



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

To: ALL MEMBERS OF BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

You are hereby requested to attend a Meeting of **BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL** to be held in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytyn House, Quay Road, Blyth, NE24 2AS on Thursday 18th September 2014 at 6.30pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Rickitt'.

**STEPHEN RICKITT
TOWN CLERK (DEMOCRATIC SERVICES)
BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**

11th September 2014

Would you please ensure that all mobile phones are switched off during the Meeting

AGENDA:

1. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Ten minutes is set aside – See also the report as item 13 below

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th July and 4th September 2014.

5. MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

To adopt the Minutes of the Allotments Committee being held on 11th September 2014. Draft minutes should be available at the meeting and Councillors' attention will be verbally drawn to any recommendations or items of especial interest

6. MINUTES OF THE ASSETS COMMITTEE

To adopt the Minutes of the Assets Committee held on the 26th August 2014.

Councillors attention is drawn to

1. The Recommendation at 070/14/12 (4) regarding expenditure in 2013/2014 disallowed by the internal auditor – see also Finance Committee below at item 9
2. The Recommendation at 070/14/12 (9) that the Council have a policy of refusing to accept new public realm equipment without a commuted maintenance payment
3. The Resolution at 070/14/12 (12) that all Councillors be given a copy of the schedule of bus shelters so they can confirm its accuracy for their ward. A hard copy of the schedule will be available for all Councillors at the meeting to take away. Corrections should be provided direct to the Assets Officer.
4. The Resolution at 071/14/13 (1) that all Town Councillors should receive a copy of the Partnership Board minutes.
5. The Recommendation at 071/14/13 that the Finance Committee revise the budget codes – see also Finance Committee below at item 9
6. The Resolution at 071/14/13 (7) that all Councillors be given a hard copy of the Partnership Agreement. A hard copy will be available for all Councillors at the meeting to take away.

7. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE

No meeting has been held since the previous meetings of the Town Council but attention is drawn to the Finance Committee below at item 9

8. MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

To adopt the Minutes of the Events Committees held on the 29th July and 2nd September 2014.

Councillors attention is drawn to
Meeting of 29th July 2014

There is no item to draw specific attention to.

Meeting of 2nd September 2014

1. The note at 100/14/05 regarding the Maritime Festival
2. The discussion at 101/14/06 6.2 regarding the Maritime Festival (see also the minutes of the Town Council held on 4th September 2014)
3. The endorsement at 102/14/07 of the research into seed-corn funding for Blyth branded products

9. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

To adopt the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 4th September 2014.

Councillors attention is drawn to

1. The Recommendation at 078/14/04 (2) that funding be taken from reserves for expenditure incurred in 2013/2014 but which the internal auditor declined to include within the accounts for 2013/2014
2. The Recommendation at 078/14/04 (3) that the budget codes were varied to accord with the Partnership Agreement.
3. The Recommendation at 080/14/08 (2) not to audio record private items of business

10. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

10.1 To adopt the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committees held on 24th July and 3rd September 2014.

Councillors attention is drawn to

Meeting of 24th July 2014

1. The resolution at 144/14/08 regarding the provision of new rolling stock for the railway franchise
2. The note at 146/14/10 concerning publication of the final benchmarking report.

Meeting of 3rd September 2014

1. Application 14/01635/FUL (South Newsham MUGA) at 153/14/05 where further information may be provided to the Council
2. At 154/14/06 the work of the Conservation Officer
3. The Resolution at 156/14/07 regarding the submission for the Local Transport Policy Programme 2015/2014
4. At 158/14/09 the position regarding the return of passenger traffic to the Ashington Blyth & Tyne Line

10.2 To consider any urgent planning related issues.

11. MINUTES OF THE STAFF COMMITTEE

To adopt the minutes of the Meeting of the Staff Committee held on the 2nd September 2014.

Councillors attention is drawn to

1. The note at 15/14/04 (3) regarding the job evaluation scheme at the probable need for a special meeting of the Committee
2. The Resolution at 15/14/04 (4) that all Councillors receive a copy of the Union Membership Agreement. A hard copy will be available for all Councillors at the meeting to take away.
3. The Resolution at 16/14/05 (3) to investigate revisions to the flexi-time scheme

12. MINUTES OF THE POLICY WORKING GROUP

No meeting has been held but Councillors are asked to note that a special meeting is to be held to consider the future of events from 1 April 2015.

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

To consider the attached report of the Town Clerk (Democratic Services)

14. MEMBERS RESOLUTIONS *See also items 17 and 18*

To consider the following resolution submitted by Councillor K Ellis

Recommendations

1. That council resolve to invite an external organization, such as NEREO, to conduct a thorough review of the council's financial returns, budgets and accounting processes to enable an improvement plan to be put in place to prevent a repetition of the issues that have arisen with regard to the accounts and financial returns.

2. That council resolves to invite an external organization to review its organizational culture and develop an improvement plan to address the issues that have arisen with regard to the licensing and management of events, and to counter the belief in some sections of the community that it is a dysfunctional organization.

Background

1. Council notes that, despite reassurances to the contrary, the recent Maritime Festival was not licensed in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

2. Council notes that the confusion around licensing requirements and legislation gives rise to doubts as to whether any events organized by the Town Council have been appropriately licensed.

3. Council notes that the accounts for 2012-13 were wrong, and have had to be re-stated because of material inaccuracies.

4. Council notes that the accounts for 2013-14 could only be submitted to the external auditors after extensive re-working by accountants provided by Northumberland County Council.

5. Council notes that many elected members lack confidence in the management arrangements of the authority, and are concerned that issues identified during previous investigations under the Standards Code have not been resolved.

6. Council notes that there is no clarity as to whether Issues Arising reports from the external auditors have been appropriately disclosed to all elected members.

7. Council notes that many elected members have no confidence in the ability of the Town Council and its current management to develop an improvement plan to address these issues, and that there is a dysfunctional organizational culture and atmosphere that is hindering the development of an organization with a substantial budget and duties.

8. Council notes the view of many elected members that, in the circumstances, there is a need to provide reassurance to the council taxpayers of Blyth that the Town Council is a body capable of managing its own affairs and substantially improving upon its current standing.

9. Council re-affirms its belief in Blyth Town Council as a body capable of transforming and celebrating Blyth, and its belief that the Town Council should be focussed entirely on a mission to deliver effective services to the people of Blyth, to

promote Blyth as a great place to live, work and play, and to enhance the town's image and reputation.

15. ANY FURTHER INFORMATION AND ITEMS FOR URGENT ATTENTION

This item is only for items of information to be given to town councillors and for items which either the Mayor Chair or Town Clerk consider to be genuinely urgent.

It can be used to raise issues for discussion at the next meeting. Town council law requires there should be no substantive discussion of an item which is not on the agenda.

There is no provision for Any Other Business

16. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Full Council is scheduled for Thursday 20th November 2014.

17. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

A Councillor has submitted a resolution which makes reference to a particular member of staff. The Mayor will move the resolution is discussed in private.

18. THE MEMBERS RESOLUTION REFFERED TO AT 17 ABOVE

This will be copied to Councillors under separate cover.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Councillors: -

C Bruce
A Cartie (Deputy-Mayor)
B W Elliott
K Ellis
A Gibbs-Barton
G T Knox
K Nisbet
M Parker
R Parker
J R Potts
O Potts (Mayor)
J Reid
L Rickerby
D Rutter
G Thompson
A Turnbull

Officers:

S Noddings	Town Clerk (Corporate Services)
S Rickitt	Town Clerk (Democratic Services)
S Robinson	Assets Officer
A McCabe	Office Manager
D Clough	Asst. Assets Officer