

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 12th July 2012 in the Council Chamber, Clayport Street, Alnwick at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs A Symmonds (Mayor), S Allcroft, J Bell, K Gray, B Grisdale, M Harrington, B Hewison, S Patience, B Thompson, J Thompson, R Waddell and S Walton.

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

C12/37. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

C12/38. Apologies: Cllrs G Castle, G Knox, K Moore and R Roberts.

C12/39. Fenkle Street retailers' proposals

Gemma Stonehouse from Millhouse Gifts had been invited to the meeting to outline improvements recommended by Fenkle Street retailers. She outlined the low footfall, the unattractive alleyway leading from the Market Place and the lack of signage to Fenkle Street from the Market Place as all being issues. She suggested that when an event is on in the market place it might be appropriate to look to move the market into Fenkle Street. Councillors highlighted the problems earlier in the year that were experienced in getting the alleyway, which belongs to the Freeman of Alnwick, repainted and negotiation with English Heritage would be required. They also stressed the importance of utilising the Chamber of Trade as a voice for the retailers. It was agreed that the dialogue was useful and should continue.

C12/40. Adoption of The new Model Code of Conduct

The Clerk outlined that the 2011 Localism Act introduced new arrangements which regulate the conduct of members of local authorities including parish councils, the registration and disclosure of their interests and how complaints about their conduct will be handled. Notably, the 2011 Act created new criminal offences in respect of a member's failure to register and disclose certain interests and his/her participation in discussions and voting at meetings where these interests arise. The new arrangements came into force on 1 July and a parish council must make arrangements to adopt a new code of conduct, in accordance with s.27(2) of the 2011 Act, to take effect on or after 1 July 2012. A recommended model code for Northumberland parishes had been sent out with the agenda.

RESOLVED: that the Council adopts the Northumberland Model Code and the clerk then puts in place the necessary procedural provisions, to for example obtain an up-to-date record of disclosable pecuniary interests and publicity about the adoption of the code.

C12/41. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Grisdale and Councillor Patience declared a pecuniary interest regarding a payment to be made to Bill Grisdale Design (minute 12/50).

C12/42. Festival of Alnwick Feedback

Paul and Karen Larkin attended the meeting to give feedback on the Festival of Alnwick which finished on 15th June. They outlined the hard work done by the Festival Committee. The festival had proved to be a great opportunity to showcase the town and it certainly created a positive buzz around the town. In particular the local bands, the final ceremony in the Alnwick Garden, the ceilidh in the Northumberland, the Sporting Awards and events, the Town Crier event and the torch event all worked well. On the other hand the weather could have been better and the crowd numbers in the early part of the week were lower than expected. Overall, Paul felt the festival had been a success and it had painted the town in a good light, he indicated that the Festival Committee would meet again to determine if an

event, perhaps for a weekend, should run next year. Councillors praise the efforts, hard work and drive of both Paul and Karen and congratulated them on the way they led the festival.

C12/43. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (6th June 2012)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2012 were agreed as a true record.

These were agreed and duly signed by the Mayor.

C12/44. Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Referring to Minute C12/22, the Mayor outlined that he had attending a meeting of the Market Place car parking working group and consultation would be taking place on the option that was agreed. This was for a limited number of car parking spaces and 2 loading bays. A new Parking Order would be required and it would be enforced by the county council parking enforcement officers.

C12/45. Mayor's Report

The Mayor's report for the period 6th June – 6th July had been circulated with the agenda. The report outlined a busy month of activities which included Armed Forces Week, the Festival of Alnwick and Alnwick in Bloom events. He paid tribute to the work of the Alnwick in Bloom volunteers.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

C12/46. Co-option of Councillor to fill the Vacancy

The Clerk reported that the Council has received one application for the current vacancy in the Clayport ward. The applicant, Mr David Farrar has outlined in writing his reasons for wishing to join the council. His letter had been sent out with the agenda.

RESOLVED: Mr David Farrar be coopted on to the Council and the clerk discuss with him the vacant committee positions.

C12/47. Requests for litter bins and dog bins

It was outlined that requests had been made to the clerk for a Litter Bin beside St Thomas's Workshops and Dog Bins at the top of Oaklands West (Alnmouth Road) and between Allerburn Lea and Oaklands West. In addition, the dog bin adjacent to 1 Upper Barrasdale had been recently vandalised and needed to be replaced. It was also suggested at the meeting that it would be beneficial to have a dog bin installed at the bottom of The Peth and the entrance into The Pastures, although this may need the approval of Northumberland Estates.

RESOLVED: That the town council purchase the litter bin and four dog bins as outlined.

C12/48. Minutes of Committees

a) The Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee (6th June 2012) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning Highways and Transport Committee held on 6th June 2012 were agreed as a true record.

b) The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee (31st May 2012) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 31st May 2012 were agreed as a true record.

- c) The Notes of the Cemetery Committee (21st June 2012) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The notes of the Cemetery Committee held on 21st July were agreed as a true record.

- d) The Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee (21st June 2012) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on 21st June 2012 were agreed as a true record.

C12/49. Correspondence

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

Date	Detail	Action
June 28th	CAN News – Summer Issue 2012	Available from the clerk on request
July 3rd	NCC – Local Transport Plan Programme 2013-14	The Council considered its top 3 priorities for the programme

RESOLVED: That the correspondence received be noted and the LTP priorities be agreed as the a) mini-roundabouts at the Wagonway Rd/South Rd junction and Denwick Lane/Bondgate Without junction, b) road widening and right turn lane at the service station on the A1068 South Road and c) the investigation of the feasibility of pedestrian priority for Narrowgate.

C12/50. Financial Matters – Payments.

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

HMRC	£2341.12	Tax and NI contributions
Wages Account	£8000	
Northumbria Water	£161.47	Cemetery Water Bills (Paid 5/7/12)
Northumbria Water	£534.93	Allotments and Robertson's Fountain Bill's
TDC Waste Management	£1915.68	Trade Waste Charge for 2012/13
D Hogg	£300	Buffet for Armed Forces Day
Rothbury Pipe Band	£250	Armed Forces Parade Band
D Grindle	£165	Internal audit fee
Katherine Williams	£400	Assistance with Portas resubmission
CAN	£40	Fee for accountancy course
W. R. Batey	£167.58	Book Tokens and Mugs Jubilee Competition £107.94; Postage £37.90; Armed Forces Refreshments £21.74
Argyl Planning Consultancy Ltd	£1885	Neighbourhood Plan support
Bill Grisdale Design	£600	Neighbourhood Plan website design
Play Safety Ltd	£453.60	Inspection Reports
Dean Smith	£420	Painting of Cemetery Gates

The following payments are now paid by direct debit and are reported for information

BT	£68.77	Phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge Paid 27 th June
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RESOLVED: a) To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £17,234.83 and to note the direct debit payments of £68.77 and b) to give delegated authority to the Clerk in consultation with the Mayor, to make any urgent payments necessary before the September council meeting.

C12/51. Any Other Urgent Business

- a) The Mayor outlined details of the Charity Ball to be held on October 12th in the Guest Hall of Alnwick Castle, starting at 7pm. Invitations would be following in due course. He also reminded councillors of the civic welcome for the Music Festival on 5th August.
- b) Councillor Grisdale asked what was happening about the Alnwick Ambassadors scheme this year. The Clerk promised to investigate.
- c) Councillor Bell asked if the road markings outside the former St John's School could be removed. The Clerk agreed to raise with County Highways.

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:

C12/52. Mechanics Institute Update

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.