



## **BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Development Committee** held in the Council Chamber at Arms Everytne House, Blyth on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 6.30pm.

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

G T Knox (Chair), J R Potts (Vice-Chair), A Cartie, A Gibbs-Barton, K Nisbet, O Potts and J Reid

Martyn Kendall – Conservation Officer

Stephen Rickitt – Town Clerk (Democratic Services)

One member of the public

**179/15/01: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors G Thompson and A Turnbull

**180/15/02: DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & THE GRANT OF ANY DISPENSATIONS**

For transparency:

Councillor Gibbs-Barton as a member of the Lifeboat Committee (item 6)

Councillor Reid as a County Councillor and in particular as a member of the County Council's South-East Area Planning Committee (items 5, 6 and 7) – for planning applications Councillor Reid listened to comments but

abstained from any recommendations as he might be called to make a formal decision as a member of the member of the County Council's South-East Area Planning Committee

### **181/15/03: MINUTES FROM THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015**

These were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### **182/15/04: MATTERS ARISING**

- The Town Clerk Democratic Services confirmed that the representations on the Core Strategy had been dispatched to the County Council
- The Committee authorised the Chair and/or the Town Clerk (Democratic Services) to attend the County Council's Planning and Environment and Rights of Way Committee on 3 February 2015 to advocate a deferment of application 14/03720/CCD - Land West Of Patterson House Plessey Road Blyth - so discussions could take place regarding a joint facility

### **183/15/05: PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

One item was drawn to Councillors attention

99 14/04310/NONMAT

Non-material amendment relating to planning permission 12/03854/FUL (Erection of 60 dwellings) – Amendment relates to the removal of fence and retention of existing hedge to eastern boundary. Additional hedge planting to Tynedale Drive boundary and areas to be maintained by Northumberland County Council Highways amended further to meeting on site – Blyth Tynedale Middle School, Tynedale Drive, Cowpen, Blyth, Northumberland.

The Committee did not raise any concerns

**184/15/06: CONSERVATION UPDATE AND REPORTS**

6.1: Mr Kendall updated the Committee on the remaining walking tour of the Conservation Areas which was to be arranged. Following that a report would be prepared to enable the Committee to consider making formal representations for amendments to the Conservation Area boundaries.

6.2: Mr Kendall presented the Committee with his draft Blyth 'Buildings of Local Interest', a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes.

6.3 Using the pages numbers as references, councillors made the following comments

- a. General – Councillors suggested the paper should contain an appendix showing the *Listed Building* within the parish
- b. Page 6 Boer War Memorial – to mention the change of location
- c. Page 7 Ridley Park War Memorial – to include the surface Memorial
- d. Page 9 YMCA – to include mention of the garden as part of the list
- e. Page 10 4 Bridge St - to consider whether the owner should be approached to see if work could be carried out on the ground floor
- f. Page 13 Poundstretcher – The Committee was advised that stone is awaited
- g. Page 15 – to request the County Council to see if the clock could be put in working order and to provide signage more in keeping with the building, indeed whether extra signage was required
- h. Page 18 21-23 Bridge St – In the past public money had been given for the maintenance of these properties and the Committee wish to see the ground floor to be more in keeping with the remainder of the building
- i. Page 19 The Steamboat – Mr Kendall will make enquiries about the intended use/destination of the Victorian Bar
- j. Page 22 The Windmill – is an interesting example of how the use of the building may be about to change without affecting its external character
- k. Page 24 Crown Carpets- the list should this was formerly part of the Cowpen & Croft Co-Op
- l. Page 25 Keelman's Terrace – typo to be corrected
- m. Page 26 Links Road Chapels – TC(DS) to do a note on the reasons for two chapels
- n. Page 29 Dinsdale House – to note the past ownership by a ship-owner
- o. Page 31 72 Middleton St – debate on this as Councillor Gibbs-Barton thought it might be earlier than shown

- p. Page 34 Port Building – MK to speak to the Port of Blyth to try to locate more details of history and to try to gain access to record interior
- q. Page 45 2,4,6 Sussex Street – Councillors suggested retention because of the gargoyles which MK will investigate
- r. There are some general nomenclature issues to address

The Committee welcomed the draft and asked that it be made available to their colleagues to consider prior to returning to the Committee.

The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) will prepare a suggested method for consultation with the occupiers of the properties.

### **185/15/07: REPORT TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE AUDIT COMMITTEE AT NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL – IMPLICATIONS FOR BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**

7.1 The Committee had been provided with copies of a report prepared by Deloitte's and considered by the County Council's Audit Committee on 28 January 2015.

7.2 The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) was able to inform the Committee that, in his capacity as clerk to another local council in Northumberland, he had been given an assurance that the County Council would consult Town & Parish Councils before any changes were made to the way planning representations by local councils were handled.

7.3 Councillor Reid confirmed that he had attended the Audit Committee in his role as a County Councillor. Generally the recommendations had been accepted but the Audit Committee resolved that Town & Parish Councils be consulted on any changes.

7.4 Councillor Knox indicated strong concern at councillors being further removed from the planning process. This role was a key expectation of both Councillors and the general public.

7.5 Similar concerns were expressed by other members of the Committee. It was agreed to support the representations being made by the Town Clerk (Democratic Services) and NALC to ensure there was proper consultation before any changes to the current practice for considering local council's planning comments

### **186/15/08: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND URGENT MATTERS**

None

## **187/15/09: DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Planning & Development Committee is currently scheduled for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in the Council Chamber at Arms Everytne House

**Councillors:** G T Knox (Chair)  
J R Potts (Vice-Chair)  
A Cartie  
A Gibbs-Barton  
K Nisbet  
O Potts  
J Reid  
G Thompson  
A Turnbull

Approved as a true record at the meeting held on.....2015

Signed by the Chair

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