

**Minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.
On Thursday 12th October 2023 at 6.30pm.**



**WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL**

PRESENTATIONS.

- There were no presentations for this meeting.

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- A resident asked for an update on the provision of new bus shelters on Choppington Road, Bedlington. The Chair advised that both the developer and the planning authority (NCC) were in discussions to progress the installation of one bus shelter and also that enquiries had been made to NCC in relation to a shelter on the opposite side of the road – it is proposed to provide a cantilever (open sided) bus shelter on this side of the road.

PART A - ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Min Ref		Attendance / Apologies and Declarations of Interests.	Determination
23/194		In Attendance	Councillors Crosby, Henderson, Hogg (Chair), Taylor, Thompson, D Wallace and R Wallace. Town Clerk Steven Young, and one (1) member of the public.
23/195	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. Apologies for absence from Councillors Hedley and Todd were NOTED . ii. There were no dispensations for absence for this meeting.
23/196	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. No Declarations of Interest for this meeting. 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
23/197	a.	To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 14th September 2023.	RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 14th September 2023 are APPROVED as a true record.
23/198	b.	To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting that are not included as agenda items.	There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2023.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

		Matters for Discussion / Decision	Determination
23/199	a.	<p>Review of Food Bank Donations. Minute 23/76 (Funding of Bedlington Food Banks – Review) resolved to review Food Bank donations in 6 (six) months. The Council are requested to review the current donations and decide on future donations and reviews. Currently the Council is donating £500 per month to Bedlington Food Bank, Bedlington Salvation Army and Wansbeck Valley Food Bank. Summary of current years donations and budget distributed to members.</p>	<p>RESOLVED to continue with the current level of donations for all 3 (three) food banks for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>A review of further donations will be undertaken as part of the budget setting process for the next financial year (Nov – Dec 2023).</p>
23/200	b.	<p>Strategic Plan – review of targets. The Council are asked to review and decide what actions (if any) to take with regard to its current Strategic Plan targets. Summary of targets distributed to members.</p>	<p>RESOLVED to extend the following strategic plan targets. Website – Community Notice board 01.1.124 Use of social media – 01.01.24 Councillor Training – 01.03.24 Advertising of Residents Gardening Competition – 01.01.24 Friends of Humford Wood – 01.03.24</p>
23/201	c.	<p>Community Chest / Funding Requests. The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A funding request from Wansbeck Christmas Campaign to support the funding of “Christmas presents for local children who otherwise would not have any on Christmas morning”. (Request distributed to members). 2. A Community Chest Application from Dr Pit Park Bowling Club. (Application distributed to members). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RESOLVED not to support this funding request – The Town Council currently provides lots of alternative targeted support at Christmas time within the parish together with the uncertainty of how much support would be received directly within the parish were sighted as the reasons for the decision. 2. RESOLVED to award £500 to Dr Pit Park Bowling Club.
	d.	<p>Audit Arrangements - 2022/23 Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR). The Council are asked to NOTE the external auditors’ certification of the Annual Return of Accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2023. There were no matters which came to the attention of the Auditor that required the issuing of a separate additional issues report and the notice of conclusion has been published on 28th September 2023. (Copy of notice distributed to members for information).</p>	<p>RESOLVED to NOTE the external auditors’ certification of the Annual Return of Accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2023.</p>
23/203	e.	<p>Consultation Response The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon a response (if any) to the consultation detailed in Part C b Consultations – Northumberland County Council Proposal to extend the duration of a Public Spaces Protection Order for the consumption of alcohol Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Part 4.</p>	<p>RESOLVED to support the extension of a Public Spaces Protection Order for the consumption of alcohol Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Part 4.</p>
23/204	c.	<p>Chairs Update and any Reports from External Meetings.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Chair will make any relevant announcements and provide updates to members. ii. To receive feedback from Councillors from any external meetings since the date of the last Council meeting. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Council Chair (Councillor Hogg) provided a verbal update of some of the meetings and issues he had been dealing with since the last meeting. (Detail in appendix A). ii. Councillor Thompson provided members with a verbal update from her recent attendance at the Town and Parish Council Annual Conference.

			Councillor Hogg provided some verbal feedback in relation to a "Borderlands" meeting both he and Councillor Thompson had attended.								
23/205	d.	<p>Services Committee.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any recommendations from The Services Committee for decision by full Council. The Services Committee Chair (Councillor Hogg) will provide a verbal report of any meeting decisions. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No recommendations for this meeting. The Committee Chair Councillor Hogg, provided a verbal update of the last services committee meeting decisions. 								
23/206	e.	<p>Planning Working Group Planning Applications – Considered by Planning Working Group - Where Comments Have Been Requested. 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"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ref.</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Response Due Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>23/03482/FUL</td> <td>Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension Location 20 Millfield North Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5EG</td> <td>13th October 2023.</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	23/03482/FUL	Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension Location 20 Millfield North Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5EG	13th October 2023.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Determination</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No Comment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Determination	No Comment
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23/207	f.	<p>Other Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any Recommendations from Other Working Groups for decision by full Council. Events Working Group – Proposals re Future Years Events <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal to reappoint Charmain Hamilton as the Town Councils Event Organiser for 2024/25. Events to be provided for School Holidays (not half term breaks), Easter, Jubilee Games, Summer Family Festival, Halloween, Lovely Afternoon, Christmas Lights Switch On, Pantomime and Christmas Film Shows (replacement for Christmas Drop In). Fee and Budgets not to exceed current years amounts. Proposal "any local organisations (including the current provider) to put in fixed cost event proposals". Any Other Items from Other Working Groups – Any feedback to the Council, any other items discussed, any ongoing and future matters been worked upon by any working group. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Having heard both proposals (i and ii) The Council RESOLVED to reappoint Charmain Hamilton as the Town Council’s Event Organiser for 2024/25 with fees and budgets not to exceed current year’s amounts. Nothing for this meeting. 								
23/208	g.	<p>Bank Reconciliation The Council are asked to APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation of £366,581.55 of 30th September 2023 and a Deposit Account Balance of £101,066.55 as of 30th September 2023.</p>	RESOLVED to APPROVE bank reconciliation at 30th September 2023.								

