

Minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. On Thursday 10th February 2022 at 6.30pm.



**WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL**

PRESENTATIONS.

- There were no presentations for this meeting.

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- There were no questions for this meeting.

PART A - ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Min Ref		Attendance / Apologies and Declarations of Interests.	Determination
22/001		In Attendance	Councillors Crosby, Hedley, Hogg, Reed, Taylor, Thompson, Todd, D Wallace, and R Wallace. Town Clerk Steven Young, and 4 (Four) members of the public.
22/002	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.
22/003	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
22/004	a.	To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 13th January 2022	RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 13 th January 2022 are APPROVED as a true record.
22/005	b.	To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting that are not included as agenda items.	Min 21/203 - 2022 -23 Budget and Precept requirement. Councillor Todd requested an explanation from Councillors Hogg and Taylor as to why they had “changed their minds” between the informal budget preparation meeting in November 2021 and the formal Council meeting in January 2022 in relation to the proposed increase in the 2022/23 precept. Both Councillor Hogg and Taylor strenuously denied that they had a change of mind and reiterated that they were and always have been opposed to any increase in the precept. A lengthy and contentious debate followed in relation to elements of the budget, the resulting precept requirement and the possibility of additional informal meetings ahead of the formal meeting to discuss any differences but no admissions or concessions were submitted. Min 21/203 - 2022 -23 Budget and Precept requirement. Councillor D Wallace requested that the actual level of the annual precept increase for a Band A dwelling in Bedlington of £2.78 for the year be recorded in the minutes.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

		Matters for Discussion / Decision	Determination
22/006	a.	Internal Audit (distributed to members). 1. Internal Audit Report Recommendation – Working Paper 10 (improvements can be further made with the acceptance of the recommendation that this is done by two Councillors, where no other relationship exists other than their Council role). Currently Councillor D Wallace countersigns The Clerks monthly bank reconciliation (copy to Council Chair Councillor R Wallace). The Council are asked to consider the election of a different Councillor which fulfils the requirement of the Internal Auditors recommendation. 2. The Council are requested to NOTE the Internal Auditors report.	1. Councillor Todd volunteered and was APPROVED as the Councillor responsible for the countersigning of The Clerks monthly bank reconciliation (copy to Council Chair Councillor R Wallace). 2. RESOLVED to NOTE The Internal Auditors report distributed.
22/007	b.	Roundabout News Twice Weekly E newsletter The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon an invitation to support and contribute to a free twice weekly e newsletter for local news and events. (Invitation distributed to members).	RESOLVED to ACCEPT an invitation to support and contribute to a free twice weekly e newsletter for local news and events (contributions to be chosen by publisher from current West Bedlington Town Council e-newsletter).

22/008	c.	<p>Funding of Bedlington Food Banks - Review.</p> <p>1. The Council are requested to discuss, review, and decide upon any financial support to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bedlington Salvation Army. Bedlington Matthew Project. Wansbeck Valley 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>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> <p>2. RESOLVED to review on-going donations on a month-by-month basis.</p> <p>Any approved funding would be in respect of a S137 payment.</p>
22/009	d.	<p>Funding Applications / Proposals</p> <p>Funding Support. The Council are asked to discuss and decide upon a request for funding to support an elite resident child dancer. (Request distributed to members).</p>	<p>DEFERRED to establish a policy / protocol for the funding / financial donations to individuals.</p>
22/010	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>No external meetings to report upon for this meeting.</p>
22/011	f.	<p>Finance Report</p> <p>The Council are requested to NOTE the financial report up until 31st January 2022.</p>	<p>RESOLVED to NOTE the financial report circulated.</p>
22/012	h.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion).</p> <p>Services Committee.</p> <p>1. The Working Group Chair (Councillor Hogg) will provide a verbal report of the meeting decisions</p>	<p>1. Committee Chair Councillor Hogg provided a verbal update of the decisions approved at the Services Committee meeting on 27th January 2022.</p>
22/013	i.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion).</p> <p>Governance and Staffing Working Group.</p> <p>1. Governance Recommendations from Working Group for decision by full Council. None for this meeting. None</p> <p>2. 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.</p>	<p>1. No recommendations for this meeting</p> <p>2. No further update for this meeting.</p>
22/014	j.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion).</p> <p>Events Working Group</p> <p>1. Recommendations from Working Group for decision by full Council.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Apply to host a Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacon Challenge. (Details distributed to members). Purchase a Beacon for the Queens Platinum Jubilee Event. Make a formal request to East Bedlington Parish Council to jointly provide a fireworks event on 5th November 2022. <p>2. 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.</p>	<p>i. RESOLVED TO APPROVE a proposal to host a Queen’s Platinum Beacon Challenge.</p> <p>ii. DEFERRED to a future meeting to obtain additional information.</p> <p>iii. RESOLVED TO APPROVE a formal request to East Bedlington Parish Council to jointly provide a fireworks event on 5th November 2022.</p> <p>2. Group Chair Councillor Reed provided a verbal update in relation to the Events Group meeting held via Zoom on 31st Jan 2022 – Easter Event – Councillor Taylor to lead on event, 4 Day Jubilee Bank Holiday Councillor Reed to investigate</p>

