

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in the Council Chamber, Clayport Street Alnwick at 7pm.**

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

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

### **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the public.

**C11/99. Apologies:** Cllrs Moore and Walton

### **C11/100. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Patience and Knox declared a personal & prejudicial interest in item 8a(1) (proposed bike track for Gallery Youth Free Riders). Councillors Castle, Knox, Watson and Allcroft declared personal & prejudicial interests in item 8a(2) (consideration by the Council of the funding request for a trailer). Councillor Castle declared a personal interest in item 10 (car parking strategy).

### **C11/101. Bailiffgate Museum – the next 10 years**

Jane Nolan and Jane Mann attended the meeting and outlined some of the current thinking regarding the operation of the museum. They made the point that the museum is now run entirely by volunteers and this had forced them to consider how they operate. It was important that their programme was attractive and local people wish to come back, time and time again. A bid had been made to Heritage Lottery for a local project which will engage with local communities. Members were supportive of the proposals, and were complimentary about the work of the volunteers and wished the museum every success.

### **C11/102. Olympic Torch Event 2012**

The Mayor welcomed Stacey Bulet and Councillor Neil Bradbury from NCC to the meeting to outline how the Town Council may get involved in the Torch event on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012. They outlined that this would be a high profile event which will showcase the town, and will bring an unprecedented level of national coverage. Alnwick will be one of the smallest towns that the torch is visiting. Details of the venue have not yet been released but the main event will bring a large number of staff and vehicles. They proposed that a task force would be set up to look at the organisation and that the Town Council would be invited to attend the first meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. It was recognised that much local knowledge is contained in the community. Some members expressed frustration at the lack of information so far, and questioned the need for confidentiality on issues such as the route and venue, but were pleased that county council representatives had attended the meeting to brief them. The point was also made that it was important that the town centre was included in any events. Members were keen for the town to be involved and wished to support the event. It was also discussed that it might be necessary to have an informal meeting of councillors and other organisations in August, to discuss ideas.

**RESOLVED; Councillors Symmonds and Blakey to represent the Council on the Task Force (Councillor Knox to be the reserve).**

### **C11/103. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (9<sup>th</sup> June 2011)**

These were duly signed by the Mayor.

#### **C11/104. Matters Arising not on the Agenda**

(Minute C11/90) The clerk reported that following a discussion with the external auditor it was necessary to reinstate the fidelity guarantee to £125,000.

**RESOLVED: The council's fidelity guarantee be £125,000**

(Minute C11/93) Councillor Castle commented that the Queens visit had gone really well and had been a great success for the town.

#### **C11/105. Minutes of Committees**

##### **a) Recreation & Amenities Committee (23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011)**

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 were agreed as a true record.**

1. The council considered the recommendation regarding the Gallery Youth Bike Track Proposal and wished to support the scheme.

**RESOLVED: The Council support the scheme and agree to hold the lease, subject to there being a suitable management agreement in place and no significant insurance issues.**

2. The council discussed the request for a £500 contribution towards a town trailer. Further information had been provided by the Alnwick Community Development Trust, which was circulated. Some members still had concerns about the need and the insurance implications whilst others could see benefits. It was proposed that the £500 contribution be supported, however this was not carried.

**RESOLVED: that the funding request should not be supported.**

##### **b) Cemetery Committee (23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011)**

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 were agreed as a true record**

1. The council considered the recommendation of the committee regarding grave kerb stones.

**RESOLVED: That the policy on the size of grave kerb stones in the infant section of the cemetery, be varied on an individual basis by the clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of The Cemetery Committee.**

#### **C11/106. Alnwick Development Plan Update**

The Alnwick Community Partnership Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had met on 28<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Symmonds and Cllr Watson updated members on the meeting. The steering group had been well attended and terms of reference had been agreed. Following the meeting an opportunity arose for NCC to make a bid to DCLG for Alnwick to be a neighbourhood planning frontrunner pilot, and access funding for the plan. This was against a tight timescale and a bid was submitted with the help of Peter Biggers. A decision is anticipated in mid-August. The next meeting of the group was on 26<sup>th</sup> July.

