

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2011 in the Council Chamber, Clayport Street Alnwick at 7pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs G Watson (Deputy Mayor), S Allcroft, J Bell, E Blakey, G Castle, K Gray, W Grisdale, M Harrington, B Hewison, G Knox, K Moore, S Patience, J Thompson, R Waddell, and S Walton.

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

### **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the public

**C11/85. Apologies:** Cllrs Roberts, Symmonds and B Thompson

### **C11/86. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Patience and Knox declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 14 (Proposed Bike Track for Gallery Youth Free). Councillor Castle declared a personal interest in any County council matters on the agenda.

### **C11/87. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (19<sup>th</sup> May 2011)**

These were duly signed by the mayor.

### **C11/88. Matters Arising not on the Agenda**

Parking in the Market Place (Minute C11/78) - The Clerk reported that he had had a discussion with the Sergeant Neville Wharrier and he intended to have the issue raised at the next Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group meeting to try to establish a long term solution.

### **C11/89. Minutes of Committees**

#### **a) Finance & Policy Committee (26<sup>th</sup> May 2011)**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011 were agreed as a true record.

Councillor Blakey outlined that there were two recommendations from the committee to full council, these were in relation to reserves and the asset schedule. The clerk outlined that there had been no change to the asset schedule, since the finance and policy meeting.

**RESOLVED:** the Council sets its minimum reserve of 4 months of gross expenditure and a maximum reserve of 8 months of gross expenditure, which for 2011/12 would be £50,000 and £100,000, respectively.

**RESOLVED:** The Schedule of Assets held at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 be approved.

#### **b) Planning Committee (19<sup>th</sup> May 2011)**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011 were agreed as a true record.

### **C11/90. Approval of 2010/11 Annual Return and Accounts.**

The Draft 2010/11 annual return and accounts were tabled and outlined by the clerk. It was reported that the Council must approve the annual return before the end of June and submit this to the external auditor before the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

**RESOLVED: that the Final Draft Accounts and the Annual Return be approved and the clerk be given delegated authority (in consultation with the deputy mayor) to make any final changes, that may be required.**

**C11/91. Alnwick Development Plan Update**

The Alnwick Partnership meeting on May considered the Alnwick Development Plan and the establishment of a steering group. Councillor Watson updated councillors on the proposed composition of the group and the first meeting was proposed for 28<sup>th</sup> June. It was also explained that Peter Biggers had been asked to undertake some initial scoping work on a neighbourhood plan, including terms of reference, meetings with the county council, a timetable, project plan and likely costs. The cost for this initial work would be £500 and would be paid by the Community Development Trust out of the Community Partnership funds allocated to them from the Town Council.

**RESOLVED: that the updated be noted.**

**C11/92. Border Reivers Project**

It was reported that Bailiffgate Museum was looking to undertake a Border Reivers project and Alnwick Community Development Trust was acting as an umbrella organisation for the project. The bulk of the funding (85%) is the subject of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Funding but other funding needs to be secured. The total cost of the project is £21,975 and if the Heritage Lottery Funding is secured a total of £ 3,550 would need to be found. Other potential sources of finance are the Museum and Schools and the Town Council has been asked if it would be prepared to contribute to the project. It was noted that the project was likely to slip into 2011/12. In discussions, Members were supportive of the project and suggested that links could be made with the Flodden 500 celebrations.

**RESOLVED: That the Council supports the project and will earmark £1,000, subject to seeing the final details and also recommends links are made to the Flodden 500 festival.**

**C11/93. Royal Visit Update - 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

Councillors were briefed on the visit to Alnwick on 22<sup>nd</sup> June by Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. The Mayor, The Chairman of Recreation and Amenities Committee and the Clerk had all attended a meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June with other local organisations to consider decorating and getting the town ready for the event. It was agreed by the members and officer present that the town council would be prepared to commit up to £2,000 towards the event, this decision had been taken ratified under emergency powers (the Alnwick Tourism Association had promised £500 and the Chamber of Trade £200). It had been agreed that part of the Council's contribution would go towards the purchase of civic bunting in town colours which will be used in Bondgate Within, in the area identified for the Royal walkabout. This would be installed by Northumberland County Council and volunteers from the Christmas lights Committee. The clerk indicated that the actual net cost to the council was likely to be in the region of £800.

**RESOLVED: Members note the current position and endorse a budget of up to £2,000 being made available to support the event.**

**C11/94. Olympic Torch Event 2012**

Councillor Watson outlined that the Olympic torch was due in Alnwick on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and that this would be a significant event for Alnwick and Northumberland. He outlined that a number of local organisations wish to be involved. A scheme was in operation for individuals to be nominated to carry the torch. Councillors were of the opinion that preparations for the event needed to be commencing and that the Town Council needed to

be involved. The clerk agreed to contact Northumberland County Council to clarify the Town Council's potential role.

**RESOLVED: Councillors note the current position.**

**C11/95. Correspondence**

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

Date	Detail	Action
20 <sup>th</sup> May	NCC- information on Compost Bin scheme	Available at the meeting
23 May	NCC- Planning training events	Circulated to Planning Committee
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	NCC-information that 17 of the Ropery Court apartments are now being advertised	Circulated to Members
6 <sup>th</sup> June	NCC -LOVE Northumberland Awards	Discussed at the meeting

**RESOLVED: That the correspondence received be noted.**

**C11/96. Financial Matters – Payments**

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

HMRC	£887.25	Tax and NI
Wages Account	£3000	Transfer to wages account
Allianz	£1089.68	Vehicle Insurance (paid on 27 <sup>th</sup> May as due on 1 <sup>st</sup> June)
Aon Ltd	£3566.33	Local council Insurance Renewal (paid on 27 <sup>th</sup> May as due on 1 <sup>st</sup> June)
M Weatheritt	£2800	Repairs and Repointing Cemetery wall
Viking direct	£113.74	Stationary
nPower	£85.25	Town Hall clock
W R Batey	£76.20	Printer Cartridge & Armed Forces Day flag
NALC	£533.60	Annual Subscription
AFS Country Store	£24.96	Materials
Greenlay (Grass Machinery) Ltd	£15,540	New Tractor £12,950 plus VAT
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£27,717.01</b>	

The following payments were now paid by direct debit and were reported for information		
BT	£80.37	Phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge Paid 29 <sup>th</sup> May

The Council had also received a request to give for a refund for a grave space (23B/7) purchased in 2005, which was no longer needed. The payment received was £180. It was agreed that a full refund be given.

**RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £27,717.01 plus a refund of £180 for grave space 23B/7 and to note the direct debit payments of £80.37**

**C11/97. Councillor Issues - Proposed Bike Track for Gallery Youth Free Riders.**

Councillor Moore updated the Council on a potential site for a bike track. Northumberland Estates were prepared to offer the site and had suggested that the Town Council should hold the lease for a rent of £50 per acre. It was proposed that the site would be managed by the Gallery Youth Project. Councillors were supportive of the principle but there were a number of issues they wished to seek clarification on; these included insurance, litter collection, shelter, and management and supervision.

**RESOLVED: The Town Council supports the project in principle and refers the matter to the Recreation & Amenities Committee to look at the detail, and report back.**

**C11/98. Any Other Business**

- a) The Help for Heroes charity motorbike ride was due to take place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and at least 40 motorbikes would be riding into Alnwick Market Place arriving at about 1.00pm. Members wished to support the event and a donation of £100 was proposed.

**RESOLVED: To make a £100 donation to Help for Heroes.**

- b) Councillor Hewison enquired about the procedures for dealing with potholes and the list of contacts at county hall. The clerk agreed to investigate

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.