			potential event organisers to assist in the planning and organisation of any proposed event.
22/015	k.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion). Communications Working Group</p> <p>1. Recommendations from Working Group for decision by full Council. None for this meeting.</p> <p>2. 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.</p>	<p>1. No recommendations for this meeting.</p> <p>2. Group Chair Councillor Reed provided a verbal update in relation to the launch of the Town Council's new website and invited comments from members together with a request for contributions for the next e-newsletter.</p>
22/016	l.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion). Neighbourhood Plan Working Group</p> <p>1. Recommendations from Working Group for decision by full Council. None for this meeting.</p> <p>2. 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.</p>	<p>1. No recommendations for this meeting.</p> <p>2. Group Chair Councillor Hogg provided a verbal update in relation to a technical support visit on 8th and 9th March 2022 to help in the preparation of "Design Codes".</p>
22/017	m.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion). Finance Working Group</p> <p>1. Recommendations from Working Group for decision by full Council.</p> <p>i. The Council are asked to note the updated financial position of the Council. (Finance report distributed to members).</p> <p>2. 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.</p>	<p>1. No recommendations for this meeting.</p> <p>2. No further update for this meeting.</p>
22/018	n.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion). Youth Support Programme Working Group</p> <p>1. Recommendations from Working Group for decision by full Council. None for this meeting.</p> <p>2. 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>1. No recommendations for this meeting.</p> <p>2. Councillor D Wallace provided a verbal update in relation to the formation of an independent theatre group and the groups proposed membership recruitment over the next few months together with advance notice of her intention to present a proposal at the forthcoming Services Committee meeting (matter of urgent business) in relation to the creation of a Jubilee Games for Bedlington.</p>

22/019	o.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion). Planning Working Group</p> <p>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"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ref.</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Response Due Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>22/00332/VARYCO</td> <td>Variation of condition 3 (approved plans) on approved application 21/03471/FUL in order to include Juliet Balcony to North elevation plus porch to West elevation Location 80 Windsor Gardens Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5SY</td> <td>23rd February 2022.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ref.	Description	Response Due Date	22/00332/VARYCO	Variation of condition 3 (approved plans) on approved application 21/03471/FUL in order to include Juliet Balcony to North elevation plus porch to West elevation Location 80 Windsor Gardens Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5SY	23rd February 2022.	<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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		<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>									

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR TO BE NOTED

Matters for Information or To Be Noted																																															
22/020		<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>																																													
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220	Northumberland County Council	Our next Climate Change Q&A	Noted + Circulated
221	Northumberland County Council	Amended TTRO 122474132 Millbank Place Bedlington	Noted + Circulated
222	Resident	Update from Community Chest funding applicant.	Noted + Circulated
223	Northumberland County Council	Storm Arwen Review	Noted + Circulated
224	Northumberland County Council	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund	Noted + Circulated
225	Von Fox Promotions	Wor Bella Play Promo videos	Noted + Circulated
226	Roundabout News	Free local newsletter	Noted + Circulated + Added to Agenda
227	NALC	NALC Enews 20 January 2022	Noted + Circulated.
228	Resident	Funding Consideration	Noted + Circulated + Added to Agenda
229	NHS	Improving Access Survey - January 2022	Noted + Circulated
230	Northumberland County Council	Post Storm Arwen update	Noted + Circulated + Replied
231	Resident	Planning application 21/02754/FUL: Extension to 7 February 2022	Noted + Circulated
232	Asset Watch Ltd	CCTV Invitation	Noted + Circulated + Replied
233	Northumberland County Council	Follow up information from Library Briefing	Noted + Circulated
234	Bedlington Salvation Army	January 2022 - Food Bank Financial Contribution Thanks	Noted + Circulated
235	NALC	Member Council Update 26 January 2022	Noted + Circulated
236	Healthwatch Northumberland	GP Access survey	Noted + Circulated
237	NALC	NALC Enews 28 January 2022	Noted + Circulated
238	Northumberland County Council	Storm Malik Update X 4	All Noted + Circulated
239	South East Northumberland VCS	Network Meeting and NCVA projects	Noted + Circulated
240	Northumberland County Council	Post Storm Arwen update from Northumberland County Council – Reply to further enquiry	Noted + Circulated
241	Museums Northumberland	Animation videos	Noted + Circulated
242			

