



**Minutes of a meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council held on Tuesday 2 July 2024  
at East Bedlington Community Centre**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor John Batey  
Councillor Bill Crosby  
Councillor Dawn Crosby  
Councillor Keith Grimes (Chairman)  
Councillor Paul Hedley  
Councillor Keith Scantlebury  
Councillor Len Smith  
Councillor Allan Stewart  
Councillor Rebecca Wilczek

**In attendance:** Ron Thornton – Responsible Financial Officer  
Jenny Tindale – Clerk

		<b>ACTION</b>
	<p><b>PUBLIC SESSION</b></p> <p>There were no members of the public present.</p> <p>Prior to the business of the meeting the Chairman announced the death of John James, Chairman of the Cambois Community Association who had passed away at the weekend after a long illness.</p> <p>The Chairman then paid tribute to Ron Thornton who was attending his last Parish meeting as Responsible Financial Officer. The Chairman paid tribute to the former Clerk/RFO for his fifteen years of dedicated service and in particular he commented on the sound advice and guidance that had been offered to both himself and previous Chairmen. Members present joined the Chairman in a round of applause supporting the sentiments. The Chairman wished him a long and happy retirement.</p>	
<b>CO27/24</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>Apologies were noted from Councillor Jayne Todd (holiday).</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>(i) That the apology be accepted.</p>	

<b>CO28/24</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b> The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7 May and the Full Council meeting held on 7 May 2024 had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting. <b>RESOLVED:</b> <b>That;</b> (i) <b>The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 7 May 2024 be signed as a true record.</b> (ii) <b>The minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on 7 May 2024 be signed as a true record.</b>	
<b>CO29/24</b>	<b>Clerk &amp; Officers Update</b>  A written report was presented to members. The Clerk clarified that the planning application referred to the ellipsoid. The Chairman expanded on the information given on the Railway building. There were no further questions.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> <b>That;</b> (i) <b>The Clerk &amp; Officers update be noted.</b>	
<b>CO30/24</b>	<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS &amp; REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</b> There were no disclosures or requests.	
<b>CO31/24</b>	<b>POLICE REPORT</b>  Apologies had been received from the Neighbourhood Policing Team. A comprehensive written report had been circulated to members. The Clerk reported that Sergeant Rob Morton had been promoted and moved on to Force recruitment. A new Neighbourhood Sergeant had been appointed. <b>RESOLVED:</b> <b>That;</b> <b>The Police Report be noted.</b>	
<b>CO32/24</b>	<b>NCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS</b> There were no reports.	
<b>CO33/24</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>  <b>RESOLVED:</b> <b>That the correspondence be noted.</b>	
<b>CO34/24</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>  <b>RESOLVED:</b> <b>That;</b>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) That the determinations be noted</li> <li>(ii) That the Council supports applications 24/01855/FUL and 24/01855/LBC in respect of the installation of a mooring bollard and associated works</li> <li>(iii) That no objections be raised in respect of application 24/02076/FUL.</li> </ul>	Clerk
CO35/24	<p><b>FINANCE REPORT</b></p> <p>The Chairman presented a suite of reports: It was noted that the IT budget will be challenged with upgrades to the computers required in 2025. The RFO also commented that the proposed changes to Financial Regulations were considerable, should the Council wish to adopt them.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> That the,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Schedule of receipts and payments be approved.</li> <li>(ii) Cleared balances as of 30 June of £368,894.75 be noted.</li> <li>(iii) Budget report be noted.</li> <li>(iv) Detailed Income and expenditure for the month ended 30 June 2024 be noted.</li> <li>(v) Balance Sheet for the month ended 30 June 2024 be noted.</li> <li>(vi) Financial Regulations be reviewed in line with the outcome of the policy review meeting planned for 27 August 2024.</li> </ul>	
CO36/24	<p><b>WORKING GROUPS</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That members receive;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Minutes of the Staffing Committee held 28 May 2024.</li> <li>(ii) Minutes of the Events Working Group held 10 June 2024.</li> <li>(iii) Minutes of the Services Working Group held 18 June 2024</li> <li>(iv) Minutes of the Finance &amp; General Purpose Working Group held 25 June 2024</li> </ul>	
CO37/24	<p><b>POLICIES</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) That completion of reviews of the following HR policies be noted; Disciplinary, Annual Leave, Performance Improvement, Sickness &amp; Absence, Grievance, Annual leave, Whistle Blowing, Anti-bullying, and Lone Working.</li> </ul>	

	(ii) The investment Strategy as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Working Group be adopted.	
<b>CO38/24</b>	<b>MATTERS FOR DECISION</b>  <b>RESOLVED:</b> <b>Members resolved that:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The Parish Council accepts the recommendation of the Services Working Group and appoints Wicksteed to supply replacement play equipment in Heritage Gardens and a new goal mouth area.</li> <li>(ii) Approval be given to upgrade the Council's website</li> <li>(iii) Approval be given to replace the Council's email service provider</li> <li>(iv) Widescope be appointed to undertake the upgrade to the website and email provision.</li> <li>(v) Hugh Massey Architects be appointed to undertake a feasibility study, produce concept design and project plans in relation to the Railway building, Bedlington Station.</li> <li>(vi) Delegated authority be given to the RFO to invest funds with CCLA in keeping with the Secretary of State guidance S15(1), LGA 2003. That the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Chair of the Council in addition to the RFO be authorised signatories for the purpose of making deposits and withdrawals from the fund.</li> </ul>	
<b>CO39/24</b>	<b>SMALL GRANTS &amp; DONATIONS</b> Members considered the recommendations of the Finance & General Purposes Working Group. <b>RESOLVED:</b> <b>That,</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) A grant of £250 be awarded to Bedlington Brass.</li> <li>(ii) That the Parish purchase 10 tickets @ £12 per ticket to enable young residents of the Parish to attend a production of Facing the Waves 5 October 2024.</li> </ul>	
<b>CO40/24</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>  Tuesday 3 September 2024	

**Signed:** ..... **Chairman**    **Date:** .....