

**Minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.
On Thursday 21st March 2024 at 6.30pm.**



**WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL**

PRESENTATIONS.

- There were no presentations for this meeting.

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- 2 members from East Bedlington Parish Council were present. They thanked Cllr Hogg for his assistance with the Friends of the Northumberland Line. Cllr Hogg acknowledged their thanks and added that this was a collective effort of West Bedlington Town Council as a whole. A question was also raised about the progress of having a lift installed in the Community Centre, Cllr R Wallace responded saying that quotes have been received together with pledges from our County Councillors. However, money is tight at the moment, and fund-raising efforts are continuing. All acknowledged that the stair lift in situ isn't a satisfactory solution to the problem.

PART A - ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Min Ref		Attendance / Apologies and Declarations of Interests.	Determination
23/270		In Attendance	Councillors, Crosby, Hedley, Henderson, Hogg (Chair), Taylor, Thompson, D Wallace and R Wallace. Acting Town Clerk Gillian Turner, three (3) members of the public.
23/271	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. Apology for absence from Councillor Todd, was NOTED. ii. There were no dispensations for absence for this meeting.
23/272	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. Cllrs R Wallce and Thompson declared an interest in item 2g Pupil Fund application – Governors of School. 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
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23/273	a.	To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 8 th February 2024.	RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 8th February 2024 are APPROVED as a true record.
23/274	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 8 th February 2024.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

		Matters for Discussion / Decision	Determination
23/275	a.	<p>Internal Controls – Annual Review Carried Forward from December</p> <p>The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon the DRAFT documents for Final Accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Statement of Internal Controls ii. Financial Governance iii. Asset Register. 	RESOLVED Members approved documents en-bloc.
23/276	b.	<p>Town Twinning</p> <p>A request for financial support has been received re: visit from Schalksmuhle in September 2024.</p>	RESOLVED Members approved £1,500 funding which is held in Earmarked Reserves
23/277	c.	<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 on recent events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town & Parish Conference at NCC • South East Northumberland Forum • Local Area Council Meeting Full Report can be found at the end of these minutes. ii. None
23/278	d.	<p>To Consider any issues which would normally have been taken to the Services Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A bin with a broken door was reported on the Black Path at the bottom of Westmoreland and Cumberland Avenue. ii. The Acting Clerk reported that the faulty speed sign in Nedderton Village (Oakdale) is now operational 	<p>RESOLVED: The Acting Clerk was asked to arrange repairs.</p> <p>Noted</p>

23/279	e.	<p>Other Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion).</p> <p>i. Any Recommendations from Other Working Groups for decision by full Council.</p> <p>ii. 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events Group – On-line Booking Tool. Cllr Taylor informed the meeting that the tool is not recording all bookings even though confirmations have been issued. • Events Group – upcoming events including lovely afternoon tea on 27th March, Baby / Easter Disco and Magic Show. 	<p>i. None</p> <p>ii. It was agreed that Cllr Taylor investigate new systems and to report back to Council any costings/proposals.</p> <p>Noted</p>
23/280	f.	<p>Bank Reconciliation</p> <p>The Council are asked to APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation of £265,856.08 at 29th February 2024 and a Deposit Account Balance of £101,603.48 as of 29th February 2024.</p>	RESOLVED to APPROVE the bank reconciliations as at 29 th February 2024
23/281	g.	<p>Pupil Fund Application – Whitley Memorial CoFE Primary School</p> <p>Members considered the application.</p> <p><i>Cllrs Thompson and R Wallace declared an interest in this application as Governors of the School and took no part in the discussion or voting process.</i></p>	RESOLVED to APPROVE £1,500 from the Pupil Fund.

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR TO BE NOTED

		Matters for Information or To Be Noted			
23/282	a.	The Council are requested to accept all correspondences and the actions noted in respect of each.			
		Ref	From	Brief Description	Action Taken
		05/02	Northumberland County Council	24/00364/PRUTO at 8 Hallwood Close	Noted + Circulated
		05/02	Northumberland County Council	Planning Officer re: 21Front Street	Noted + Circulated
		05/02	Northumberland County Council	Latest Northumberland News and Jobs February 02, 2024	Noted + Circulated
		12/02	Community Action Northumberland	CAN Enews February 2024	Noted + Circulated
		12/02	Groundwork	February Newsletter	Notes + Circulated
		12/02	Northumberland County Council	Latest Northumberland News and Jobs February 09, 2024	Noted + Circulated
		12/02	Foodbank	Notice of AGM	Noted + Circulated
		13/02	Resident	Support for Double Yellow Lines behind Wetherspoons	Noted + Circulated
13/02	To Resident	Faulty Speed Camera Nedderton	SWARCO informed and engineer requested		

