



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Special Meeting of BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL (Part II)
held in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, on Thursday 13
December 2018 at 6.00 pm.

**Pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960;
that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be
transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and
public be excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.**

Present:

Councillors: A Cartie (Chair), K Nisbet (Vice-Chair), D Carr, R Parker, J
R Potts, O Potts, J Reid, M Richardson, L Rickerby, S Stanger, W Taylor, D
Walls, G Webb

Officers:

J Hughes, Town Clerk
M Wilkinson, Deputy Town Clerk
M Hawthorne, Committee Clerk

Board of Directors, Briardale Community Centre

Councillor K Ellis, Chair, J Blakey, M Ellis, S Lister, A Falcus, I Charrade.

Apologies were received from Councillor G Davie and S Davie

1	Apologies For Absence Councillors: E Anderson-Smith, G Thompson.
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<p>2</p>	<p>Disclosure of Interests and Grant of Dispensations</p> <p>Councillor Ellis declared an interest as a Chair of the Board of Directors for the Briardale. Councillor Ellis left the meeting whilst the discussion took place.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>The Briardale Community Centre</p> <p>The Town Clerk referred to his report, adding that as a result of some issues at the Briardale Centre a request for a loan has been received from the Board of Directors. The questions asked of the Board of Directors by members, together with answers, were circulated at the meeting. The Town Clerk reminded members of the confidential nature of information shared as there is an ongoing police investigation and asked members to return the papers at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>The Town Clerk added that when some members of the Board made the request for the loan, they indicated that the auditors from NCC had been called in and they had spoken to the Chief Executive. Following this, the Town Clerk, Mayor and Chairs of the 3 Committees met with the Chief Executive and the Internal Auditor, Alison Mitchell. Internal audit as well as Tony Kirsop visited the centre and reported their initial findings immediately to the Chief Executive. Their findings included that there were discrepancies in the accounts and misappropriation of funds.</p> <p>Furthermore, the centre uses an agency to calculate staff salaries, and it was found that the centre paid different amounts to employees; it was discovered that the centre had no public liability insurance and no income from room hire.</p> <p>The Board of Directors participated in the second part of the meeting. The Chair of the Board, Councillor Ellis, referred to the current situation and asked the Council to consider the request for a loan of £20,000, to be repaid over a three year period. Board members also answered additional questions put by members.</p> <p>During discussions it was stated by a member of the Board that plans were in place to trade through these difficult times and they</p>

	<p>would not close the Centre.</p> <p>Clarification was sought regarding the total amount of money which has been taken and a board member confirmed that as well as the £20,000 identified by internal auditors, the overdraft facility of £10,000 has also been used, bringing the total to £30,000.</p> <p>They were then asked to leave and advised that they would be informed of the decision the following day.</p> <p>A lengthy debate followed where members shared their concerns over the current situation at the Briardale and the fact that the Board did not appear to have a clear understanding of what was happening. Councillors raised their concerns about the current Board members and most felt they could not offer support to the Centre unless the Board resigned.</p> <p>A Councillor moved that BTC do not give any money to the Briardale, but that the Council offer them as much support and encourage NCC to step up and put in the services and support required to keep the Centre running.</p> <p>The vote was 7 for, 4 against and two abstentions.</p>
4	<p>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Thursday 17 January 2019 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House.</p>

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

A Cartie (Mayor)	K Nisbet (Deputy Mayor)
E Anderson-Smith	D Carr
K Ellis	R Parker
J R Potts	O Potts
J Reid	M Richardson
L Rickerby	S Stanger
W Taylor	
G Thompson	
D Walls	
G Webb	