

**Minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.
On Thursday 10th August 2023 at 6.30pm.**



**WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL**

PRESENTATIONS.

- Apologies were received from Bedlington and District Red Squirrel Group who had been invited to support their Community Chest Application (Part B 2a i.)

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- A resident asked when the debris and other materials left after Northumberland County Council had undertaken work would be removed from Westlea Cemetery. The Chair asked if either of the Northumberland County Council Councillors present could provide a response. Both County Councillor Robinson and County Councillor Taylor were aware of the situation, had already made representation to the County Council but would now raise the matter again on behalf of the resident.
- A resident asked if the Town Council had any plans to plant up the Front Street flower pots, troughs, and planters. The Chair confirmed that a contractor had been appointed and a date for the planting of the various containers was imminent.
- A resident asked why the tree in Cloverdale, Bedlington had been cut down and removed. The Chair again invited the Northumberland County Councillors present if they could provide a response. Northumberland County Councillor Taylor advised that she had previously made representation about the matter but would again make a further representation to Northumberland County Council on behalf of the resident.
- A resident asked why there were three (3) separate entries for the same supplier in the Schedule of Receipts and Payments (Part C). The Clerk advised that the supplier had issued individual invoices for specific events provided and payment was made against each individual invoice and recorded accordingly.
- A resident asked why Ridge Terrace Allotment Association had not been advised of a planning application (23/02777/FUL) for an adjoining premise / property. The Council (through the Chair) were unable to provide an explanation to what is a matter for Northumberland County Councils planning department.
- A resident reported and asked the Council if it could do anything to help reduce speeding and illegal use of scooters on footpaths along the B1331 (Ridge Terrace) Bedlington. The Chair advised that the Town Council had already included the issue within its top priorities for inclusion within the Local Transport Plan. The Chair would also seek to raise the issues with Northumbria Police.
- A resident asked if there had been any progress in relation to his previous request for bus shelters on Choppington Road, Bedlington (Longridge Farm Development). The advised that the Town Council was seeking financial support / contributions from both developers but to date had not received a reply.

PART A - ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Min Ref		Attendance / Apologies and Declarations of Interests.	Determination
23/158		In Attendance	Councillors Crosby, Hedley, Henderson, Hogg (Chair), Taylor, Todd, D Wallace, and R Wallace. Town Clerk Steven Young, and seven (7) members of the public.
23/159	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 Councillor Thompson were NOTED . ii. There were no dispensations for absence for this meeting.

23/160	b.	<p>Declaration of Interests.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ii. To consider any requests for dispensations.</p>	<p>i. Councillor Hogg made a declaration in relation to planning application (23/02777/FUL) should the discussion and subsequent decision involve anything relating to Ridge Terrace Allotments.</p> <p>ii. No dispensations for this meeting.</p>
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PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

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

		Details of Meeting or Delegated Decisions	Determination
23/161	a.	To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 13th July 2023.	RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 13th July 2023 are APPROVED as a true record.
23/162	b.	To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting that are not included as agenda items.	<p>Councillor R Wallace suggested that re Min Questions to the Council – Bus Shelters at Choppington Road that the Town Council simply get on and progress the purchase and installation of the bus shelters immediately and not wait for any response re finance contributions from the developers. The members at the meeting expressed a general consensus to this action.</p> <p>Councillor R Wallace asked for some clarity (practical guidance) about the Councils conflicting priorities Min 23/148 specifically about purchasing goods and services local, with reduced environmental impact and also demonstrating value for money. The Chair would seek and provide some practical guidance and distribute to members.</p> <p>Councillor Taylor provided an update in relation to the questions / requests asked at the previous meeting by residents – specifically that Northumberland County Council have or are about to improve car parking signage at Aldi Bedlington (Councillor Taylor has funded some of the improvements from her Members Small Claims Fund) and that a request be sent to the owner of the waste ground at 88 – 88a Front Street, Bedlington to tidy the area up. Councillor Taylor confirmed she had spoken with the land agent for the site and made a request and they had agreed to do so (though couldn't say how quickly that would be undertaken).</p>

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

		Matters for Discussion / Decision	Determination												
23/163	a.	<p>Funding Applications / Requests. The Council are asked to discuss and decide upon the following funding applications / requests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Community Chest Application - Bedlington Red Squirrel Group. ii. Community Chest Application Form – a proposal to amend the current application form by removing the request to provide a membership / supporters list and simply ask for the number of members / supporters from the parish. iii. Funding Contribution Request – Office of Ian Lavery MP/ DWP towards the cost of room hire at Bedlington Community Centre for a Jobs Fair Event on Friday 1st September 2023. (Estimate cost £125). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. RESOLVED to award £500 to the Bedlington Red Squirrel Group. ii. RESOLVED to update the Town Councils Community Chest Application for as per the proposal. iii. RESOLVED fund the cost of room hire at Bedlington Community Centre for a Jobs Fair Event on Friday 1st September 2023. 												
23/164	b.	<p>Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). The Council are requested to approve the payment of £297 for the Clerks annual subscription to Society of Local Council Clerks</p>	RESOLVED to approve the payment of £297 for the Clerks annual subscription to Society of Local Council Clerks.												
23/165	c.	<p>Finance Report. The Council are requested to discuss and NOTE the finance report (up until 31st July 2023) distributed.</p>	RESOLVED to NOTE the finance report to 31.7.23.												
23/166	d.	<p>Chairs Update and any Reports from External Meetings.</p> <ul 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. 	<ul 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. No feedback for this meeting 												
23/167	f.	<p>Services Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any recommendations from The Services Committee for decision by full Council. 2. The Services Committee Chair (Councillor Hogg) will provide a verbal report of any meeting decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No recommendations for this meeting. 2. The Committee Chair Councillor Hogg, provided a verbal report of the last services committee meeting decisions. 												
23/168	g.	<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" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Ref.</th> <th style="width: 45%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Response Due Date</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Determination</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>23/02470/FUL</td> <td>Small external side storage. Location 2 Hallwood Close Nedderton Village Northumberland NE22 6BG</td> <td>14th August 2023.</td> <td>No Comment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23/02704/FUL</td> <td>Internal alterations to improve club facilities, new pro shop entrance, and windows and new door to swing room</td> <td>17th August 2023.</td> <td>No Comment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ref.	Description	Response Due Date	Determination	23/02470/FUL	Small external side storage. Location 2 Hallwood Close Nedderton Village Northumberland NE22 6BG	14th August 2023.	No Comment	23/02704/FUL	Internal alterations to improve club facilities, new pro shop entrance, and windows and new door to swing room	17th August 2023.	No Comment	
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			Location Bedlingtonshire Golf Club Hartford Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AA			
		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	21st August 2023.	No Comment	
		23/02763/FELTPO	Tree Preservation Order: T1 - Horse Chestnut - to reduce by a maximum of 2.5m. Location 5 South Farm Nedderton Village Northumberland NE22 6BH	21st August 2023.	No Comment	
		23/02777/FUL	Change of use from caretaker's bungalow to school offices and meeting room. Location School House St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy Ridge Terrace Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6ED	21st August 2023.	RESOLVED to comment – application is strictly with regard to a “change of use” of the existing building and no other works are to be undertaken.	
		23/02817/FUL	Proposed garage conversion. Location 10 Hotspur Avenue Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5TD	23rd August 2023.	No Comment	
		Note: recent notified planning decisions and other planning applications (where comments have not been requested) are shown in PART C for information only).				
23/169	k.	Other Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion). 1. Any Recommendations from Other Working Groups for decision by full Council. i. Events Working Group. The Council are asked to discuss and decide upon a. A proposal to vary the format of the Annual Jubilee Games. b. A proposal in relation to the dates and the provider of the 2024 Summer Family Festival. 2. 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.			a. RESOLVED to vary the format of the Annual Jubilee Games – the intention is that the event is more family, community focused as opposed to school involvement. The Town Councils current Event Planner Charmain Hamilton will lead on the organisation of the event. b. RESOLVED the 2024 Summer Festival will be provided by Charmain Hamilton and will be on either the 2 nd or 3 rd weekend of June 2024 (subject to headliner availability).	
23/170	l.	Bank Reconciliation The Council are asked to APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation of £275,314.81 as of 31st July 2023 and a Deposit Account Balance of £100,897.58 as of 31st July 2023.			RESOLVED To APPROVE bank reconciliation at 31 st July 2024 .	

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR TO BE NOTED

		Matters for Information or To Be Noted			
23/171		<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
		147	Northumberland County Council - County Councillor Alex Wallace	Enquiry re costs and supplier of "De Arend" Gateway Feature	Noted + Circulated
		148	Northumberland County Council	Latest Northumberland News and Jobs - July 7	Noted + Circulated
		149	SENRUG	Public Meeting - Thursday 13th July 2023 and Other News	Noted + Circulated
		150	NCC Highways	Rear Front Street Bedlington Car Parks Signage	Noted + Circulated
		151	SENRUG	Public Meeting - Thursday 13th July 2023 and Other News - Addition	Noted + Circulated
		152	Northumberland County Council	Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee - 19 July	Noted + Circulated
		153	Northumbria Police	Crime Report for July Meeting	Noted + Circulated
		154	AGE UK Northumberland	NORTUMBERLAND PARISH COUNCILS SUPPORTING AGE UK NORTHUMBERLAND	Noted + Circulated
		155	Transport North East	Get Round for £1!	Noted + Circulated
		156	NALC	JULY 2023 ENews	Noted + Circulated
		157	Gallagher Insurance	Creating a Safe Play Environment - Effective Playground Management	Noted + Circulated
		158	Community Action Northumberland	Can Enews 21 st July 2023	Noted + Circulated
		159	SENRUG	Ticket Office Closures: A Call for Action, and Other News	Noted + Circulated
		160	Office Of Ian Lavery MP for Wansbeck	Residents Enquiry re Planting of Flower Containers on Front Street.	Noted + Circulated + Replied.
		161	SENRUG	More on Ticket Office Closures	Noted + Circulated
		162	Advance Northumberland	Bedlington Update	Noted + Circulated
		163	Northumberland County Council	Latest Northumberland News and Jobs - July 28	Noted + Circulated
		164	Bedlington Resident	Briefing Notes to issued raised A192,HBriefing Notes to issued raised A192,Hartford Bridge.	Noted + Circulated
		165	Northumberland Line	Newsletter - July 2023	Noted + Circulated
		166	Healthwatch Northumberland	newsletter August 2023	Noted + Circulated
		167	Northumberland Communities Together	Youth Mental Health First Aid Course for LGBTQ+ organisations – Newcastle University	Noted + Circulated
	b.	Consultations.			
		From	Description	Details	
		None For This Meeting			

