

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012 in the Northumberland Hall, Alnwick at 7pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs A Symmonds (Mayor), S Allcroft, J Bell, W Grisdale, G Knox, M Harrington, B Hewison, K Moore, S Patience, J Thompson, G Watson.

**In attendance:** W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk.

### **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the public.

**C11/223. Apologies:** Cllrs E Blakey, G Castle, K Gray, R Roberts, B Thompson, S Walton and R Waddell.

### **C11/224. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Symmonds, J Thompson and Moore declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 12 regarding The Rotary Club of Alnwick.

### **C11/225. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (8<sup>th</sup> March 2012)**

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 were agreed as a true record.**

These were agreed and duly signed by the Mayor.

### **C11/226. Matters Arising not on the Agenda**

Referring to Minute C11/197, Councillor Patience reported that a meeting had taken place with Peter Rutherford (NCC) on a proposed TPO and the clerk confirmed that a request had been made for this to be dealt with urgently. Referring to minute C11/211, the Mayor reminded Councillors that the deadline for the Civic Awards was the 25<sup>th</sup> April. The clerk also confirmed that Inspector Paul Truscott would be attending the next Council meeting (Minute C11/220).

### **C11/227. Mayor's Report**

The Mayor's report for the period 8<sup>th</sup> March– 12<sup>th</sup> April had been circulated with the agenda. The Mayor highlighted the excellent work that went into the finalisation of the Portas bid and thanked those involved.

**RESOLVED: That the report be received.**

### **C11/228. Northumberland County Council Local Parking Issues in Alnwick.**

Northumberland County Council had consulted on parking proposals for the town, these were outlined in a separate paper which has been sent out with the agenda. Councillors discussed the paper and the following points were made:

- Councillors wish to see a fair and equitable parking strategy introduced across the county. Harmonisation of the charging policies does not seem to be receiving a high priority.
- The proposed shoppers permit should be valid in all car parks throughout the town.
- The tariff types would be more meaningful if a level of payment was included. Councillors were very much against any proposed increases in car parking charges and some suggested moving to a scheme of paying based upon the actual minutes a person wished to park. Councillors were interested in how the tariffs would be rolled out county-wide, given that there are currently no charges in many parts of the county.
- The Tariff Type for Pottergate was seen to be incorrect. This should be 'Standard' not 'Premium Plus'.

- Investigation should be carried out to see if more spaces could be accommodated on Pottergate by removing the yellow lines. The parking space adjacent to the Pant on Pottergate should be removed to assist turning.
- Action is required to improve the Roxburgh Place car park and if necessary CPO action taken to secure this.
- There was no support for Sunday charges, these are having a detrimental effect on the town centre. Again, Sunday charges is still an area in which a county-wide policy has not been implemented.

**RESOLVED: that the clerk submits the above comments to the County Council.**

**C11/229. Car Parking in the Market Place – Northumberland County Council recommendation**

Previous discussions at committee have indicated that Councillors were looking for a solution to the current unsatisfactory car parking arrangements in the Market Place. Earlier in the evening, the Northern Area Committee of Northumberland County Council considered a report and a recommendation from officers (the NCC report had been circulated with the agenda), they decided to form a working group which will report back at the end of July and to invite two Town councillors to join it. Town councillors discussed the situation and the merits of a pedestrian only solution or as an alternative, some limited car parking down the side of the Northumberland Hall, perhaps in winter only. Councillors had strong views that any working group should meet in Alnwick and that the results of the Neighbourhood Plan consultation should be taken into account. On a show on hands, the majority of councillors present favoured a solution which saw the Market Place pedestrianised.

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Symmonds and Councillor Moore be appointed to the County Council working group with Councillor Allcroft as the reserve.**

**C11/230. Licence Application – Black Olive.**

Black Olive in Alnwick had applied to Northumberland County Council for a street trading licence, covering the route they are currently doing. As part of the Street Trading Policy the County Council consults with relevant parties, of which one is the town/parish council. The consultation ends on 17th May for this application. The licence was for the sale of food, drink and confectionary and some 12 vehicle stops are identified in the town centre between 9.00am and 9.15am and 12.00am and 1.00pm. Councillors were supportive of this application but felt that if possible, it should be reviewed after twelve months.

**RESOLVED: The Town Council have no objections to the licence application, but suggest that if possible it be reviewed after 12 months.**

**C11/231. Consideration of the introduction of local surgeries for town councillors**

Councillor Roberts had raised the possibility of having surgeries for town councillors. Across the country a number of town councils do have surgeries which are attended by residents and are advertised to the public. These increase the profile and knowledge about the town council and make the council more accessible to the public. This had not been done before by Alnwick Town Council. Councillors discussed the suggestion, some councillors favoured a pilot scheme, whilst another view was that this was too much to expect unpaid volunteers to do. There was general support for events which promote the Town Council rather than perhaps individual member surgeries, with suggestions for perhaps more general surgeries to be held before some council meetings and also for some specific events to be arranged.

