

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 12th December 2013 in the Council Chamber, Clayport Street, Alnwick at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs B Grisdale (Mayor), P Allcroft, S Allcroft, P Broom, D Farrar, G Castle, M Harrington, P Holt, J Humphries, G Mavin, S Mavin, K Moore, S Patience, R Roberts, M Swinbank and A Symmonds.

In attendance: W Batey, Chief Officer & Town Clerk, J Pibworth, Administration Assistant.

The Mayor welcomed Mrs Janet Pibworth, the Council's new Administration Assistant, to the meeting.

C13/105. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

C13/106. Apologies: Cllr C Goodfellow.

C13/107. Declarations of Interest

Councillors B Grisdale, R Roberts and S Patience declared non-pecuniary interests in the Neighbourhood Plan agenda item.

C13/108. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (14th November 2013)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th November 2013 were agreed as a true record.

These were duly signed by the Mayor.

C13/109. Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Referring to Minute C13/92, the Clerk clarified that the Fire Station site was in the ownership of Northumberland County Council although there were covenants on the site in favour of the Duke of Northumberland.

C13/110. Mayor's Report

The agenda papers included a link to the Mayor's diary

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

C13/111. Core Strategy Consultation

Northumberland County Council had released its Housing, Employment and Green Belt preferred options consultation. This runs until 2nd January 2014. At the last meeting Councillors agreed to receive a fuller report at this meeting incorporating comments from the Alnwick & Denwick Neighbourhood Plan team. The Alnwick & Denwick Neighbourhood Plan team were not considering their comments until 17th December and as a result would submit their comments independently. The Clerk circulated draft comments for the Council to consider. He outlined that the document proposed 1,000 new dwellings in Alnwick over the plan period equating to 50 per year on average. It suggested that some new areas of housing will be needed to the south of the town. In addition 5 hectares of additional land for employment use will be needed. Draft comments were made in relation to a number of paragraphs and these were outlined and discussed. In particular, it was agreed that the Council should remain open minded to discussions about a slight increase in the proposed housing allocations. The clerk agreed to reflect the discussions and amend the comments as appropriate and circulate these to Councillors so that any final comments are received by him before Christmas.

RESOLVED: An amended draft be circulated to Councillors and final comments be received by the Clerk before Christmas, so that a response could be made prior to the deadline.

C13/112. Comments on proposed new Fire Station

Following a presentation at the last meeting by the Chief Fire Officer, the Clerk circulated a proposed response to the consultation. This read, "I refer to the presentation to the Town Council about the proposed construction of a new £5m Fire Station on the Lionheart Industrial Estate. The Council understands the rationale for this and is supportive of the proposal, particularly in relation to community use and retention of the Young Firefighters scheme. The current fire station occupies an important site in the town, and the Alnwick & Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Team will welcome discussions regarding potential future options for the site".

RESOLVED: The Comment be agreed for submission

C13/113. Feedback on Meeting with Northumberland Estates

On 26th November the Mayor and Clerk had their regular update meeting with Colin Barnes representing Northumberland Estates. The notes of the meeting had been circulated. Councillors discussed the notes; Councillor Symmonds hoped that progress would be made with the occupation of the Cawledge Filling Station soon, as competition would be good for the town. Questions were also asked about the length of lease that Northumberland County Council has on The Centre at Fenkle Street.

RESOLVED: The feedback be received.

C13/114. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Councillor Patience updated the Council on the community engagement work. This was looking at the publication of the draft plan and the formats required. It was hoped that a video would be produced. A launch in May/June was planned, and a build-up in the weeks prior to the launch would happen in the Northumberland Gazette. Councillors were reminded that a market stall had been booked on Saturday 21st December, 10am – 3pm to maintain awareness of the plan, including key dates.

RESOLVED: The update be received.

C13/115. Minutes of Committees

a) Planning, Highways and Transport Committee (14th November 2013)

Councillor Roberts highlighted that an amendment had been made at the Planning Committee to suggest that for application 13/03279/FUL, the parking provision should be one space per apartment.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on 14th November 2013 were agreed as a true record.

b) Cemetery Committee (28th November 2013)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Cemetery Committee held on 28th November 2013 were agreed as a true record.

The minutes contained a list of the proposed fees and charges for 2014/15, and a recommendation to the council to approve these.

RESOLVED: That the fees and charges contained in the minutes are approved for implementation from 1st April 2014 and inclusion in the 2014/15 budget.

c) Recreation and Amenities Committee (28th November 2013)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 28th November 2013 were agreed as a true record.

d) Finance and Policy Committee (5th December 2013)

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on 5th December 2013 were agreed as a true record.

C13/116. Feedback Local Multi-agency Crime Prevention Initiative Meeting

Councillor Moore informed the council that a meeting had been held earlier in the day and a written note would be produced or an update given at the next Council meeting

C13/117. Correspondence

The clerk reported that the following correspondence has been received since the last meeting, these were discussed.

