

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on
Thursday 15th February 2015
in St James Church Rooms, Pottergate, Alnwick at 7.00pm**

Present Cllrs S Allcroft, G Castle, P Edge, D Farrar, W Grisdale, M Harrington, P Holt, J Humphries, G Mavin, S Mavin, K Moore, S Patience, R Roberts, A Shilton, M Swinbank and A Symmonds.

In attendance W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk; J Pibworth, Administration Assistant, Cllr H Cairns.

C14/147 Questions from the public
There were no questions from the public.

C14/148 Apologies for absence
Cllrs P Allcroft and P Broom.

C14/149 Declarations of Interest
Councillor Castle declared a non-pecuniary interest in county council matters. Councillors Grisdale and Swinbank declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 8. Schools Consultation.

C14/150 Minutes of previous meeting (January 15th 2015)
RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2015 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

C14/151 Matters Arising

C14/132 Presentation of proposals for animating Alnwick Market Place – Philip Angier, Local Living Councillor Moore commented that Philip had taken too much time to give his presentation and that a cap should be put on anyone giving a presentation at council meetings. Councillor Grisdale suggested that this be bought up at the Review of the Constitution meeting on February 27th. The Town Clerk confirmed that at the last Recreation & Amenities committee it had been agreed to give £2,000 to the Local Living Leader project.

C14/139 Toilets The Town Clerk advised that he had contacted NCC about the costings for The Shambles toilets and that they had confirmed that they have requested a value for money audit.

C14/142 Alnwick District WWI Centenary Group events The Town Clerk reported that the march through Alnwick on January 31st was attended by the Mayor.

C14/152 Mayor's Report
Councillor Grisdale reported that the Mayor's Report is on his blog www.alnwickmayor.wordpress.com. He reminded everyone that Robson Green's series More Tales from Northumberland begins on Monday February 16th.

C14/153 Minutes of Committees
Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee Meeting (15th January 2015) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning, Highways & Transport Committee meeting held on 15th January 2015 were

agreed as a true record.

Minutes of the Cemetery Committee Meeting (22nd January 2015) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting held on 22nd January 2015 were agreed as a true record.

Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting (29th January 2015) were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on 29th January 2015 were agreed as a true record.

C14/154 Schools Consultation

Councillor Farrar felt it was useful to review this item again after Councillors had attended the consultation meetings.

Councillor Symmonds propose that the Town Council do not make any comments as he felt that a consensus might not be reached. He advised each councillor to read the documents then submit their individual comments NCC. Councillor Castle also felt that the Town Council should wait to make any comments until further information had been received from NCC.

Councillor Roberts informed the council that she had attended the consultation at Swansfield Park First School and that she planned to attend another at the Duchess High School. He felt that the Town Council could make comments based on the comments and views from parents. She reported back on the consultation she had attended – issues that came out of the meeting were areas such as i) was the process happening too quickly; ii) are NCC taking a one size fits all for the whole of Northumberland; iii) whether the schools could afford to undertake the process themselves as NCC have no budget; iv) concerns about staff redundancies especially support staff; v) parents did not feel they had enough information to take a decision; vi) concerns about year 7 and 8 being on the Lindisfarne site.

Councillor Grisdale advised that he had been told that every consultation seemed to have a different focus.

Councillor Castle said he sympathised with Councillor Roberts and felt that feedback from the consultations was useful it could be provided by email.

Councillor Symmonds praised Councillor Roberts for her feedback but advised that there were 17 schools involved in the process that the Town Council needed to get feedback from all of them. He once again proposed waiting until all the consultations had taken place before discussing again.

Councillor Holt advised that she would be attending the consultation event on February 24th and that it was right that Councillor Roberts had given feedback from the consultation event she had attended.

Councillor Patience asked if NCC officers have the time to come out to talk to T&PCs. Councillor Cairns advised that she felt did not have any time or any answers.

RESOLVED: To make no response as a Town Council and that Councillors submit their individual comments to NCC.

C14/155 Magna Carta

The Town Clerk advised the Council that 2015 marks the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta and one of the barons chosen to witness this was Eustace de Vesci of Alnwick. A working group has been set up (from Recreation & Amenities) to look at

how the Alnwick might mark the anniversary and a meeting has been arranged for February 23rd to discuss possible activities. These will include displaying a limited edition facsimile of the Magna Carta at the Bailiffgate Museum and school activities.

Two national events are being held to which Alnwick Town Council are invited:

1. The Lord Mayor's Reception at the Mansion House in London as guests of the Lord Mayor of London May 12th - invitation for 10 people.
2. An event at Runnymede in Surrey on June 15th which 4,000 people are attending - invitation for one person.

Councillor Castle thought that the Town Council should be represented at both events.

Councillor G Mavin suggested that the Town Council should not attend Runnymede.

RESOLVED: i) That the Mayor and his guest attend the Lord Mayor's reception on May 12th as an approved duty, with other councillors (up to eight other people) attending at their own expense, ii) Not to attend the event at Runnymede on June 15th.

C14/156 Proposed Town Spring Clean

The Town Clerk advised the Council that at the last Recreation & Amenities it was suggested that the Town Council organises a Town Spring Clean as in 2014. The suggested date was Sunday March 29th which was the week before Easter.

RESOLVED: To organise a Town Clean up, with its partners, on Sunday March 29th.