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

### C11/107. Response to the Car Parking Strategy

Councillor Castle reported that the County Council Executive had considered the Car Parking Strategy and that the proposals did not address issues such as harmonising charges and further consultation was now to be undertaken on the value of the shoppers permit in Morpeth. The strategy had been considered by the Economic, Prosperity and Strategic Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and as a result it had been proposed that the budget and policy framework of the council be amended to include the car parking strategy and that the strategy be then considered by the full council. This was due to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

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

### C11/108. Correspondence

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

Date	Detail	Action if any
21 <sup>st</sup> June	NHS –Taking Therapies in Northumberland leaflets	Made available at the meeting
24 <sup>th</sup> June	Age Concern – Details of Information Days (Alnwick – 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2011)	Noted
27 <sup>th</sup> June	NCC – Northumberland News now available electronically and libraries and TIC's	Noted
5 <sup>th</sup> July	CAN News – Summer Issue	Made available at the meeting

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

### C11/109. Financial Matters – Payments

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

HMRC	£1027.58	Tax and NI
Wages Account	£7000	Transfer to wages account (for July & Aug)
Hampshire Flag Company	£1831.35	Royal Visit 2 Large Union flags, 2 Union flags Hand-waving flags and bunting
NE Banners	£250	Royal Visit - 'Welcome to Alnwick' Banner
House of Hogarth	£50	Royal Visit - Prize for Shop window comp.
Greenlay (Grass Machinery) Ltd	£85	Road Tax & Registration of Tractor
John Gray Ltd	£46.80	Lawnmover Repair
Alnwick Tyres Ltd	£36.00	Tyre Sealant
Northumbrian Water	£656.10	Water Charges, Alnwick Cemetery, Ratten Row allotments and Robertson's pant
Diamond Business Systems	£46.20	Service Charge
Northumberland County Council	£2231.90	Cost of By-Election on 5 <sup>th</sup> May
Playsafety Ltd	£453.60	Play Area Annual Inspections
Rothbury Highland Pipe Band	£250	Armed Forces Day Band
Pottergate Pantry	£206	Armed Forces Day Buffet on 23 <sup>rd</sup> June and biscuits on 20 <sup>th</sup> June
Northumberland County Council	£78	Armed Forces Day – Hire of Northumberland Hall
WR Batey	£34.09	Postage
A Symmonds	£69.65	Mayoral gifts – books
npower	£348.23	Electricity bill - Robertson's Pant
D Grindle	£165	Internal audit fee
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£14,865.50</b>	

The following payments were now paid by direct debit and were reported for information		
BT	££69.01	Phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge Paid 28 <sup>th</sup> June

It is also agreed that the following payments be made for assistance given for Armed Forces Week: Mr R Creasey (bugler on 25<sup>th</sup> June) - £30; Mrs A Harper and Mrs H Slack (help with refreshments on 20<sup>th</sup> June and lunch on 25<sup>th</sup> June) - £30 each.

**RESOLVED a) To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £14,955.50, and to note the direct debit payments of £69.01 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.**

**C11/110 Request for Representative to attend Alnwick Air Training Corps meetings**

Alnwick Air Training Corps had asked if a Town Council representative could attend their meetings. They meet 4 or 5 times a year on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evening at 7.00pm.

**RESOLVED: That Cllr Allcroft be the representative**

**C11/111. Any Other Business**

- a) Requests were received to have 20mph speed limits and parking in the market place (with Inspector Sue Peart invited to attend), as items on the next agenda.
- b) Councillor Knox asked for a 20mph road sign at the bottom of Windsor Gardens to be reinstated as soon as possible. This had been removed as part of the Gentoo redevelopment.
- c) The Mayor circulated details of the civic welcome for the Music Festival on 31st July and the welcome evening on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.