

## **BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting** held on Thursday 20 January 2011 at the Isabella Community Centre, Ogle Drive, Blyth, at 7.30pm.

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors: -	J Condon	J R Potts
	S Davey	O Potts
	K Ellis	P Reid (Deputy Mayor)
	A L Gibbs-Barton (Mayor)	L Rickerby
	J Newman	I M R Tompkins
	B Parker	

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Noddings, Town Clerk, plus four (3) members of the public.

### **OPEN SESSION:**

No questions or issues were raised by the members of the public present.

### **C141/10 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies and reasons for absence were received and accepted for Councillors K Nisbet and A L Gibbs-Barton, who anticipated that he would be late.

Councillor P Reid, Deputy Mayor, was in the Chair.

### **C142/10 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9 December 2010 were discussed, agreed and signed as a correct record.

It was confirmed that issues arising from these minutes were all addressed by the agenda.

### **C143/10 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:**

There were no disclosures of interest.

### **Initials:**

**C144/10 4. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2010, 6 JANUARY 2011 AND 13 JANUARY 2011**

- The minutes of the 14 December 2010 were adopted.
- Councillor J R Potts advised Council that he had met with the Internal Auditor and discussed the reporting requirements. He also reported that a simplified report could be produced based on a coding system. The minutes of the 6 January 2011 were adopted.
- The minutes of the 13 January 2011 were adopted and it was noted that there had been a change of position regarding Northumberland County Council Services.

**C145/10 5. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD 16 DECEMBER 2010 AND 12 JANUARY 2011**

- The minutes of 16 December 2010 were adopted.
- The minutes of 12 January 2011 were adopted.

**C146/10 6. MINUTES OF THE ASSETS COMMITTEE WITH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATIONS AND HOLDERS HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2011**

- The minutes of 11 January 2011 were adopted.

**C147/10 7. NOTES FROM THE FIRST POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2011**

- The notes of 18 January 2011 were adopted.

**C148/10 8. BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2011-2012 PRESENTED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Councillor Reid stated that she "wished to recognise the effective and collaborative working and the way in which a consensus had been reached". She also stated that "she hoped that the spirit demonstrated through the committee stages could be continued through this meeting".

The Budget Recommendations for 2011-2012 were then discussed and Councillor Reid formally moved that the document be accepted as the Blyth Town Council Budget for 2011-2012. This was seconded by Councillor Ellis.

**Initials:**

Budget headings were then discussed and adopted as follows: -

- Administrative/Employee Costs
- Office Costs
- Fees Charges
- Members Expenses
- Civic Expenses
- Services

Councillor Parker sought an amendment asking that Public Seats, Bus Shelters, Play Areas and War Memorials be removed from the proposal along with the Market Square. **Action: Town Clerk (SN)** to stress in all correspondence/discussions that *Public Seats and Play Areas exclude those in Parks and that any outstanding work has to be carried out by NCC at their expense.*

Councillor Ellis heard what Councillor Parker had said but felt the Blyth Town Council had to be in a position to act. Councillor Rickerby supported this.

Councillor Condon enquired whether a budget could be used for another purpose if the service was not transferred. It was generally agreed that certain funds could be vied and Councillor Gibbs-Barton stressed that Blyth Town Council did not have to enter into service level agreements with NCC; alternative providers could be utilised.

Councillor Tompkins highlighted concerns regarding the potential capping for Parish Councils next year. Because of this potential issue spending provision needs to be sensible this year.

Councillor J R Potts expressed his concerns about the state of public seats in general and stressed that graffiti was a County wide issue.

Councillor O Potts seconded Councillor Parker's amendment.

The amendment failed on a show of hands.

Councillor Reid then made a substantive motion to adopt the Precept as written on the spreadsheet. This was moved 9 to 2 in favour.

**Initials:**

**C149/10 9. AGREEMENT REGARDING THE PRECEPT FOR 2011-2012**

It was agreed that this had been addressed in Item 8 above.

**C150/10 10. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND URGENT MATTERS:**

To consider any items for information and any urgent matters brought to the attention of the Chair in advance of the meeting.

10.1 Update on correspondence with Northumberland County Council and the potential transfer of services – it was agreed that this had already been covered.

**C1140/10 10. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:**

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is Thursday 10 February 2011 at the Buffalo Community Centre.

Signed by the Chair:  .....

Date: 10/2/11 .....