C14/157 Correspondence

The following correspondence has been received since the last meeting:

Date		Detail	Action if any
22nd Jan		NCC - Alnwick Bike Track project awarded £30k from sec 106 developer fund subject to permissions etc. being in place. (ATC to hold funding)	To Note
23rd Jan		NALC e-news	Available from the clerk on request
29th Jan		NCC - Road Closure Narrowgate on 18th April - 19th May (likely only on 19th April)	To note
29th Jan	i	NCC – Additional meeting of Town & Parish Liaison Working Group - 17th Feb	Mayor to attend if possible
29th Jan	ii	NCC - Letter from Council Deputy Leader regarding Town & Parish council relationships	Circulated with agenda
10th Feb		NALC - NALC roadshow events - nearest are Longframlington 24th Feb and Embleton 17th March both are 6-8pm. These are free events	Councillors to consider if they want to attend
		NCC - minutes of joint meeting 26th Jan	Circulated prior to meeting

- i The Town Clerk advised that the meeting will be at County Hall from 12noon to 2pm. As the meeting will discuss the review of planning services he will discuss an appropriate attendee with Councillor Roberts.

Councillor Castle asked if the Town Council were going to discuss this. The Town Clerk advised him that, as the letter concerned planning, the issue had been discussed at the Planning Committee earlier in the evening. He advised that he would circulate the proposed response. He also advised that he was not sure the letter was a consultation matter but the Planning Committee had approved the response.

Councillor Farrar explained that the view of the Planning Committee with regard to the proposed response was unanimous and that he did not want the response diluted.

Councillor G Mavin felt that NCC were going against their original thoughts on the matter. He also felt a response from the Full Council would carry more weight. The Town Clerk explained that the response would be submitted on behalf of the Town Council.

Councillor Castle asked if the matter would come to Full Council for discussion. The Town Clerk confirmed that it wouldn't as it fell within the remit of the Planning Committee so had been dealt with there.

Councillor Cairns explained that NCC took the view that Town & Parish Councils were not statutory consultees. The Town Clerk confirmed that T&PCs had never been statutory consultees in planning applications.

Councillor S Allcroft confirmed that she was happy with the Planning Committee decision and response but she would like to see the response.

Councillor Castle advised that he sat on NCC Planning and Audit Committees and that NCC had not made any decisions. He also confirmed that he could foresee issues with this matter.

Councillor Symmonds said he supported either the Chair of the Planning Committee or an appropriate representative attending the meeting.

- ii Councillor G Mavin felt the letter was an example of where the 'locality' issues aren't working.

Councillor Cairns advised that NCC feel Town & Parish Council representatives are not welcome at area meetings. Personally, she was still happy for councillors to attend area meetings.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the communication.

C14/158 Feedback Local Multi-Agency Crime Prevention Initiative Meeting

Councillor Moore reported back that the main area of concern in Alnwick was children riding bikes around the town without lights. The police have been advised.

C14/159 Financial Matters – Payments

The following invoices have been received for payment (as at February 6th); the list will be updated at the meeting, if necessary.

HMRC	£2,083.95	Tax/NI payment for Jan
Wages Account	£5,000.00	
NCC	£150.00	Rent for Fenkle Street, 13/12-12/1 (Paid 28/1/15)
NCC	£1296.00	Watering of Hanging Baskets – part of grant to Alnwick in Bloom
Sanders Plant & Waste Management Ltd	£2734.78	Removal of play equipment and hard landscaping – Glovers Green
NCC	£150.00	Rent for Fenkle Street, 13/12-12/1 (Paid 28/1/15)
NCC	£108.00	Hire of Northumberland Hall for Remembrance Day
Team Valley Webdesign	£499.92	Website Hosting, Feb 15 - Nov 15
Sportsworld (NE) Ltd	£119.60	Materials for Alnwick Recreational Runners (purchased with grant award of £100 net)

St James's Church Centre	£109.00	Room Booking Neighbourhood Plan 18/9/14
St James's Church Centre	£690.00	Room Booking – Council meetings 9/14 - 5/15
Woodsman Arboricultural Consultancy	£1290.00	Cemetery Tree Survey and report and production of Digital Map
Diamond Business Systems	£59.40	Photocopier quarterly service charge
W R Batey	£65.00	£65 Room Booking for video conference with Time Kommune (or twin town in Norway).
TOTAL	£14,355.65	

The following payments are now paid by direct debit and were reported for information		
BT	£77.01	Phone bills cemetery and cemetery lodge paid 28th Jan 2015
BT	£22.30	Fenkle Street phone bill paid 25 th Jan 2015

RESOLVED: To approve and authorise the above payments amounting to £14,355.65, to note the direct debit payments of £99.31.

C14/160 Any Other Urgent Business

Councillor Farrar reminded everyone that the next FOTC (Friends of the Cemetery) was on February 21st when some trees and shrubs will be planted in the new area.

Councillor Harrington commented that the contractors doing the work on the new roundabout in Willowburn had done a really great job. The work had not caused problems and the site had been kept very tidy.

Councillor Castle advised that NCC has identified some money, from their Car Park Maintenance budget, to repair some of the cobbled area outside Taylor's newsagents using a new bonding agent. He also confirmed that more money would hopefully be available next year to do more repair work. Councillor Patience said she presumed that the white lining and signage for footpaths would also be done. Councillor Grisdale asked if the missing trees were being replaced. Councillor Castle confirmed that, although the cones were still there at the moment, the trees were being replaced.

Councillor Symmonds requested that the Town Council's Visiting Policy (e.g. for civic events and town twinning) be added to the relevant agenda for discussion.

Councillor Humphries complained that the Highways Agency put cones out, causing disruption to traffic, but then do not do any work. Councillor Castle confirmed that people can use the NCC website to log problems and enquire about the timescale for the work. Councillor Harrington advised that the traffic lights are cleared at weekends.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm