



PRESENTATIONS.

- Victoria Thompson 1541 Constable Neighbourhood Policing presented the latest local crime report to the meeting and answered questions. The Council thanked Constable Thompson for her attendance.

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- A resident asked if the Town Council had in lieu of its “level of reserves” either a Medium-Term Financial Plan or any major capital programmes planned. The Chair replied that the Town Council did not have either. The Town Clerk added that the Town Council had an approved policy of the level of reserves, and this was available online on the Town Councils website.

PART A - ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Min Ref		Attendance / Apologies and Declarations of Interests.	Determination
22/026		In Attendance	Councillors Crosby, Hedley, Hogg, Reed, Taylor, Thompson, Todd, D Wallace, and R Wallace. Town Clerk Steven Young, and 7 (Seven) members of the public.
22/027	a.	Apologies for Absence. i. To receive and note any apologies for absence from Councillors ii. To consider and determine any dispensations for absent Councillors.	i. There were no apologies for absence, all Councillors were present. ii. There were no dispensations for absence for this meeting.
22/028	b.	Declaration of Interests. i. Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 12th July 2012. ii. To consider any requests for dispensations.	i. Councillor R Wallace made a declaration of interest in relation to Agenda item Part B 2c. Funding of Bedlington Food Banks - Review. The Matthew Project. ii. No dispensations for this meeting.

PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS / SUMMARY OF DELEGATED DECISIONS

		Details of Meeting or Delegated Decisions	Determination
22/029	a.	To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 10th February 2022	RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 10 th February 2022 are APPROVED as a true record.
22/030	b.	To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting that are not included as agenda items.	<p>Min 22/020 Correspondence Ref 213 Bedlington In Bloom - Councillor Hedley asked if a date had been agreed to meet with representatives of the residents group. The Clerk responded advising that he had not to date received a reply to his invitation to meet with the group.</p> <p>Min 22/024 Matters for Information – Councillor R Wallace asked if Councillor Hogg had received a response in relation to his enquiry about an accident at the entrance to the Longridge Estate. Councillor Hogg responded that he has not had an opportunity to make the enquiry to date but would do so.</p> <p>Min 22/024 Matters for information – Councillor Todd advised that a tree blocking the Gallagher Park pathway had now been removed.</p> <p>Min 22/025 Matters for information – Councillor Thompson advised the meeting that due to overwhelming personal commitments she had been unable to contribute to Council matters as much as she had wanted recently and informed the meeting that she was withdrawing from all of its working group until further notice.</p>

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

		Matters for Discussion / Decision	Determination
22/031	a.	Internal Audit. The Council are requested to NOTE the Internal Auditors report for February 2022. (Distributed to members).	1. RESOLVED to NOTE The Internal Auditors report distributed.
22/032	b.	Annual Meeting of The Town. The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon a date and format for the 2022 Annual Meeting of The Town. “The Annual Parish or Town Meeting is not a council meeting. It is a meeting of the Parish or Town electors taking place between 1 March and 1 June. Electors can contribute to the agenda and in practice these meetings often celebrate local activities and debate current issues in the community”.	RESOLVED to host the 2022 Annual Meeting of The Town on Thursday 21 st April 2022 (subject to room and presenters’ availability) – The theme of the evening to be The Northumberland Line with invitations sent to organisations who can present to residents on the lines past, present and future.
22/033	c.	Funding of Bedlington Food Banks - Review. 1. The Council are requested to discuss, review, and decide upon any financial support to: i. Bedlington Salvation Army. ii. Bedlington Matthew Project. iii. Wansbeck Valley Food Bank.	1. RESOLVED to set aside a £500 donation for each of the 3 food banks for February 2022 – to be released upon receipt of an individual request from each food bank.

