI Data Ltd	£130.80	New Website address
NCC	£2040	Footpath re-surfacing Column Field
Alnwick Cricket Club	£45.00	Room for Neighbourhood Plan meeting
Wicksteed Playscapes	£308.76	Play equipment paint and replacement part
Alnwick Young Peoples Assn.	£500	Town Team Contribution to Bus Station art project
TOTAL	£9,980.08	

The following payments are now paid by direct debit and are reported for information		
BT	£75.64	phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge paid 26 th Sept 13
npower	£43.40	electricity Town Hall Clock

RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £9,980.08 and to note the direct debit payments of £119.04

C13/85. Feedback Local Multi-agency Crime Prevention Initiative Meeting

Councillor Moore highlighted the useful nature of the forum to highlight anti-social behaviour issues and outlined that at the last meeting a number of on-going cases were discussed. He also highlighted that road safety matters could be looked at by the group

C13/86. Any Other Urgent Business

It was highlighted that St Michael's Pant was not running although the reason was unsure. Councillor Moore asked for details of the arrangements for cemetery staff to work elsewhere in the town and it was agreed to discuss this at the next Cemetery Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.