**Minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington on Thursday 11 January 2024 at 6.30pm**

**QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

A resident requested feedback in relation to the question he had raised at the November meeting in relation to CCTV and vandalism in Westlea Play Area. The Chairman responded and advised that he still awaited feedback from the Police and that he would follow the matter up.

**PART A – ATTENDANCE /APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

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| **Min** **Ref** |  | **Attendance / Apologies and Declarations of interests.** | **Determination** |
| 23/237 |  | **In Attendance** | Councillors Crosby, Hedley, Henderson, Hogg, Taylor, Thompson, D Wallace, R Wallace.County Councillor M RobinsonActing Locum Clerk Jenny TindaleLocum Clerk Gillian Turner1 Member of the public |
| 23/238 |  | **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 Councillor Todd
2. There were no dispensations for absence this meeting.
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| 23/239 |  | **Declarations 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 interests), 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 12 July 2012.
2. To consider any requests for dispensations.
 | 1. There were not declarations this meeting.
2. No dispensations 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** |
| 23/240 |  | To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 9 November 2023 | **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 9 November 2023 are **APPROVED** as a true record. |
| 23/241 |  | To discuss any mattes arising from the minutes of the last meeting that ae not included as agenda items. | Ther were no matters arising. |

1. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

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|  |  | **Matters for Discussion / Decision** | **Determination** |
| 23/242 | a. | Budget requirement 2024-20251. The Council are requested to review and approve the proposed budget, precept requirement and estimate of Reserves for 2024/2025 (Budget Summary distributed to members).
2. A precept requirement of £286, 494 for the financial year 2024-25
3. An estimated year end revised reserves provision. (Draft Revision of estimate of Specific and Non-Specific Reserves distributed to members)
 | 1. That the proposed budget, precept requirement and estimate of Reserves for 2024/2025 as per summary distributed to members be **APPROVED.**
2. That a precept of £286,494 for the financial year 2024-25 be **APPROVED.**
3. That the Draft Revision of estimate of Specific and Non-Specific Reserves be **APPROVED.**
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**PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR TO BE NOTED**

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|  |  | **Matters for Information or To Be Noted** |  |
|  | a | **Date of Next Meeting**Thursday 8 February 2024 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued 1 February 2024 | **NOTED.** |
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**PARD 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 interests because of the confidential nature of the business.

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|  |  | **Exempt Business** | **Determination** |
| 23/243 |  | That members exclude the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 | **APPROVED** |
| 23/244 | a. | **Resource Update**The Chairman formally welcomed Gillian Turner to the meeting and advised that following a meeting with Members she had agreed to take up the post of Locum Clerk. The Chairman invited her to give a precis of her current role and career background. It was confirmed that she would be working from the office on Mondays and Fridays and available via telephone or email at other times. | **NOTED** |
| 23/244 | b. | **HR Documents**The Chairman referred to discussions with NALC and the Internal Auditor with regards to HR Support. Having explored the option suggested by NALC he was minded to recommend to Full Council that a contract be entered into with Northumberland County Council to provide HR Support.  | Members **AGREED in Principle** to be an AGENDA ITEM full council February 8, 2024. |
| 23/245 | c. | **Interim Internal Audit Report**The Chairman reported that there were no issues arising from the Interim Internal Audit | **NOTED** |
| 23/246 | d. | **Services Meetings**Members discussed the suspension of Services Meetings during the Clerks period of absence. Members considered that any urgent business or matters for decision would be added to the Full Council agenda. | Service Meetings be suspended during Clerks absence.**APPROVED** |

The Chairman thanked the Acting Locum Clerk for her support and assistance.