		<p>2. The Council are requested to discuss and determine next review dates for the funding of Bedlington Food Banks.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bedlington Salvation Army. Bedlington Matthew Project. Wansbeck Valley Food Bank. <p>Any approved funding would be in respect of a S137 payment.</p>	<p>2. RESOLVED to review on-going donations on a month-by-month basis. Any approved funding would be in respect of a S137 payment.</p>
22/034	d.	<p>Funding Applications / Proposals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Funding Support. The Council are asked to discuss and decide upon a request for funding to support Citizens Advice Northumberland. (Request and correspondence distributed to members). Pupils Fund Application. The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon a "Pupils Fund" application from St. Bedes Catholic Primary School. (Bid distributed to members). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DEFERRED to enquire how any approved funding would be spent in West Bedlington exclusively and to ask if a local hub could be reintroduced within Bedlington periodically to provide local support. RESOLVED to APPROVE the application from St Bedes Catholic Primary School and award £1,500.
22/035	e.	<p>External Meetings</p> <p>To receive feedback from Councillors from any external meetings since the date of the last Council meeting.</p>	<p>The Clerk and Councillor Hogg recently visited a CCTV provider and will feed back to members at the next Services Committee Meeting.</p>
22/036	f.	<p>Queens Platinum Jubilee</p> <p>The Council are asked to debate and decide upon the making of financial provisions within its reserves, for the supply of Platinum Jubilee commemorative merchandise, together with the possible delegation of the purchase to an individual member or small group of members to provide the same within any agreed budget for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bedlington First School Pupils Bedlington Street Party Organisers Any other group(s) determined by members. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> RESOLVED to DELEGATE Councillor Thompson to choose commemorative merchandise with a budget of £5,000. RESOLVED to DELEGATE Councillor Thompson to choose commemorative merchandise with a budget of £2,500. DEFERRED to gather ideas and suggestions.
22/037	g.	<p>Easter Egg Hunt</p> <p>The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon a proposal to provide an Easter Egg Hunt for Bedlington school children (Proposal distributed to members) Councillor D Wallace.</p>	<p>RESOLVED to APPROVE the proposal and expected expenditure (£200) to provide an Easter Egg Hunt for Bedlington school children,</p>
22/038	h.	<p>Events Online Booking System</p> <p>The Council are asked to discuss and decide upon the purchase of an online events booking system to be placed upon the Councils website together with a payment system for bookings via PayPal. The Council has already provided within its annual budget a provision of £550 for an online booking system. (Details distributed to members)</p>	<p>RESOLVED to APPROVE the purchase of an online events booking system at a cost of £550 together with a PAYPAL account to facilitate booking payments.</p>
22/039	i.	<p>Flying of Ukraine Nation Flag</p> <p>The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon a request to fly the Ukraine Nation Flag as a symbol of The Towns support for Ukraine and its citizens. (Request distributed to members).</p>	<p>RESOLVED to APPROVE the flying of the Ukraine Nation Flag as a symbol of The Towns support for Ukraine and its citizens.</p>
22/040	j.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion). Services Committee.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> War Memorial - Deferred agenda item from the Services Committee meeting of 24th February 2022 - The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon quotes for the "resetting" of the surround kerbs on the upper level of the War Memorial. (Quotes distributed to members). The Working Group Chair (Councillor Hogg) will provide a verbal report of the meeting decisions. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> RESOLVED to accept a quote from Spring View Landscaping for the "resetting" of the surround kerbs on the upper level of the War Memorial. The Committee Chair Councillor Hogg provided a verbal update of the

