



On Thursday 13th July 2023 at 6.30pm.

PRESENTATIONS.

- Northumbria Police submitted their apologies for this meeting and submitted a written report. (Part C Item g.).
- Bedlington Community Brass Trust made a presentation in support of their Community Chest Application (Part B Item 2bi.).
- Bedlington Salvation Army submitted their apologies (Part B Item 2b ii.).

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- A resident asked if the Town Council had any plans to provide bus shelters at Longridge Farm Development (Choppington Road, Bedlington). The Chair responded that enquiries had already been made to Northumberland County Councils Enforcement Team re the provision of the bus shelters in the granted planning application for the development but to no avail. The Chair advised that the Town Council now look into the possibility of providing the shelters themselves.
- A resident asked if signage to and at the public car park at Aldi could be improved. Councillor Taylor in her capacity as a Northumberland County Councillor was able to update the resident on the plans Northumberland County Council have in place to improve the signage for both drivers and pedestrians.
- A resident asked if the Council could write to the owner of the waste ground at 88 – 88A Front Street Bedlington and request that the area be cleared and generally tidied up. Councillor Taylor in her capacity as a Northumberland County Councillor advised she would contact Northumberland County Councils Planning Enforcement Team with a view of identifying the owner.

PART A - ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Min Ref		Attendance / Apologies and Declarations of Interests.	Determination
23/140		In Attendance	Councillors Hedley, Henderson, Hogg (Chair), Taylor, Thompson, and R Wallace. Town Clerk Steven Young, and 4 (Four) members of the public.
23/141	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 Crosby, Todd and D Wallace were NOTED . ii. There were no dispensations for absence for this meeting.
23/142	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. There were no declaration 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
23/143	a.	To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 8th June 2023.	RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 8th June 2023 are APPROVED as a true record.
23/144	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 last meeting held on 8th June 2023.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

		Matters for Discussion / Decision	Determination
23/145	a.	<p>Northumberland County Council - 2024-25 LTP Programme Consultation.</p> <p>The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon its top three highways and transport priority issues for the West Bedlington area, so that they can be considered for inclusion in the Programme. (Request and Guidelines distributed to members).</p>	<p>RESOLVED to submit the following three (3) suggestions as the Town Councils its top three highways and transport priority issues for the West Bedlington area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Speed reduction measures – including a raised pedestrian crossing, railings and speed reduction signs at West End School, Ridge Terrace, Bedlington. ○ Junction improvements / redesign to improve safety at Front Street East / West, Church Lane, Vulcan Place junction. ○ A safe pedestrian / cycle route from Hartford Bridge towards Cramlington.
23/146	b.	<p>Community Chest Applications.</p> <p>The Council are asked to discuss and decide upon the following Community Chest funding applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bedlington Brass Community Trust. ii. Bedlington Salvation Army 	<p>RESOLVED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Award £500 to Bedlington Brass Community Trust. ii. Award £650 to Bedlington Salvation Army. Members determined that because of the exceptional support provided to families within Bedlington they would without prejudice award a sum in excess of the scheme maximum.
23/147	c.	<p>Environmental</p> <p>The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon a proposal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Declare a climate emergency. ii. Adopt a formal position to make formal comments on measures and planning applications which involve carbon reduction measures such as solar farms, public footpath/cycleway enhancements and sustainable transport such as bus and rail travel. iii. Establish a working group to review guidance and measures and make recommendations to the council. <p>Background paper distributed to members.</p>	<p>RESOLVED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Declare a climate emergency. ii. Adopt a formal position to make formal comments on measures and planning applications which involve carbon reduction measures such as solar farms, public footpath/cycleway enhancements and sustainable transport such as bus and rail travel. iii. Establish a working group (Councillors Hogg and Thompson) to review guidance and measures and make recommendations to the council.

