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**Minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.**

**On Thursday 9th November 2023 at 6.30pm.**

**PRESENTATIONS.**

* o Apologies were received from 2552 Bedlington Squadron Air Training Corps.

 **QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

* A resident asked if the council were aware of an incident of offensive graffiti at Westlea Play area and that this had been removed at the request of the County Councillor, The council responded that it was not aware the incident had taken place and would report the matter to Northumbria Police for investigation.

**PART A - ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.**

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| Min Ref |  | **Attendance / Apologies and Declarations of Interests.** | **Determination** |
| 23/214 |  | **In Attendance** | Councillors Hedley, Henderson, Hogg (Chair), Taylor, Thompson, Todd. Town Clerk Steven Young, and Three (3) member of the public.  |
| 23/215 | a. | **Apologies for Absence.**1. To receive and note any apologies for absence from Councillors.
2. To consider and determine any dispensations for absent Councillors.
 | 1. Apologies for absence from Councillors Crosby, D Wallace and R Wallace were **NOTED.**
2. There were no dispensations for absence for this meeting.
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| 23/216 | b. | **Declaration of Interests.**1. 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. | 1. Councillor Taylor and Hedley made a declaration of interest in relation to agenda item 2c Community Chest application 2552 Bedlington Squadron Air Training Corps.
2. No dispensations for this meeting.
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**PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION**

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

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|  |  | **Details of Meeting or Delegated Decisions** | **Determination** |
| 23/217 | a. | To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 12th October 2023. | **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 12th October 2023 are **APPROVED** as a true record**.**  |
| 23/218 | 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 12th October 2023.The Chair apologised to residents for the delay regarding the bus shelters on Choppington Road raised in public question time at the meeting and highlighted the delay was due to waiting for NCC to complete works  |

1. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

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|  |  | **Matters for Discussion / Decision** | **Determination** |
| 23/219 | a. | **Bedlington Terrier Christmas Light.**The Council are asked to discuss and decide upon a request from a resident for the procurement of a new Christmas Street Light. The resident has created a new light design featuring the outline of a Bedlington Terrier and requests the Council to have a Christmas Street Light made and installed. (Request and design distributed to members). | **RESOLVED** to **AGREE IN PRINCIPLE** and to get quotes before formal approval by Council. |
| 23/220 | b. | **Consultation** – Request from East Bedlington Parish Council. The Council are asked to consider a request from East Bedlington Parish Council to support and assist with a joint parish residents’ consultation about the future use of the North Station Building at Bedlington Station. (Request distributed to members). | **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** request and for Bedlington Community Centre to be a drop off point. |
| 23/221 | c. | **Community Chest Application**. The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon: 1. A Community Chest Application from 2552 Bedlington Squadron Air Training Corps. (Application distributed to members) | **RESOLVED** to award £500 to 2552 Bedlington Squadron Air Training Corps. |
| 23/222 | d. | **Request for support – Climate and Ecology Bill.** The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon a request from Zero Hour (distributed to members) to 1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill. 2. Inform local residents and inform local press/media of this decision. 3. Write to the Local MP to inform them that this motion has been passed and urge them to sign up to support the CE Bill—or thank them for already doing so; 4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing the Councils support (councils@zerohour.uk). | **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** all requests.1. **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** the Climate and Ecology Bill.2. **RESOLVED** to **INFORM** residents/local press/media.3. **RESOLVED** to **WRITE** to Ian Lavery MP.4. **RESOLVED** to **WRITE** to zero hour to inform them of the councils support. |
| 23/223 | e. | **Finance Report.** The Council are requested to discuss and NOTE the finance report up until 31st October 2023. (Report distributed to members). | **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the Finance report up to 31st October 2023 |
| 23/224 | f. | **Internal Audit Report** The Council are asked to NOTE the Internal Auditors Report of 1st November 2023. (Report distributed to members). | **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the Internal Audit up to 1st November 2023 |
| 23/225 | g. | **Bedlington Community Centre – Insurance Renewal.** The Council is asked to discuss and decide upon insurance quotes for risks associated with its ownership of Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington, (Quotes Comparison distributed to members). | **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the quote from Ansvar Charity and Commercial |
| 23/226 | h. | **Budget Setting Meeting Schedule** The Council are requested to discuss and approve the DRAFT schedule of meetings for the 24/25 budget and precept requirement. (Draft schedule of meeting distributed to members) | **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** Budget Setting Meeting Schedule – First meeting to be held 6pm on 16th November 2023 |
| 23/227 | i. | **Chairs Update and any Reports from External Meetings.**1. The Chair will make any relevant announcements and provide updates to members.
2. To receive feedback from Councillors from any external meetings since the date of the last Council meeting.
 | 1. 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).
2. Councillor Todd provided members with a verbal update from her recent attendance at a walkabout with the local PCSO.
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| 23/228 | j. | **Services Committee.** 1. The Services Committee seek an approved spending budget from the Councils Reserves in respect of the following new projects / items of expenditure. i. Purchase of new flower containers for Front Street, Bedlington. ii. Purchase of “Feature Shrub Plants” for floral displays (to help reduce the ongoing cost of annual bedding plants).iii. Purchase of new seats and new groundworks to improve the gravel area (site of old public toilets2. The Services Committee seek an approved financial commitment to ensure provision for the planting and replanting of the new Flower Containers is provided for with future years in year budgets. 3. The Services Committee Chair will provide a verbal report of any meeting decisions from the most recent Services Committee meeting | 1. Having heard all proposals (i, ii and iii) The Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** to provide £20,000 from reserves2. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the request, Approval required as part of the budget setting process3. The Committee Chair Councillor Hogg, provided a verbal update of the last services committee meeting decisions. |
| 23/229 | e. | **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.