			decisions made at the latest Services Committee meeting.
22/041	k.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion). Governance and Staffing Working Group.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations from Working Group for decision by full Council. The Council are requested to discuss and decide what course of action to take, if any, regarding the advice received from NALC in respect of the funding / sponsorship / donation of funds to individuals. (Advice distributed to members). Any Other Items from the Working Group Meeting (not for decision) – The Working Group Chair (Councillor Crosby) will feedback to the Council any other items discussed, any ongoing and future matters been worked upon by the working group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> RESOLVED to accept the legal advice provided and not to make any future funding payments (S137) to individuals. No updates for this meeting.
22/042	l.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion). Events Working Group</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations from Working Group for decision by full Council. None for this meeting. Any Other Items from the Working Group Meeting (not for decision) - The Working Group Chair (Councillor Reed) will feedback to the Council any other items discussed, any ongoing and future matters been worked upon by the working group. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No recommendations for this meeting. Group Chair Councillor Reed provided a verbal update in relation to ongoing enquiries about preparations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee Event and Beacon Trail. Councillor Taylor confirmed the Council was still waiting on authorisations from NCC re the Easter Event at Attlee Park. Councillor Hogg asked for reassurances that previous agreed event costs would not escalate in view of the recent changes in fuel costs.
22/043	m.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion). Communications Working Group</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations from Working Group for decision by full Council. None for this meeting. Any Other Items from the Working Group Meeting (not for decision). Chair (Councillor Reed) will feedback to the Council any other items discussed, any ongoing and future matters been worked upon by the working group. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No recommendations for this meeting. Working Group Chair Councillor Reed asked members for any contributions for the next edition of the e-newsletter as soon as possible.
22/044	n.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion). Neighbourhood Plan Working Group</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations from Working Group for decision by full Council. None for this meeting. Any Other Items from the Working Group Meeting (not for decision) Chair (Councillor Hogg) will feedback to the Council any other items discussed, any ongoing and future matters been worked upon by the working group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No recommendations for this meeting. The Working Group Chair Councillor Hogg advised that the group was soon to meet with a technical support team to help with the creation of “design codes”.
22/045	o.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion). Finance Working Group</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations from Working Group for decision by full Council. None for this meeting. Any Other Items from the Working Group Meeting (not for decision) Chair (Councillor R Wallace) will feedback to the Council any other items discussed, any ongoing and future matters been worked upon by the working group. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No recommendations for this meeting. No updates for this meeting.
22/046	p.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion). Youth Support Programme Working Group</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations from Working Group for decision by full Council. None for this meeting. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> None for this meeting.

	<p>Any Other Items from the Working Group Meeting (not for decision) The Working Group Chair (Councillor Thompson) will feedback to the Council any other items discussed, any ongoing and future matters been worked upon by the working group.</p>	<p>Councillor D Wallace provided a verbal update in relation to Jubilee Games preparations, Theatre Group Open Day and she was to contact Bedlington Salvation Army to avoid a duplication of Easter Egg Hunts on the same day.</p>								
22/047	<p>q. Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion). Planning Working Group 1. Planning Applications – Considered by Planning Working Group - Where Comments Have Been Requested.</p> <p>After considering any recommendation of its Planning Working Group, The Council are asked to discuss and decide if it wishes to make any comments in relation to the Planning applications received for comment.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="296 593 992 889"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ref.</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Response Due Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>22/00428/FUL</td> <td>Detached garage with first floor space within roof void Location 80 Windsor Gardens Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5SY</td> <td>9th March 2022.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note: recent notified planning decisions and other planning applications (where comments have not been requested) are shown in PART C for information only).</p>	Ref.	Description	Response Due Date	22/00428/FUL	Detached garage with first floor space within roof void Location 80 Windsor Gardens Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5SY	9th March 2022.	<table border="1" data-bbox="1046 593 1497 889"> <thead> <tr> <th>Determination</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No Comment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Determination	No Comment
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PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR TO BE NOTED