b.	Consultations.		
	From	Description	Details
	None For This Meeting		

c.	Invitations.		
	From	Event	Response Details
	None for this meeting		

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
	Northumberland County Council	3,599.88	Payroll Costs	
	Big Foot Events Ltd	3,600.00	Deposit – Act for 2022 Music Event	
	Reay Security Limited	83.04	CCTV Costs	
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	Bishop Bewick CET	500.00	Funding Payment	
	Whitley Memorial CE First School	1,500.00	Pupils Fund Payment	
	Bedlington Salvation Army	500.00	Food Bank Funding Contribution	S137
	Northumberland County Council	20,644.56	Service Level Agreements	
	Northumberland County Council	2,531.41	Service Level Agreement	
	Meadowdale Academy	1,500.00	Pupils Food Payment	
	Wireless Logic Limited	499.20	CCYV Sim Card Charges	
	HMRC	-5,985.37	VAT Refund	
	Bedlington Welfare Mens Bowling Club	500.00	Community Chest Funding	
	Bedlington Community Allotment	250.00	Community Chest Funding	
	Widescope Web Design	816.00	Laptop and Software	
Reay Security Limited	83.04	CCTV Costs		
Malcolm Wilkinson	95.00	Internal Audit Fee		
Talk Talk Business	45.54	Telephone + Internet		
e.	Other Planning Applications			
	Where comments have not been requested.			
	Ref.	Description		
		None For This Meeting		
22/021	f.	Ref.	Description	Decision
		21/02154/FUL	loft conversion to increase ridge height plus dormers, single-story front & rear extensions Location Woodland View 4 Shields Road Hartford Bridge NE22 6AL	GRANTED
		21/04655/FUL	Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with new sun-room Location 5 Dover Close Hazelmere Bedlington NE22 6NN	GRANTED
		20/02164/CCD	Demolition of existing classroom and replacement with 2 storey building comprising Hall, Kitchen, Practical Room, circulation space, toilets and 2 no classrooms (further information - BS4142 Noise Assessment - received on 12/11/2020) Location Bedlington West End First School Ridge Terrace Bedlington NE22 6EB	GRANTED
		21/04663/FUL	Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of habitable sun room. Location 3 Durham Close Hazelmere Bedlington NE22 6NB	GRANTED
22/022	g.	Police Report. No Police Report for this meeting. The next scheduled regular report is for March 2022 meeting.		

22/023	h.	<p>Financial Update / Bank Reconciliation.</p> <p>The Council are asked to note a checked bank reconciliation of £324,503.08 as of 31st January 2022 and a Deposit Account Balance of £100,451.73 as of 31st January 2022.</p> <p>Note re Bank Reconciliation– In accordance with revised Statement of Internal Controls Councillor D Wallace as the nominated member has independently verified the monthly bank reconciliation.</p>					
		The Council NOTED the bank reconciliation.					
22/024	i.	<p>Matters for Information Only</p> <p>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.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 591 1556 891"> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 591 608 819">Councillors</td> <td data-bbox="608 591 1556 819"> <p>Councillor Hogg reported an accident at Longridge Roundabout.</p> <p>Councillor Todd reported a tree blocking the Gallagher Park pathway.</p> <p>Councillor Thompson provided information in relation to the use of car parking spaces at Aldi.</p> <p>Councillor Reed made everyone aware that faults/ problems with Northumberland County Council services could now be reported through The Town Councils newly launched website.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 819 608 891">Town Clerk</td> <td data-bbox="608 819 1556 891">Reminded members of his imminent annual leave(Friday 11th Feb 2022 until Wednesday 23rd Feb 2022).</td> </tr> </table>		Councillors	<p>Councillor Hogg reported an accident at Longridge Roundabout.</p> <p>Councillor Todd reported a tree blocking the Gallagher Park pathway.</p> <p>Councillor Thompson provided information in relation to the use of car parking spaces at Aldi.</p> <p>Councillor Reed made everyone aware that faults/ problems with Northumberland County Council services could now be reported through The Town Councils newly launched website.</p>	Town Clerk	Reminded members of his imminent annual leave(Friday 11 th Feb 2022 until Wednesday 23 rd Feb 2022).
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Town Clerk	Reminded members of his imminent annual leave(Friday 11 th Feb 2022 until Wednesday 23 rd Feb 2022).						
22/025	j.	<p>Meeting Close and Date of Next Meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED the next scheduled meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 10th March 2022 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.</p> <p>The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 2nd March 2022.</p> <p>The Chair closed the meeting at 7.37pm</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