	c.	Invitations.			
		From	Event	Response Details	
		Northumberland County Council	Westlea PlayZone development. Meeting via Teams	Tue 22 Aug 2023	
	d.	Schedule of Payments and Receipts.			
		Details of payments and (receipts) to be noted since last Council update. All payments gross of VAT.			
		Payee	Amount £. p	Description	Notes
		Crosby Hire	54.00	Chair Hire Surcharge – Family Festival	
		Reay Security Limited	83.04	CCTV Charges	
		Bedlington Salvation Army	500.00	Food Bank Donation	S137
		Bedlington Food Bank	500.00	Food Bank Donation	S137
		Wansbeck Valley Food Bank	500.00	Food Bank Donation	S137
		DL Maintenance & Repair	601.69	Litter Bin, Public Seat and Bus Shelter Repairs	
		Talk Talk Business	48.54	Telephone + Internet	
		Reay Security Limited	83.04	CCTV Charges	
		House of Hamilton	1,750.00	Childrens Summer Activities	
		Glassfibre Flagpole Ltd	40.92	Union Flag	
		Reay Security Limited	809.64	CCTV Charges	
		Reay Security Limited	432.00	Play Area Gates SLA	
		Bedlington Salvation Army	650.00	Community Chest Funding	
		Bedlington Brass Community Trust	500.00	Community Chest Funding	
		House of Hamilton	1,085.00	Childrens Summer Activities	
		House of Hamilton	1,725.00	Childrens Summer Activities	
		Wireless Logic Limited	539.14	CCTV Sim Charges	
		Northumberland County Council	3,950.86	July Payroll Costs	
		Reay Security Limited	83.04	CCTV Charges	
		DL Maintenance & Repair	466.82	Litter Bin and Bus Shelter Repairs	
Zen Internet Ltd	28.78	Website Domain Annual Subscription.			
	e.	Other Planning Applications			
		Where comments have not been requested.			
		Ref.	Description		
	23/02682/DISCON	Discharge of condition 38(Biodiversity Enhancement Plan and a Construction Environmental Management Plan - Land South West Of Glebe Farm Choppington Road Bedlington Northumberland			
	f.	Planning decisions notified to West Bedlington Town Council by Northumberland County Council.			
		Ref.	Description	Decision	
		23/01439/VARYCO	Variation of condition 2 on approved application 21/04021/FUL to allow minor changes to building facade and external works as result of design development to internal floor plans. Location 86 - 88 Front Street East Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5AB	GRANTED	
23/172	g.	Police Report. No report for this meeting. The next scheduled regular report is for September 2023 meeting.			
23/173	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. 1. Councillors – Councillor Henderson reported and asked for a request to be sent to Northumberland County Councils Neighbourhood Services Team to secure the litter bins along black path after emptying. 2. Town Clerk – Nothing for this meeting.			

23/174	j.	Date of Next Meeting. RESOLVED the date of the next meeting will be Thursday 14th September 2023 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 6th September 2023.
23/175		Close of Meeting The Chair closed the meeting at 7.11pm 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

Chairs Update 10/8/23

I attended the latest Local area committee and raised the concerns about us not getting updated by Advance Northumberland, the chair of the committee asked if we had approached the county councillors for the area and when they said they were in the same boat the chair stated he would raise the issue, we will wait and see what happens with regards this going forward and I will continue to raise this issue until it is resolved.

At the same meeting I also raised the point of street works improvements being undertaken by Avonline in Morpeth and comparing them to the poor standard of works in Bedlington, sadly I did not really get an answer as nobody seemed to be aware of it, the Chair and several councillors commented that NCC have no real powers over the works done in terms of improvements such as new paving slabs but confirmed highways inspectors do keep an eye on works undertaken and call contractors back if required.

I also attended the strategic planning meeting to speak up in support of East Bedlington Parish council regarding the southern station buildings planned demolition, sadly at a vote of 2 to 10 the motion was passed for demolition, what staggered me was a lot of discussion on money and the look of the building, but nothing on the fact several consultees had raised objections along with 2 parish councils and over 1000 people, I intend to raise this point when we next discuss planning with NCC and the lack of public involvement.

I was asked to pass on the thanks of East Bedlington Parish Council for this council supporting them with regards the station building, it was greatly appreciated by them.

Lastly, members may have seen the email from NCC about the parish and Town Council conference to be held on the 5th October, I am happy to attend this meeting along with Councillor Thompson unless others wish to attend on the town councils behalf?