		Matters for Information or To Be Noted	
22/048		<p>RESOLVED to NOTE Section's a, b and c. Correspondence, Consultations and Invitations and the actions taken for each detailed below. Section d, Schedule of payments and receipts Section e, Other planning applications Note section f is not part of the agenda and is included for information only.</p>	
	a.	Correspondence.	
		Ref	From
		Brief Description	Action Taken
		242	SENUG
			Updates & Change of Date for Next Public Meeting
		243	NCC
			EMG TTRO 127472943 Front Street East Side Road Bedlington
		244	Historical Promotions and Event Management
			Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Day and Military Events and Air Shows 2022
		245	Bedlington Resident
			2022/23 Precept
		246	Bedlington Resident
			Hanging Baskets
		247	King Ramps Events Ltd
			King Ramps Skatepark community events 2020
		248	Bedlington Resident
			Request to move Council Meetings to assist greater social distancing.
		249	Bedlington Resident
			9 x Updates re - Planning application 21/02754/FUL
		250	Walking in England
			Article for future Newsletter
		251	NALC
			Enews 9 February 2022
		252	Historical Promotions and Event Management
			The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Entertainment Programme (Four Day Bank Holiday Weekend) 2nd - 5th June 2022
		253	Bedlington Community Allotment
			Note of Thanks for Community Chest Donation.
		254	NCC
			Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley LAC – Agenda
		255	Bedlington Resident
			Provision of Jubilee Boxes
		256	NCC
			2 x updates Town and Parish Council Briefing from NCC - Storms Dudley and Eunice
		257	NALC
			Member Council Update 16 February 2022
		258	St Bede's Catholic Primary School
			West Bedlington Town Council - Pupils Fund
		259	Northern Powergrid
			4 x Northern Powergrid updates for Storms Dudley and Eunice
		260	Bedlington Resident
			Bedlington Red lion roundabout crossing accident
		261	NALC
			Enews 18 February 2022
		262	Bedlington Resident
			Update from community chest funding recipient
		263	Bedlington Resident
			Bedlington Roads and footpaths
		264	NCC Countryside and Green Spaces
			Tree Replanting - Hartlands, Bedlington
		265	NALC
			Enews 24 February 2022
		266	Northumberland Age Concern
			Request to promote service via Council Newsletter
		267	Northumberland Citizens Advice
			Request for Funding Support
		268	NALC
			Member Council Update - The Armed Forces Covenant

	b.	<p>Consultations.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>From</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Details</th> </tr> <tr> <td>None For This Meeting</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	From	Description	Details	None For This Meeting																																																				
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22/050	g.	<p>Police Report. RESOLVED to NOTE the Police Report presented for this meeting. The next scheduled regular report is for June 2022 meeting.</p>																																																								
22/051	h.	<p>Financial Update / Bank Reconciliation.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Bank Reconciliation</p> <p>I. The Council are asked to note a checked bank reconciliation of £263,847.42 as of 28th February 2022 and a Deposit Account Balance of £100,452.56 as of 28th February 2022.</p> <p>Note re Bank Reconciliation– In accordance with revised Statement of Internal Controls Councillor Todd as the nominated member has independently verified the monthly bank reconciliation.</p> </td> <td> <p>The Council NOTED the bank reconciliation.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Bank Reconciliation</p> <p>I. The Council are asked to note a checked bank reconciliation of £263,847.42 as of 28th February 2022 and a Deposit Account Balance of £100,452.56 as of 28th February 2022.</p> <p>Note re Bank Reconciliation– In accordance with revised Statement of Internal Controls Councillor Todd as the nominated member has independently verified the monthly bank reconciliation.</p>	<p>The Council NOTED the bank reconciliation.</p>																																																						
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22/052	i.	Matters for Information Only	
		Any matters that members would like to bring to the attention of other members and residents. For Information only no proposals or voting on these matters.	
		Councillors	<p>Councillor Hogg agreed to attend the Planning Committee meeting at 4pm on 23 March 2022. Re Planning application 21/04021/FUL 86 - 88 Front Street East Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5AB</p> <p>Councillor Hogg – Agenda item request for next meeting – Audio recordings of future Council meeting to be available on YouTube – Councillor Proposal Form to follow.</p> <p>Councillor Taylor read a personal statement outlining her disappointment and sadness of the performance of the Town Council and some of its members over the past 12 months and indicated her intention to resign from the Town Council.</p>
Town Clerk	Reminded members of his annual leave on Wednesday 6 th April 2022		
22/053	j.	<p>Meeting Close and Date of Next Meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED the next scheduled meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 14th April 2022 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.</p> <p>The agenda for this meeting is slightly later than normal and will be issued on Thursday 7th April 2022 to account for The Clerks annual leave.</p> <p>The Chair closed the meeting at 7.53pm</p>	

WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL - COUNCILLORS:

Bill Crosby, Paul Hedley, Adam Hogg, Wendy Reed, Christine Taylor, Victoria Thompson, Jayne Todd, Di Wallace, and Russ Wallace.

Signed by Chair

Date