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| **Ref.** | **Description** | **Response Due Date** |
| 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 | Approval of Councillor Hogg to represent at Strategic Planning Committee - Council Chamber, County Hall, Morpeth NE61 2EF at 4pm on 7 November 2023. |

Note: recent notified planning decisions and other planning applications (where comments have not been requested) are shown in PART C for information only). |

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| **Determination** |
| NOTED Councillor Hogg will attend on Councils behalf. |

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| 23/230 | f. | **Other Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion).**1. Any Recommendations from Other Working Groups for decision by full Council. i. Non for this meeting.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. | Councillor Taylor provided verbal feedback on the Halloween Event |
| 23/231 | g. | **Bank Reconciliation** i. The Council are asked to APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation of £355,517.17 at 31st October 2023 and a Deposit Account Balance of £101,159.59 as of 31st October 2023. | **RESOLVED t**o **APPROVE** bank reconciliation as of 31st October 2023**.** |

**PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR TO BE NOTED**

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|  |  | **Matters for Information or To Be Noted** |
| 23/232 |  | **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 receiptsSection e, Other planning applicationsNote section f is not part of the agenda and is included for information only.  |
|  | a. | Correspondence.

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| Ref | From | Brief Description | Action Taken |
| 215 | Northumberland County Council | Latest Northumberland News and Jobs | October 6, 2023 | Noted + Circulated  |
| 216 | North of The Tyne Mayor | Mayor’s Question Time: How can devolution help us get to net zero? | Noted + Circulated  |
| 217 | Community Action Northumberland | CAN Enews 13 October 2023 | Noted + Circulated  |
| 218 | Bedlington Food Bank | Letter of Thanks | Noted + Circulated  |
| 219 | Northumberland County Council | Latest Northumberland News and Jobs | October 13, 2023 | Noted + Circulated  |
| 220 | Resident | Freedom of Information Request – Event Data | Noted + Circulated + Acknowledged |
| 221 | Northumberland Association of Local Councils | OCTOBER 2023 ENews | Noted + Circulated  |
| 222 | Resident | Bedlington Terrier Christmas Light  | Noted + Circulated + Added to Current Agenda. |
| 223 | Zero Hour | Support for Climate and Ecology Bill | Noted + Circulated + Added to Current Agenda |
| 224 | Northumberland County Council | Latest Northumberland News and Jobs | October 20, 2023 | Noted + Circulated |
| 225 | NCC Climate Team | Environment and Climate Fund | Noted + Circulated  |
| 226 | East Bedlington Parish Council | Consultation Support and Assistance | Noted + Circulated + added to current Agenda. |
| 227 | Northumberland County Council | Latest Northumberland News and Jobs | October 27, 2023 | Noted + Circulated  |
| 228 | Northumberland Line | Newsletter - October 2023 | Noted + Circulated |
| 229 | Northumberland County Council | Rough Sleeper Estimate the night of 14/15 November | Noted + Circulated |
| 230 | Northumberland County Council | Amended TTRO 135418038 A192 Shields Road Bedlington | Noted + Circulated  |
| 231 | Northumberland County Council | Amended TTRO 135421767 A192 Plessey Checks to Harford Bank Cramlington | Noted + Circulated  |

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|  | b. | **Consultations.**

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| None For This Meeting |  |  |

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|  | c. | **Invitations.**

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| From  | Event  | Response Details |
| None For This Meeting |  |  |

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|  | d. | **Schedule of Payments and Receipts.**Details of payments and (receipts) to be noted since last Council update. All payments gross of VAT.