		13/02	Northumberland County Council	24/00432/LCB re: The Beeches, Church Lane	Noted + Circulated
		16/02	Cubiquity Media	Official Portrait of King Charles III for all public buildings/organisations	Ordered (FOC)
		16/02	Northumberland County Council	23/04389/FUL Hartford Bridge House	Noted + Circulated
		16/02	NALC	Latest NALC Enews	Noted + Circulated
		16/02	SENRUG	Notice of Public Meeting 11.04.24	Noted + Circulated
		20/02	Northumberland County Council	24/00398/VARICO St Benet Biscops	Noted + Circulated
		20/02	Northumberland County Council	TTRO 136873070 Station Road LC	Noted + Circulated
		04/03	Northumberland County Council	Latest Northumberland News and Jobs 01/03	Noted + Circulated
		07/03	Borderlands	Place Programme Update	Noted + Circulated
		07/03	Network Rail	Biodiversity Programme	Noted + Circulated
		07/03	Northumberland CC	Planning 24/00678/VARCO 86-88 Front Street	Noted + Circulated
		07/03	Ashington & District Male Voice Choir	Potential Meeting	Noted + Circulated
		07/03	Northumberland CC	Planning 24/00578/COU 1A Front Street	Noted + Circulated
		07/03	Northumberland CC	Planning 24/00364/PRUTPO 8 Hallwood Close, Nedderton	Noted + Circulated
		07/03	Groundwork	Newsletter March	Noted + Circulated
		08/03	Northumberland Line	Newsletter February	Noted + Circulated
		08/03	Potential Music Festival	20 Acres Field	Noted + Circulated
		08/03	Northumberland CC	Latest Northumberland News and Jobs 08/03	Noted + Circulated
		11/03	Police	Invite to discuss operation	Noted + Circulated
		11/03	CAN	Latest ENews	Noted + Circulated

23/283	b.	Consultations.		
		None		
23/284	c.	Invitations.		
		From	Event	Response Details
		None For This Meeting		

23/285	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="280 143 1548 1032"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee</th> <th>Amount £. p</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Notes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bedlington Community Centre</td> <td>18.00</td> <td>Hall Hire Pantomime retro charge</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Widescope Net</td> <td>432.00</td> <td>Website Hosting Annual Charge</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reay Security Ltd</td> <td>83.04</td> <td>CCTV Charges</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smart Office Systems Ltd</td> <td>13.30</td> <td>Photocopier Charges</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Talk Talk Business</td> <td>55.26</td> <td>Telephone + Internet</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reay Security Ltd</td> <td>83.04</td> <td>CCTV Charges</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reay Security Ltd</td> <td>446.40</td> <td>Lock-ups at Meadowdale</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reay Security Ltd</td> <td>809.64</td> <td>CCTV Town Centre</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northumberland County Council</td> <td>5,715.01</td> <td>Payroll Costs February</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Morrisons</td> <td>862.50</td> <td>Easter Eggs for Schools</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wireless Logic Ltd</td> <td>539.14</td> <td>CCTV SIM Charges</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Widescope Net</td> <td>153.96</td> <td>Microsoft 365 License</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reay Security Ltd</td> <td>83.04</td> <td>CCTV Charges</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northumberland County Council</td> <td>13,534.80</td> <td>Festive Lighting 2023</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Viking Office UK Ltd</td> <td>51.41</td> <td>Stationery</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lloyds Bank Business Account</td> <td>(112.06)</td> <td>Interest Received</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Payee	Amount £. p	Description	Notes	Bedlington Community Centre	18.00	Hall Hire Pantomime retro charge		Widescope Net	432.00	Website Hosting Annual Charge		Reay Security Ltd	83.04	CCTV Charges		Smart Office Systems Ltd	13.30	Photocopier Charges		Talk Talk Business	55.26	Telephone + Internet		Reay Security Ltd	83.04	CCTV Charges		Reay Security Ltd	446.40	Lock-ups at Meadowdale		Reay Security Ltd	809.64	CCTV Town Centre		Northumberland County Council	5,715.01	Payroll Costs February		Morrisons	862.50	Easter Eggs for Schools		Wireless Logic Ltd	539.14	CCTV SIM Charges		Widescope Net	153.96	Microsoft 365 License		Reay Security Ltd	83.04	CCTV Charges		Northumberland County Council	13,534.80	Festive Lighting 2023		Viking Office UK Ltd	51.41	Stationery										Lloyds Bank Business Account	(112.06)	Interest Received					
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23/287	f.	<p>Planning decisions notified to West Bedlington Town Council by Northumberland County Council.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="280 1731 1548 1865"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ref.</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Decision</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>(i) 24/00223/MISC</td> <td>Erection of Telecommunications pole in grass verge adjacent to 19 The Grange Nedderton Village.</td> <td>PERMITTED</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ref.	Description	Decision	(i) 24/00223/MISC	Erection of Telecommunications pole in grass verge adjacent to 19 The Grange Nedderton Village.	PERMITTED																																																																										
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		23/04576/DISCON	Discharge of conditions 3, 4,5, 6 and 12 re Land to North West of Blue House Farm Cottages, Netherton Colliery.	PERMITTED
		23/04389/FUL	Replacement of existing conservatory with new, to include removal of internal wall and porch at Hartford Bridge House, Hartford Road.	PERMITTED
		23/04212/FUL	Proposed single storey rear and side wrap round extension at 7 Oakapple Close.	PERMITTED
		22/04292/DISCON	Discharge of conditions 3,5,9,11,16 and 21 re Land South West of Glebe Farm, Choppington Road.	PERMITTED
		24/00364/PRUTPO	TPO prune overhanging branch, remove oversail of house roof and reduce shading of roof lights/windows at 8 Hallwood Close, Nedderton Village.	PERMITTED
		19/04074/VARYCO	Variation to condition 1 (approved plan) to allow operator requirements re Car Park at Vulcan Place.	PERMITTED
		16/03062/DISCON	Discharge of condition 6 (materials) re Land South West of Spring View Cottages, Spring Park.	PERMITTED
	F(ii)	<p>Revocation of Wansbeck District Council Tree Preservation Order Ridge Terrace – NCC conducted a review of TPOs within the County during August 2022 and as most of the trees were found to be no longer present and those remaining are no longer worthy of protective status, made a decision to REVOKE this Order. Members noted their decision. It was also agreed that the Acting Clerk contact NCC to ask for a list of all trees in the area still carrying a TPO.</p>		
23/288	g.	<p>Police Report – Members received and noted notice of “Operation Capio” taking place on Sunday 24th March 2024. It was agreed that Cllr Hogg attend.</p>		
23/289	h.	<p>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> <p>1. Cllr Henderson reported that she has replaced the broken park keys and confirmed that Reay Security has a set of the new ones to use.</p>		
23/290	i.	<p>Date of Next Meeting. RESOLVED the date of the next meeting will be Thursday 11th April at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 4th April.</p>		
23/291	j.	<p>Close of Meeting The Chair closed the meeting at 7.11pm with thanks to all in attendance.</p>		