23/148	d.	<p>Strategic Plan – Aims and Objectives</p> <p>i. The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon a proposal to include the following Environmental Aims and Objectives within its Strategic Plan’s Aims and Objectives (and thereafter monitor through its Action Plan).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commit to undertake and/or support planting of at least 1500 trees (1 Hectare / 2.5 Acres) each year till at least 2030. 2. Commit to support measures to reduce the carbon footprint of Bedlington Community Centre (as the only building owned by the town council) via measures such as Solar Panel installation. 3. Commit to using local suppliers for goods and services wherever possible. 4. Commit to reusing assets wherever possible such as litter bins and public seats. 5. Commit to reducing the use of single use plastics within the council. 6. Commit to supporting residents’ environmental awareness such as litter picking schemes, tree wardens, etc. 7. Work with NCC and landowners to increase environmental schemes in West Bedlington such as woodland, allotments, growing wild areas, etc. <p>ii. The Council are asked to review (and update any targets if appropriate) its Strategic Plan Monitoring Report – Action Plan. Monitoring Report distributed to members.</p>	<p>RESOLVED to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commit to support Northumberland County Councils Tree Planting scheme. 2. Commit to support measures to reduce the carbon footprint of Town Council owned buildings (Bedlington Community Centre). 3. Commit to using local suppliers for goods and services wherever possible is already within the Strategic Plan. 4. Commit to reusing assets wherever possible such as litter bins and public seats. 5. Commit to reducing the use of single use plastics within the council. 6. Commit to supporting residents’ environmental awareness such as litter picking schemes, tree wardens, etc.is already within the Strategic Plan. 7. Work with NCC and landowners to increase environmental schemes in West Bedlington such as woodland, allotments, growing wild areas, etc. <p>ii. RESOLVED to: Extend timescale for the following to 31st December 2023 – Form a residents panel, Annual residents survey, Extend timescale for the following to 1st October 2023 – Website Community Notice Board and Social Media Communications Formation of a Friends of Humford Wood.</p>
23/149	e.	<p>Chairs Update and any Reports from External Meetings.</p> <p>i. The Chair will make any relevant announcements and provide updates to members.</p> <p>ii. To receive feedback from Councillors from any external meetings since the date of the last Council meeting.</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>ii. No feedback for this meeting</p>
23/150	f.	<p>Services Committee.</p> <ol 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. 	<ol 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.

23/151	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" data-bbox="296 264 1026 1440"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="296 264 501 365">Ref.</th> <th data-bbox="501 264 868 365">Description</th> <th data-bbox="868 264 1026 365">Response Due Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 365 501 723">23/01831/FUL</td> <td data-bbox="501 365 868 723">Demolition of existing sixth form centre and construction of new sixth form centre upon unused area of hard standing to South of main academy building. Location St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy Ridge Terrace Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6ED</td> <td data-bbox="868 365 1026 723">10th July 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 723 501 1048">23/02205/RENE</td> <td data-bbox="501 723 868 1048">Construction of a solar farm and battery energy storage facility (BESS) together with all associated work, equipment and necessary infrastructure. Location Land South Of Broadway House Farm Church Lane Bedlington Northumberland</td> <td data-bbox="868 723 1026 1048">12th July 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1048 501 1440">23/02172/FUL</td> <td data-bbox="501 1048 868 1440">Propose to convert paddocks to a storage yard including an extension to existing workshop; propose to add a tree line along the south side of the site so that the extended yard will not be visible to the general public. Location Bedlington Lane Farm Hartford Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AA</td> <td data-bbox="868 1048 1026 1440">18th July 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	23/01831/FUL	Demolition of existing sixth form centre and construction of new sixth form centre upon unused area of hard standing to South of main academy building. Location St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy Ridge Terrace Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6ED	10th July 2023	23/02205/RENE	Construction of a solar farm and battery energy storage facility (BESS) together with all associated work, equipment and necessary infrastructure. Location Land South Of Broadway House Farm Church Lane Bedlington Northumberland	12th July 2023	23/02172/FUL	Propose to convert paddocks to a storage yard including an extension to existing workshop; propose to add a tree line along the south side of the site so that the extended yard will not be visible to the general public. Location Bedlington Lane Farm Hartford Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AA	18th July 2023	<table border="1" data-bbox="1042 264 1541 1440"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1042 264 1541 365">Determination</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1042 365 1541 723">OBJECTION – road safety issues</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1042 723 1541 1048">SUPPORT – Community Benefit</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1042 1048 1541 1440">No Comment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Determination	OBJECTION – road safety issues	SUPPORT – Community Benefit	No Comment
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23/152	k.	<p>Other Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any Recommendations from Other Working Groups for decision by full Council. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Governance and Staffing Working Group. Review of Standing Orders. Following a review, The Governance and Staffing Working group request the approval of the Council to accept the updated Standing Orders distributed to members. 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. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. i. RESOLVED after review to accept the updated Standing Orders. 2. None for this meeting. 																