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| Payee | Amount£. p | Description | Notes |
| Champions UK Plc | 10,500.00 | Summer 2024 Summer Music Event Deposits |  |
| Goggle | 15.99 | Annual Subscription |  |
| Defib Machines Limited | 588.00 | New Defibrillator |  |
| Defib Machines Limited | 438.00 | New Defibrillator Cabinet |  |
| GTSE | 11.45 | Cable Ties For Lamppost Poppies |  |
| Reay Security Limited | 83.04 | CCTV Charges |  |
| Dr Pit Welfare Bowls Club | 500.00 | Community Chest Funding Award |  |
| Talk Talk Business | 55.26 | Telephone + Internet |  |
| Mazars LLP | 756.00 | External Audit Fee |  |
| Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal | 55.00 | Remembrance Wreaths |  |
| House of Hamilton | 540.00 | Christmas Giveaways |  |
| Reay Security Limited | 809.64 | CCTV Charges |  |
| Reay Security Limited | 432.00 | Play Area Gate Opening / Closing |  |
| Bedlington Salvation Army | 500.00 | Food Bank Donation | S137 |
| Wansbeck Valley Food Bank | 500.00 | Food Bank Donation | S137 |
| Wireless Logic Limited | 539.14 | CCTV SIM Charges |  |
| Strettle of Newcastle Ltd | 1200.00 | War Memorial Inscriptions |  |
| Northumberland County Council | 3950.86 | Payroll Costs |  |
| Northumberland Association of Local Councils | 90.00 | Clerk Training Courses |  |

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|  | e. | **Other Planning Applications**Where comments have not been requested.

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| **Ref.** | **Description** |
|  | None For This Meeting |

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|  | f. | **Planning decisions notified to West Bedlington Town Council by Northumberland County Council.**

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| **Ref.** | **Description** | **Decision** |
| 23/03012/PRUTPO | Tree Preservation Order Application: T1 Beech - crown thin by 25-30%, removing crossed and damaged limbs and deadwood. T2 Oak - remove x3 scaffold limbs. G1 - mixed species, overhanging from woodland - pull encroaching, overhanging limbs back to property boundary Location Fairway Lodge Fairway Rise Hartford Hall Estate Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AG | PERMIT |
| 23/03100/FUL | Proposed single storey rear extension; two storey side extension; front porch; conversion of loft space. Location Simonside Netherton Road Nedderton Village Northumberland NE22 6AT | withdrawn |
| 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 | GRANTED |

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| 23/233 | g. | **Police Report.** There was no report for this meeting.The next scheduled regular report is for December 2023 meeting. |
| 23/234 | 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 – Nothing for this Meeting
2. Town Clerk – Nothing for this meeting.
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| 23/235 | i. | **Date of Next Meeting.** **RESOLVED** the date of the next meeting will be Thursday 14th December 2023 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 6th December 2023. |
| 23/236 | j. | **Close of Meeting**The Chair closed the meeting at 7.15pm 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.

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|  |  | **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**

This month I have attended a number of meetings.

First off was an informal meeting with other Parish and Town Councils which was open to myself and

the clerk to attend, the meeting was requested by Ashington Town Council as a get together to

discuss issues, Interestingly enough we have quite similar issues to other neighbouring towns and we

discussed a number of issues including discussions with NCC such as highways and planning, policing,

services to name but a few, I felt this was a very productive meeting and hope to attend more in

future.

Next, I attended the NALC AGM, at the meeting we were informed that this would be Alex Wallace’s

last meeting of NALC as he steps down from the role of chair, one of the other items on the agenda

was a 3% increase in members fees which was agreed by members, we also had a presentation from

NCC’s director of IT who highlighted the county council website will be undergoing changes and

becoming more user friendly, one thing that was highlighted as part of the changes to NCC’s website

was the way the website worked for people who are blind, which we should consider with our

website.

Next I attended the strategic planning committee meeting where the Boardway House Farm solar

farm was to be discussed and spoke in support of the application, after a short amount of questions

from members the application was put to the vote and was agreed unanimously by members and it

was very interesting to hear the site will provide power for up to 13,000 homes, based on the

current combined population of Bedlington and Bedlington station being 17,319 this means this site

will cover approx. 75% of properties in the area with green energy.

Lastly as you all know we have our Act of remembrance on Saturday gathering at 10.45 and our

service of remembrance on the Sunday gathering at the salvation army at 2pm for the march down

to the war memorial.