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR TO BE NOTED

Matters for Information or To Be Noted			
23/209		<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
		193	Miller Homes Ltd
			Reply to Bus Shelter Request
		194	Highways – Northumberland County Council
			TTRO 135421767 A192 Plessey Checks to Harford Bank
		195	Highways – Northumberland County Council
			TTRO 135418038 A192 Shields Road Bedlington
		196	Northumberland County Council
			Latest Northumberland News and Jobs September 8, 2023
		197	Cramlington & Wansbeck Rotary Club.
			Rotary Emblem, Hartford Road, Bedlington.
		198	Northumberland County Council
			Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee
		199	StageTruck Ltd
			events solutions north east
		200	Community Action Northumberland
			CAN Enews 15 September 2023
		201	Advance Northumberland
			Bedlington Update - Greggs
		202	Resident
			Play area - hazelmere estate
		203	Resident
			Note of Thanks re response to Consultation - Proposed Parking restrictions - High Ridge Back Lane
		204	Northumberland County Council
			Latest Northumberland News and Jobs September 22, 2023
		205	Northumberland Association of Local Councils
			NALC SEPTEMBER 2023 ENews
		206	Wansbeck Xmas Campaign
			Funding Request
		207	Mazars LLP
			AGAR for 2022/23, completion letter, completion notice
		208	Highways – Northumberland County Council
			Parking Issues Front Street Bedlington
		209	Northumberland County Council
			Revocation of the Wansbeck District Council (Hartford Road West, Bedlington Tree Preservation Order 1985
		210	SENRUG
			Next SENRUG Public Meeting and Exhibition Opportunity
		211	Community Action Northumberland
			CAN Enews 29 September 2023
		212	Northumberland County Council
			Latest Northumberland News and Jobs September 29, 2023
		213	Thriving Together Northumberland
			Newsletter
		214	Northumberland County Council
			Northumberland Line Newsletter - September 2023

b.	Consultations. <table border="1" data-bbox="284 73 1556 237"> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 73 587 237">Northumberland County Council</td> <td data-bbox="587 73 1018 237">Proposal to extend the duration of a Public Spaces Protection Order for the consumption of alcohol Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Part 4</td> <td data-bbox="1018 73 1556 237">Response by 18th October 2023</td> </tr> </table>			Northumberland County Council	Proposal to extend the duration of a Public Spaces Protection Order for the consumption of alcohol Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Part 4	Response by 18 th October 2023																																																																									
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All payments gross of VAT. <table border="1" data-bbox="284 499 1556 1205"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="284 499 715 566">Payee</th> <th data-bbox="715 499 914 566">Amount £. p</th> <th data-bbox="914 499 1321 566">Description</th> <th data-bbox="1321 499 1556 566">Notes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td data-bbox="284 566 715 600">Reay Security Limited</td><td data-bbox="715 566 914 600">83.04</td><td data-bbox="914 566 1321 600">CCTV Charges</td><td data-bbox="1321 566 1556 600"></td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="284 600 715 633">Northumberland County Council</td><td data-bbox="715 600 914 633">-136,425.00</td><td data-bbox="914 600 1321 633">Precept Receipt – 2nd Payment</td><td data-bbox="1321 600 1556 633"></td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="284 633 715 667">1p Mobile</td><td data-bbox="715 633 914 667">30.00</td><td data-bbox="914 633 1321 667">Mobile Phone Charges</td><td data-bbox="1321 633 1556 667"></td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="284 667 715 701">Kompan Scotland Ltd</td><td 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		23/03010/FELTPO	Tree Preservation Order Application - T1 Beech - crown reduction 2-3m and reshape; T2 and T4 Holly - 2-3m crown reduction and reshape; Remove suppressed T3 Holly Location Stableford Lodge Fairway Rise Hartford Hall Estate Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AG	PERMIT
		23/02762/PRUTPO	Tree Preservation Order Application: T1 - Hornbeam - Reducing the height and spread of tree by up to 2M reduction is only to remove the new growth. Location 3 South Farm Nedderton Village Northumberland NE22 6BH	PERMIT
23/210	g.	Police Report. There was no report for this meeting. The next scheduled regular report is for December 2023 meeting.		
23/211	h.	Matters for Information Only – Any matters pertaining to the Council, that members would like to bring to the attention of other members and residents. For Information only no proposals or voting on these matters. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors – Councillor Henderson advised members that she had witnessed youths tampering with the new padlocks at Meadowdale Play Area and that she will monitor the situation. Town Clerk – Nothing for this meeting. 		
23/212	i.	Date of Next Meeting. RESOLVED the date of the next meeting will be Thursday 9th November 2023 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 1st November 2023.		
23/213	j.	Close of Meeting The Chair closed the meeting at 7.30pm with thanks to all in attendance.		

PART D – EXEMPT BUSINESS.

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

		Matters for Discussion / Decision / Information	
		No Exempt Business For This Meeting	

WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL - COUNCILLORS:

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

Signed by Chair

Date

Appendix A

To follow