

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 6th June 2012 in the Council Chamber, Clayport Street, Alnwick at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs A Symmonds (Mayor), S Allcroft, K Gray, G Knox, M Harrington, R Roberts, J Thompson, R Waddell.

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

C12/22. Questions from the Public

Mr McKie and Mr Kim, who operate businesses in the Market Place wished to highlight the need for a workable solution to the parking problems in the Market Place. They both made the point that some parking was necessary and that businesses would go bankrupt if no parking was permitted. Furthermore, they felt it was important for businesses in the Market Place to be given a say. The Mayor explained the County Council Area Committee Working Group was meeting the next day to consider the options and both Councillor Moore and he would be attending on behalf of the Town Council.. He promised to make their views known to the working group.

C12/23. Apologies: Cllrs B Grisdale, G Castle, B Hewison, K Moore, S Patience, B Thompson and G Watson.

C12/24. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C12/25. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (10th May 2012)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2012 were agreed as a true record.

These were agreed and duly signed by the Mayor.

C12/26. Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Referring to Minute C12/18 the clerk reported that the council's insurer had been changed following the receipt of a cheaper quote and the policy had been renewed at a cost of £5057.34. This premium would also be fixed for three years. This was a saving of some £500 over 2011/12 even though additional items were now included in the policy.

C12/27. Mayor's Report

The Mayor's report for the period 11th May– 1st June had been circulated with the agenda. The Mayor highlighted the forthcoming event of the Music Festival Civic Welcome in the Northumberland Hall on 5th August.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

C12/28. Minutes of Committees

The Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee (10th May 2012) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning Highways and Transport Committee held on 10th May 2012 were agreed as a true record.

C12/29. Approval of the 2011/12 Annual Return and Accounts.

Draft 2011/12 accounts had been approved at the last council meeting. The clerk detailed the Fixed Assets to be included and confirmed that the internal audit had been completed successfully. The Council were required to approve the accounts and Annual Return before the end of June and submit this to the external auditor before the 2nd July 2012.

RESOLVED: that the Final Draft Accounts and the Annual Report be approved.

C12/30. Festival of Alnwick Update.

The clerk and The Mayor outlined details of the Festival of Alnwick programme which was due to commence on 9th June and run until 16th June. Copies of the programme were distributed. Councillors were encouraged to support the events and volunteer support would be most welcome. It was envisaged the festival would make a small profit.

RESOLVED: that the update be received.

C12/31. Financial Support for Bus Services.

At the last meeting of the Council the clerk had been asked to look at the consultation document issued by Northumberland County Council regarding bus service financial support. He reported that the 460 service from Ellingham to Alnwick on a Thursday was affected as it had a subsidy per passenger of £9.68. Councillors were supportive of any reasonable measures that would assist in the retention of the service and asked if further information could be obtained from Ellingham.

RESOLVED: Further information be obtained about service 460.

C12/32. Portas Pilot Application Unsuccessful.

On Friday 25th May the council was informed that the Portas Pilot application it made in April, was unsuccessful. A copy of the letter received had been circulated with the agenda. Councillors agreed it was worth reviewing the bid and that this would assist as it went forward into the next round. It was agreed that assistance was required to do this and a budget of up to £500 was suggested.

RESOLVED: To commit up to £500 to amend the Portas Bid for the Round 2 submission.

C12/33. Correspondence

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

Date	Detail	Action if any
10 th May	Woodhorn Archives – list of ATC items deposited in Jan 2009.	Noted
15 th May	Travelsure – 700 bus service to cease from 5 th July	Noted
25 th May	NCC- Street Parking Tariff Structure consultation.	Response required by 21 st June – see below
25 th May	NCC- Consultation on the Local Development Plan Core Strategy and cd.	Drop in events in Alnwick Market – 16 th June, and Sainsbury's 21 st June
28 th May	NCC – information on Love Northumberland Awards	Available from the clerk on request

RESOLVED: That the correspondence received be noted. In response to the Parking Tariff consultation, the council wished to make the point the consultation was of limited value without the actual parking charges and they wished to see consistency across the tariff charges across different locations.

C12/34. Financial Matters – Payments.

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

HMRC	£1683.49	Tax and NI
Wages Account	£5,000	
A Symmonds	£11.70	Mileage Area Committee Rothbury
W.R.Batey	£112.63	Pin Badges £50, Refreshments Town Twinning event £62.63
NCC – Pottergate Pantry	£270	Buffet for Town Twinning Event
Alnwick Markets	£40	Rental of Market stalls for consultation - neighbourhood plan
D Hogg, Black Olive	£157.50	Buffet – Civic awards
NCC	£52	Room Hire Community Partnership
H2Flow	£65	Boiler Service
Diamond Business Systems	£54	Photocopier Contract
Petty Cash	£40.99	Materials

The following payments were now paid by direct debit and were reported for information		
BT	£74.30	Phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge Paid 29 th May

It was also reported that cheques for £5,000 and £250 had been received by the Town Council for the Festival of Alnwick and because they now had set up their own bank account, these payments should be passed to them, less festival costs incurred by the Council. The amount to be paid was £5116.

RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the payment of invoices amounting to £12,603.31 and to note the direct debit payments of £74.30.

C12/35. Any Other Business

- Councillor Roberts highlighted the 4 flower beds adjacent to the Northumberland Hall that had been planted with edible plants.
- Councillor Thompson asked about the location of the electrical stanchions and he was informed these were at present kept by Alnwick Markets
- Councillor Knox asked the clerk to check out reports that Tagish, who had won the contract to deliver the council's new website, had gone into administration.

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:

C12/36. Mechanics Institute Update

The meeting closed at 8.35pm