



**Minutes of a meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 September 2024
at East Bedlington Community Centre**

PRESENT:

Councillor Dawn Crosby
Councillor Keith Grimes (Chairman)
Councillor Paul Hedley
Councillor Keith Scantlebury
Councillor Len Smith
Councillor Allan Stewart
Councillor Jayne Todd
Councillor Rebecca Wilczek

In attendance: Ron Thornton – Responsible Financial Officer
Jenny Tindale – Clerk
5 members of the public

		ACTION
	PUBLIC SESSION A resident of Heritage Gardens who had already corresponded with the Council, made a representation to further highlight her objections to the addition of new play equipment in Heritage Gardens Play Area. The Chairman explained the Parish Council position. Councillor Wilczek added that in her capacity as County Councillor, she had received numerous requests to improve the facilities from families living on the estate. The Chairman advised the complainant that the railway line would not have increased traffic as the proposed Northumberland Line ran in the opposite direction. He further advised that following the issue of the newsletter other matters had come to light in the development phase which may require the play equipment to be upgraded on the original tarmac site. The members would conduct a site visit and discuss the matter at the next Services Working Group.	
	PRESENTATION Geoff Crowe from Citizens Advice Bureau delivered a presentation on the Winter Fuel Payments and other benefits that may apply to residents of pensionable age who do not qualify for the Winter Fuel payment. Answering question from a member he confirmed that applications for support had increased and demand for advice would be something that will be monitored over the coming months. He advised other attendees who commented that their private pensions	

	<p>prevented them from receiving the payment to check with his team of advisors to see if they were eligible for other benefits.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked him for his very informative presentation.</p>	
CO41/24	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Councillor John Batey (holiday), Councillor Grant Ward (illness), Councillor Bill Crosby (work commitments).</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(i) That the apologies be accepted.</p>	
CO42/24	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>(i) The minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on 2 July 2024 be signed as a true record.</p>	
CO43/24	<p>Clerk & Officers Update</p> <p>A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk expanded on all matters raised with particular attention given to matters requiring a resolution from Members.</p> <p>section 2 refurbished coal tub - members were requested to put forward suggestions for a plaque to identify the commemorative importance of the coal tub.</p> <p>Section 7 Website & emails confirmation of detailed costs and options for the agreed improvements to the email and website provision minute CO38/24, July 2024 were presented for members to approve.</p> <p>Section 9 Cambois Wheel – It was noted that the shrubbery had now become overgrown making access somewhat difficult. The original planting scheme requires replacing to create a more manageable site. There has been no recent update from the Banks Group and it was considered prudent to check where they are with their plans before the Council commits to any significant expenditure. It was suggested that the Cambois Coomunity Association could be approached to see if they wanted to contribute to an upgrade.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the officer for her report.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;:</p> <p>(i) A plaque identifying the mine, date of operation and number of miners employed be affixed to the refurbished coal tub.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>(ii) The recommendations put forward in quotation 5219 be accepted in full.</p> <p>(iii) The clerk to instruct Birch Landscapes to clear off the overgrown shrubbery around the Cambois wheel.</p> <p>(iv) Clerk to contact Cambois Community Association to establish if they would be prepared to joint fund a restoration project.</p> <p>(v) The Clerk & Officers report be noted.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
CO44/24	<p>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</p> <p>There were no disclosures or requests.</p>	
CO45/24	<p>POLICE REPORT</p> <p>Apologies had been received from the Neighbourhood Policing Team. A written report had been circulated to members. It was specifically noted that the Police were keen to receive reports of motorcycle nuisance.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That; The Police Report be noted.</p>	
CO46/24	<p>NCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS</p> <p>County Councillor Alex Wallace submitted a written report requesting members to note any paving areas which require replacing that he may be able to support through his Members Local Improvement Scheme.</p> <p>The Chairman requested members permit Councillor Rebecca Wilczek to give a verbal report.</p> <p>In her report she advised that she had been able to fund £1000 towards the cost of CCTV in Gallagher Park and fund a replacement seat. The road safety scheme on Rothesay/ Victoria Terrace is now out for consultation and will greatly improve sight lines. She commented that there had been a discussion between herself and Councillor Wallace to fund a part time youth worker to be based at East Bedlington Community Centre. Further to the discussion it was noted that Pride Action North will be commencing detached youth work from the Centre on 6 September. It was felt that learning be taken from the new sessions to inform if and how they could best support youth worker provision going forward.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the reports be noted</p>	
CO47/24	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>A member enquired with regard to item 527 it was confirmed that the TTRO referred to the original work planned for Burnside Estate</p>	

	<p>The Clerk drew members attention to 546 and advised that she was unaware of any legislation in relation to professional dog walkers but that the increased number of dogs arriving in vans and turned out without leads would appear to be causing some tensions in Cambois and North Blyth.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.</p>	
CO48/24	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the recommendations made by the Planning and Economic Regeneration Working Group be supported.</p>	Clerk
CO49/24	<p>FINANCE REPORT</p> <p>The Chairman presented the suite of reports:</p> <p>RESOLVED That the,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Schedule of receipts and payments be approved. (ii) Cleared balances as of 30 August of £302289.14 be noted. (iii) Budget report be noted. (iv) Detailed Income and expenditure for the month ended 30 August 2024 be noted. (v) Balance Sheet for the month ended 30 August 2024 be noted. 	
CO50/24	<p>WORKING GROUPS</p> <p>Minutes of the working groups held since the last full council meeting were circulated for information.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That members receive;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Minutes of the Events Working Group held 9 July 2024. (ii) Minutes of the Staffing Committee held 13 August 2024 (iii) Minutes of the Services Working Group held 20 August 2024 (iv) Minutes of the Planning & Economic Regeneration Working Group held 27 August 2024 	
CO51/24	<p>POLICIES</p> <p>A revised Flexible Working Policy prepared by the Staffing Committee had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That; The Flexible Working Policy be adopted.</p>	
CO52/24	CONCLUSION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT	

	<p>The Conclusion of Audit had been circulated prior to the meeting members noted that there were no matters for concern and that the recommendations regarding procurement of a .gov.uk email addresses had already been actioned by the Clerk.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Conclusion of Audit be received and the statement of accounts published. (ii) The rights of inspection are conferred on local government electors by section 25 of the Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014. (iii) Public notice confirming the address and hours during which those rights may be exercised to be published in the noticeboard and on the Parish Website. 	
CO54/24	<p>MATTERS FOR DECISION</p> <p>RESOLVED: Members resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Parish Council accepts the recommendation of the Planning & Economic Regeneration working group and withdraws all active projects in relation to the former Library Buildings. (ii) The Clerk resumes the role of RFO (iii) The Council sponsor a table at a cost of £100 for the Pride Action North Progression Ball. 	
CO55/24	<p>SMALL GRANTS & DONATIONS</p> <p>Members considered the recommendations of the Finance & General Purposes Working Group.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A grant of £250 be awarded to Bedlington Brass. (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. 	
CO56/24	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Tuesday 5 November 2024</p>	

Signed: Chairman Date: