

Subject to ratification at the next meeting

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17 JANUARY 2013, 6.30PM AT THE BUFFALO COMMUNITY CENTRE, REGENT STREET, BLYTH

PRESENT:

Councillors: J J Condon
S Davey
K Ellis
AL Gibbs-Barton
R Parker
JR Potts
O Potts
P Reid
L Rickerby
I Tompkins
S Walker (Deputy Mayor) – in the chair

IN ATTENDANCE:

Town Clerk: S Noddings
Temporary Assistant Town Clerk: S E Rickitt

Members of the Public: 6

REFERENCE:	ITEM:	ACTIONS:
C151/12.1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors K Nisbet and J Newman.	
C152/12.2	PUBLIC QUESTIONS 2.1 A petition was presented " <i>in protest at the extra allotments proposed by Blyth Parish Council and the steel fence already erected</i> ". The petition is signed by 72 people. Those presenting the petition were assured it would be considered at the next meeting of the Assets Committee. 2.2 There were no further questions from the public.	

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	<p>5.5 The Council was informed that the County Council had just submitted the two Enterprise Zone Local Development Orders to the DCLG. If the DCLG raise no objections then it was expected that these would be confirmed in the near future.</p> <p>5.6 Councillor Potts drew attention to the Committee's response to the DCLG's consultation regarding a possible three year period within which the permitted development rights would be increased. The Council endorsed the Committee's response.</p> <p>5.7 The Council then discussed the provisions in the Localism Act 2011 introducing a <i>Community Right to Bid</i> for buildings and land. The Council agreed that further consideration was required as to what buildings or land within Blyth should be nominated for registration under these provisions.</p> <p>5.8 The Council adopted the proposed policy that the nomination of any land or buildings within Blyth should not be taken as an indication that the Town Council was prepared to take over services run from those premises. In appropriate cases the Town Council would seek to enable the community to come forward with proposals.</p> <p>5.9 Councillor Potts informed Councillors that the next meeting of the Committee would consider the implications of <i>The Taylor Report</i> (on existing planning policy) and invited any observations.</p>	<p>5.7 The Planning & Development Committee</p> <p>5.9 All Councillors</p>
<p>C156/12.6</p>	<p>MINUTES OF THE ASSETS COMMITTEE.</p> <p>6.1 Although no quorate meeting had taken place since the last Council meeting, Councillor Parker updated the Council on the 13 projects underway in the current financial year.</p> <p>6.2 Councillors were particularly concerned to ensure that proper contractual arrangements should be in place for 2013/2014 for the maintenance currently undertaken by the County Council under "SLAs".</p> <p>6.3 The Council endorsed Councillor Parker's annoyance at the County Council and ARCH proceeding to do work on the shelters at the Bus Station without the Town Council's consent.</p>	

	<p>10.2 The following minor amendments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code 802 – renamed as <i>Litter Bins – Ongoing Maintenance / Renewal</i>. • Code 1021 – renamed as <i>Autumn Events</i> and increased from £17000 to £20,000 [Twenty Thousand Pounds] – with consequential changes to the totals giving a total net expenditure for 2013/2014 of £798,450. <p>10.3 The Council agreed that responsibility for the Market Place should be transferred from the Events Committee to the Assets Committee.</p> <p>10.4 Following discussion the budget paper (as amended above) was agreed by the Town Council without dissent.</p> <p>10.5 The Town Council resolved to levy a precept of £672,999 [Six Hundred and Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Nine Pounds] for 2013/2014.</p>	
<p>C161/12.11</p>	<p>COMMITTEE QUORUMS.</p> <p>11.1 The Council considered and adopted the report of the Temporary Assistant Town Clerk (A copy of which is with the signed minutes).</p> <p>11.2 For the sake of clarity the quorums was reduced to three for the Planning & Development, Assets, Events, Finance and Staff Committees, such reduction to continue until the first meeting of the Council following the elections in May 2013.</p> <p>11.3 For the purposes of agreeing/refusing grant applications at a special meeting of the Finance Committee on 18 January 2013, the membership of that Committee was temporarily changed to be Councillors Gibbs-Barton, Ellis, Parker, Potts (JR), Potts (O) and Walker.</p>	
<p>C162/12.12</p>	<p>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND URGENT MATTERS:</p> <p>12.1 The Council adopted the report of the Town Clerk regarding the short-term deposit of funds with the Co-Operative bank (a copy of the report is with the signed minutes).</p>	

	<p>going.</p> <p>A request for job sharing the post of Town Clerk had been discussed and agreed with S.Noddings working three days per week and S.Rickitt working two days per week with the roles being based on playing to the individuals strengths, knowledge and experience.</p> <p>A revised staffing and pay structure was discussed but the committee agreed to maintain the current structure with the new Committee Clerk reporting to the Town Clerk.</p> <p>The required changes to Salary, National Insurance, Pension and Job contracts would be completed.</p> <p>14.2 The Council then debated the report and agreed the Staff Committee minutes with the new job share coming into operation on 1st April and S.Rickitt services being retained until that date. A new staffing structure diagram would be created.</p>	
	<p>At this point the officers returned to the meeting.</p>	
<p>C150/12.15</p>	<p>PROPERTY WORKING GROUP</p> <p>15.1 The Council adopted the minutes of the Property Working Group held on 10 January 2013 and resolved:</p> <p><i>1: That the Town Council agree to take a 10 year lease of the first floor office suite at Arms Everytne House, and to vacate Ebor House.</i></p> <p><i>2: Having regard to the first resolution above, that the Town Council agree the layout of the office suite at Arms Everytne House.</i></p> <p><i>3: Having regard to the first and second resolutions above, the Town Council delegate the following powers to the Town Clerk to be exercised in consultation with the Mayor and the Chair of the Finance Committee, and keeping members of the</i></p>	