**RESOLVED: Over the next six months, the Town Council arranges a surgery before two Town Council meetings and organises two events which can be used to promote the council.**

### C11/232. Minutes of Committees

- a) The Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee (8<sup>th</sup> March 2012) were tabled for approval.

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning Highways and Transport Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 were agreed as a true record.**

- b) The Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee (15<sup>th</sup> March 2012) were tabled for approval.

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 were agreed as a true record.**

- c) The Minutes of the Cemetery Committee (22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012) were tabled for approval.

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the Cemetery Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012 were agreed as a true record.**

- d) The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee (22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012) were tabled for approval.

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012 were agreed as a true record.**

### C11/233. Correspondence

The clerk reported that the following correspondence has been received since the last meeting:

Date	Detail	Action if any
9th March	The Friends of Alnmouth Station request to the Council to sponsor a container on the platform (containers cost £55 and plants and soil £35)	Councillors considered – see below
15th March	NCC – Parking Enforcement Changes	Copies available from clerk on request
19th March	NCC – Local Parking Issues	This was considered on the agenda
29th March	BDO – Notice of annual audit	Clerk to process - information to be submitted by 2nd July.
30th March	CAN News Spring 2012	Copies available from clerk on request
11 <sup>th</sup> April	NCC – Consultation on request from the Rotary Club of Alnwick to name the B6341 from Lion Bridge to Broomhouse Roundabout, 'Rotary Way.'	Councillors considered – see below

Councillors discussed the correspondence from Northumberland County Council regarding the naming of Rotary Way, and whilst acknowledging that this was outside the parish, felt that there were other more appropriate roads that could be named Rotary Way.

**RESOLVED: That the correspondence received be noted. The Council agree to sponsor a container at Alnmouth Station at a cost of £90 and inform Northumberland County Council that it feels that there are other roads which would be better named Rotary Way rather than the B6341.**

### C11/234. Financial Matters – Payments.

The clerk reported that the following invoices had been received for payment:

HMRC	£1,439.37	Tax and NI
Wages Account	£5,500	Transfer to wages account
Northumbrian Water	£570.35	Bill's for cemetery, Robertson's Fountain, Ratten Row allotments (paid 29/3)
NCC	£39	Room Hire Alnwick North – Neighbourhood Plan (paid 29/3)
NFU Mutual	£1,266.28	Pension contribution to clerk for 2011/12 (Paid 29/3)
NCC	£2,475	NNDR bill for Cemetery
NCC	£315.76	NNDR bill for Chapel of Rest
W.R Batey	£269.02	Printer Toner £252.60, £16.42 postage
NCC	£2,343.60	3 extra grass cuts in 2011/12
Northumbrian Water	£40.65	Sewerage Charges, Cemetery Lodge (6 months)
CPRE	£29	Annual Membership
James N McLean Ltd	£43	Boiler Suit and machine repair
Royal Mail Group Ltd	£21.45	Postage Neighbourhood Plan returns
Emma Prytherch	£162	Processing Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires
Argyle Planning Consultancy Ltd	£1,740	6 days (Jan – March) Neighbourhood Plan
Katherine Williams	£1,500	Assistance with Portas pilot bid
A Symmonds	£24.75	Mileage, NCC/parish meeting 12/3 at Stannington (with clerk)
Aon Ltd	£60.55	Additional Insurance
Thomas Sherriff & Co Ltd	£138.43	Machine Parts
St Cloud Bursaries	£300	Bursaries – spring semester (drawn as cash)
HMRC	£600	VAT Payment
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£18,878.21</b>	

The following payments are now paid by direct debit and were reported for information		
BT	£72.78	Phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge Paid 28 <sup>th</sup> March 12
npower	£137.39	Town Hall clock and Robertson's Fountain paid 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 12

It was reported that at the last meeting the Council authorised the payment of £276.50 for the Community Orchard insurance, however the actual figure was £269.26, the difference of £7.24 has been refunded to the Council.

**RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the payment of invoices amounting to £18,878.21 and to note the direct debit payments of £210.17.**

### C11/235. Any Other Urgent Business

Councillor Hewison raised the possibility of the erection of ornamental stanchions/poles in the town centre for the town bunting (and possibly the Christmas lights), rather than being hung along shop fronts, which was less impressive. It was felt that this could not be concluded prior to the Festival of Alnwick, but the clerk agreed to discuss this with the county council planners to get their view.

## **Agenda item in Private**

### **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

The following resolutions 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 these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Section 100 1 and paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act”.

The item considered in private was:

#### **C11/236. Mechanics Institute Update**

The meeting closed at 8.43pm