23/153	i.	Bank Reconciliation The Council are asked to APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation of £289,746.32 as of 30th June 2023 and a Deposit Account Balance of £100,829.07 as of 30th June 2023.	RESOLVED To APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation of £289,746.32 as of 30th June 2023 and a Deposit Account Balance of £100,829.07 as of 30th June 2023.
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PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR TO BE NOTED

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23/154		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.																																																																					
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d.	<p>Schedule of Payments and Receipts. Details of payments and (receipts) to be noted since last Council update. All payments gross of VAT.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="280 136 1549 1205"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="280 136 711 210">Payee</th> <th data-bbox="711 136 914 210">Amount £. p</th> <th data-bbox="914 136 1321 210">Description</th> <th data-bbox="1321 136 1549 210">Notes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 210 711 248">Robert L Eastway Springview PTY</td> <td data-bbox="711 210 914 248">1,470.00</td> <td data-bbox="914 210 1321 248">Street Furniture Painting</td> <td data-bbox="1321 210 1549 248"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 248 711 322">Public Performance Music Licence</td> <td data-bbox="711 248 914 322">154.62</td> <td data-bbox="914 248 1321 322">Annual Public Performance Licence Fee</td> <td data-bbox="1321 248 1549 322"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 322 711 360">Reay Security Limited</td> <td data-bbox="711 322 914 360">83.04</td> <td data-bbox="914 322 1321 360">CCTV Charges</td> <td data-bbox="1321 322 1549 360"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 360 711 398">House of Hamilton</td> <td data-bbox="711 360 914 398">19,472.50</td> <td data-bbox="914 360 1321 398">Family Festival Expenditure</td> <td data-bbox="1321 360 1549 398"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 398 711 465">House of Hamilton</td> <td data-bbox="711 398 914 465">600.00</td> <td data-bbox="914 398 1321 465">Summer School Holiday Events Deposits</td> <td data-bbox="1321 398 1549 465"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 465 711 504">MB Audio Visual Ltd</td> <td data-bbox="711 465 914 504">3,037.20</td> <td data-bbox="914 465 1321 504">Family Festival Stage Hire</td> <td data-bbox="1321 465 1549 504"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 504 711 542">Talk Talk Business</td> <td data-bbox="711 504 914 542">48.54</td> <td data-bbox="914 504 1321 542">Telephone + Internet</td> <td data-bbox="1321 504 1549 542"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 542 711 616">Northumberland County Council</td> <td data-bbox="711 542 914 616">1,470.00</td> <td data-bbox="914 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23/155	<p>g. Police Report. The written Police report submitted for this meeting was NOTED. The next scheduled regular report is for September 2023 meeting.</p>																																																																																														
23/156	<p>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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="280 1845 1556 1935">1. Councillor – Councillor Taylor had been in discussions with St Cuthberts Church in relation to some railings repairs – Councillor Taylor was to ask NCC about the ownership of the railings and refer back to the Town Council if appropriate. <li data-bbox="280 1935 1556 1973">2. Town Clerk – Nothing for this meeting. 																																																																																														

23/157	j.	<p>Date of Next Meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be its Annual Meeting on Thursday 10th August 2023 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 2nd August 2023.</p>
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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 13/7/23

Firstly I would like to start off by thanking members of the events working group and our events organiser for a very well organised and attended event at the 20 Aches, which many enjoyed, Thank you all.

Next I recently attended a NALC meeting, one of the items we discussed was the Parish Council Conference and suggestions were made of who should attend from NCC in terms of departments, I have made the suggestion that some of the departments where we never really get to meet anyone to get to know who to speak to, such as Planning Enforcement are invited to allow us to be introduced and highlight any issues and know who to contact in future, this was very well received from the other NALC members in attendance and I look forward to hearing more.

There was also discussion on NALC training and they asked member councils for suggestions, any councillors who have ideas should let NALC know.

While I am glad works have restarted on the development, I am also disappointed we have had no update on progress from Advance Northumberland to keep us informed and in turn keep residents informed, I am intending to raise this issue yet again at the next Local Area Committee meeting as we were told things would improve and they have not.

Lastly, I was disappointed to find while traveling through Morpeth that the main street where Avonline had undertaken works the same works as in Bedlington they have been completely repaved with new paving slabs on both sides of the road and redone the road markings, while we received in some cases very bad patch work when work was undertaken in Bedlington, I will also be raising this issue at the next LAC meeting why there seems to be a standard for Morpeth and another for Bedlington.