Date	Detail	Action if any
19 Nov	NCC – letter Development Control moving from Allerburn House to Greenwell Lane	Noted
21 Nov	NCC map of gritting routes	Available from the clerk on request
27 Nov	NALC e news	Available from the clerk on request
28 Nov	Documents from Transfer of Swansfield Park Play Area to Town Council	To be signed
29 Nov	CANNY e news	Available from the clerk on request
29 Nov	NALC Council Tax Benefit Support Grant Update	Available from the clerk on request

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

C13/118. Financial Matters – Payments.

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

HMRC	£1893.86	Tax/NI payment for Nov
Wages Account	£4000	
Argyle Planning Consultancy Ltd	£2030	Neighbourhood Plan Consultancy
Northumberland County Council	£45.17	Relocation of Dog Bin
David Orange	£350	Tree Survey Cemetery
Black Olive	£50	Buffet – Neighbourhood Plan seminar (paid 5/12)
Northumberland County Council	£62.99	Mechanical Sweep of Cemetery Drive
Northumbria Fencing	£420	Fencing St Georges Allotments
WR Batey	£353.50	Printer cartridges £244.80, Postage £108.70
Northumbria In Bloom	£200	In Bloom Entry fee (paid 20/11)
CBS Ltd	£41.50	Envelopes
Johnston Publishing	£178.80	Job Advert
M Weatheritt	£300	Works to Cemetery Wall
Greenlay (Grass Machinery Ltd)	£125.99	Filter Housing
Alnwick Cricket Club	£75	Book Booking – Away Day

John Gray	£184.80	Gate Welding, Hedge cutter repairs
Northumbrian Water	£71.20	Cemetery
Northumbrian Water	£18.99	Cemetery
Parish Websites Ltd	£100	Web Hosting and support
Diamond Business Systems	£54	Service Charge
CBS World	£57.60	Photocopying
Grannies	£60	Refreshments – away day
James McLean	£185.61	Supplies and protective clothing
TOTAL	£10,859.01	

The following payments are now paid by direct debit and are reported for information		
BT	£93.41	phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge paid 28 th Nov 13

The following grants had been approved for payment by the Finance and Policy Committee on 5th December:

Alnwick and District Playhouse Trust	£1,250
Alnwick & District Camera Club	£300
Northumberland Touring Theatre Company	£500
Alnwick Community Centre	£500
Alnwick Branch of Arthritis Care	£125
Alnwick Young Peoples Association	£500
Lionheart Radio & Media	£500
Alnwick and District CAB	£900
Alnwick Civic Society	£250
Hospice Care North Northumberland	£1000
Alnwick & District Sports Council	£350
2 nd Alnwick Rangers	£250
Alnwick Town FC	£350*
Carers Northumberland	£500
Alnwick Age Concern Bowling Club	£250
Alnwick Amateur Boxing Club	£350*
Choysez	£250

The two grants marked with an asterisk were dependent on satisfactory accounts being produced and an additional grant award to RENUIT would be either £300 or £350, depending on the accounts produced.

RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £10,859.01, to note the direct debit payments of £93.41 and to authorise the grant payments.

C13/119. Councillor Issue

Following contact from a local resident, Councillor Castle raised the poor condition of public parks in Alnwick including Swansfield Park and a comparison with Morpeth. The clerk explained that Carlisle Park in Morpeth was maintained and planted by Northumberland County Council as it was regarded by them as a strategic park. In addition, Morpeth spent much more in the town on planting through the Town Council, the Chamber of Trade and the Sanderson Arcade. Swansfield Park and the Column Field in Alnwick were both maintained by Northumberland County Council. In the case of Swansfield Park there had been an opportunity for the Town Council to take over the responsibility and ownership (and

receive an endowment left from the developer) but councillors had concerns about a drainage issue and taking over the lighting and car park. Councillor S. Allcroft highlighted that The Column Field was an Alwick In Bloom priority project this year. In general councillors felt that standards, particularly in Swansfield Park could be higher and it was agreed that the matter be referred to the Recreation and Amenities Committee to investigate.

RESOLVED: That the Recreation and Amenities Committee consider the standards of maintenance in the town's parks and look to see what improvements can be achieved.

C13/120. Any Other Urgent Business

Councillor Castle updated the Council on a) the pressure he was applying to Northumberland County Council to ensure the gutters and drainage at the Northumberland Hall were overhauled and cleaned. It was agreed that the Town Council would also take this up, b) Market Place parking, which was being further delayed due to signage requirements, and c) progress that had been made regarding school crossing patrols at Swansfield Park Road and Howling Lane. The posts had been advertised again, and following recent interviews, it was hoped that appointments would happen soon.

Councillor Roberts raised the need for the remit of the Planning Highways and Transport Committee to be reviewed on the next appropriate agenda.

The Mayor reminded councillors about the Civic Carol service which was on Wednesday 18th December 2014.

Councillors had been made aware that Bruce Hewison had resigned from the Council. The Clerk informed councillors that a Notice of Vacancy would be displayed on Friday 13th December, and the matter could then be discussed at the next meeting depending on if the vacancy was to be filled by election or co-option. The Mayor paid tribute to the contribution that Bruce had made to the Council and outlined that he would be sending a letter of thanks.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.