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
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23/292		Latest update re: the Clerk	The Clerk hopes to return to work when his current fitnote ends. The Acting Clerk will liaise with NCC using the new HR SLA to look at a phased return to work and any other support required.
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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

Chairmans Update 21st March 2024

This month has been quite a busy one and I have attended a number of meetings.

First off was the Town and parish council conference where I asked a number of questions about things we had raised and never heard any update.

First was tree planting and it was confirmed all the sites we have highlighted to NCC are included in an application to DEFRA for funding which would see planting undertaken on the sites during the winter of 24/25.

Next I spoke to Planning enforcement about Boardoaks and the lack of woodland, interestingly there were no records of our requests on the system and I asked for this to be looked into and for us to get an update which they said they would speak to the enforcement officer for an update.

I spoke to Estates about our lack of being consulted on redundant land sales by NCC in the area and I was told this had not happened in the past but will be happening going forward, I also asked about the funds from land sales and they confirmed this went into a central pot and was not ringfenced to the area the land was sold in.

Following on we had the Q&A with Glen Sanderson who said if there are any issues with officers not coming back to town and parish councils we should email him with the details and he will make sure we get an answer, there is also a new plan to hold two the Town and parish council conference's a year one around this time of year and one in October.

Next was an informal meeting with other Parish and Town Councils now called the South East Northumberland Forum we had a good discussion on how different councils offer funding to groups within there areas, some offering groups different types of funding at different levels, we then had a good discussion on Neighbourhood plans and it is interesting to hear others highlight there issues when writing a plan, we were also handed a breakdown of what other councils do and precept charged, number of staff, etc.

It is interesting to note that we out of the five councils in the group are have the second lowest budget and do almost the same services as the other councils bar the likes of grass cutting.

Next, I attended the Local Area council meeting and raised the question of the market place development and the administration of the main contractor and if this would delay the project yet again, A pre prepared statement was read out by the chair and the main points to highlight was that NCC and Advance have moved quickly to secure the site in terms of Health and Safety, Insurance and Security, they will be working with sub-contractors and hopefully there will be no major delays to the project, they also highlighted no money has been lost as a result of the administration it was also stated a update will be issued in a few months hopefully.

I also raised the point of the long promised speed signs on the B1331 outside west end and was told that this was with street lighting and an update will be provided from highways as to what stage the project is at.

Following on into the agenda of the LAC a discussion was held about a crossing on stead lane and while not in our area the discussion highlighted a few interesting points as to the details taken during a survey which include walkers and cars, the timings of surveys and that they should be aimed at summer months rather than winter months and that NCC have a county wide issue of employing and keeping school crossing patrols