



Blyth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held in the Council Chamber at Arms Everytne House on Tuesday 7 February 2017

Present:

Councillors: J R Potts (Chair), R Parker (Vice-Chair), A Cartie, O Potts, J Reid

Officers:

J Hughes Town Clerk
S Robinson Environmental Services Officer
M Hawthorne Committee Clerk

Members of Public: 0

No	
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillors: K Ellis, L Rickerby
2	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS Councillor Reid declared an interest as an NCC Councilor.
3	MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2016 Committee agreed to ADOPT the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2016.

3.1	MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.
4	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES OFFICER'S REPORT
4.1	Litter Bins Committee noted that the ES Officer is currently gathering information, including costs, with a view to installing larger bins in areas where they can be accommodated, similar to those in Seaton Valley. Councillor Reid asked the ES Officer to investigate a complaint he received from a resident about the lack of bins on the left-hand side of Amersham Road. ES Officer will look into this and feedback to Councillor Reid. Councillor Parker asked if there is a system in place to monitor bin usage. The ES Officer receives regular reports from the Team Leader responsible for the litter bins about how much they are being used and how often the bins are emptied.
4.2	Play Areas (please see the report for detailed information) Bowes Street The seats and bins are being installed this week. The ES Officer said that during a weekly inspection it was found that three pieces of equipment have become loose from the foundations, although they are still deemed safe to use. A representative from KOMPAN will check out the equipment and ask the contractor to repair it. The ES Officer has asked Councillor Nisbet for some additional information regarding the request for a wet pour surface. Play Area Safety Gates Councillor Parker queried whether the existing gates are going to be refurbished for future use. The ES Officer said they would be disposed of as part of KOMPAN's contract. After further discussion it was agreed the ES Officer will speak to KOMPAN to

	<p>clarify what they plan to do with the gates.</p> <p>S106</p> <p>Committee noted the updated information contained in the ES Officer's report.</p> <p>Annual Play Area Inspections</p> <p>Committee agreed to the cost of £900 for the above which must be carried out by an external provider.</p> <p>4.3 Bus Shelters</p> <p>Following discussion Committee agreed to install one new bus shelter out of this year's budget on Brierley Road with a view to installing one on Links Road out of next year's budget.</p> <p>The insurance claim for the damage to the bus shelter on Rotary Way has now been settled and the Council is awaiting payment.</p> <p>There continues to be a high level of vandalism to the Perspex windows. The Town Clerk suggested using artwork on the windows which may deter the vandals.</p> <p>4.4 War Memorials</p> <p>The ES Officer told Committee that he is to attend a War Memorial Workshop on 10 February 2017 where he will get information on additional funding. The Town Clerk commented that he has asked the ES Officer to provide a progress report at each Committee to ensure Councillors are kept informed and able to make decisions. It was noted that comments have been made by individuals about their plans for the memorials and whilst the Council welcome fundraising from residents, the memorials are the responsibility of the Council and funds must be spent via the Council.</p> <p>4.5 Toilets on Broadway</p> <p>Discussion took place around the delay in demolishing the old toilet block. Councillor Reid noted that it was included in the original planning permission. The Chair added that the application was discussed at the Planning and Development</p>
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	<p>Committee in October 2015 and whilst there was a delay in the building of the Pavilion it was always the intention to demolish the toilets.</p> <p>It was also discussed at Full Council and at Partnership Board on 29 September and 20 October 2016. Once demolition has taken place NCC will grass over the area, install seats, litter bins and plants and also build a wall on which the Tour of Britain will be commemorated. Very clear decisions have been made about this.</p> <p>Councillor Elliott has made a request that both of the new toilets are left open and the ES Officer has passed this onto NCC.</p>
5	<p>PARTNERSHIP BOARD UPDATE</p> <p>The Christmas tree has been removed from the market place.</p> <p>5.1 <u>Wi-Fi</u></p> <p>ES Officer has spoken to NCC who advised that the licenses on the Quayside are temporary. Costs will be provided for the Quayside and beach area at the next Partnership Board. The Chair said it would be helpful to have some usage figures.</p> <p>The ES Officer has received information from Northumbria Police about young people causing problems in the market place and it is thought they are being attracted by the free Wi-Fi. This is something the Council will take into consideration when making decisions about free Wi-Fi.</p> <p>5.2 <u>Footpath Edging</u></p> <p>ES Officer reminded Councillors to let Mr Reith know of any areas that need attention as this work is almost complete.</p> <p>5.3 <u>Street Lighting</u></p> <p>A detailed discussion took place around the ongoing delays in the completion of this project and the lack of information available. The ES Officer has arranged for Steve Bucknall and Gavin Barlow to attend the next Partnership Board. It was noted that Councillor Parker felt this issue should have been dealt with by the Committee and not the Board. The Town Clerk suggested that if necessary Mr Bucknall and Mr Barlow will</p>

	<p>also be invited to the next meeting of the Full Council. Councillor O Potts suggested a joint meeting with NCC would be beneficial.</p>
6	<p>PRIORITIES & FUTURE PLANNING FOR 2017/2018</p> <p>The ES Officer provided budget information for next year. Committee discussed the plans for bus shelters and agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A bus shelter will be installed on Links Road.• The rest of the budget will be used to repair and refurbish the bus shelters where needed. The ES Officer will present an action plan for this work to the next meeting of the Environmental Services Committee.• The Town Clerk will make enquiries to see if there is any other funding available as S278 money has been previously secured for bus shelters. <p>Play Area Renewals</p> <p>The ES Officer displayed designs for three new play areas together with costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chase Farm Drive - £90.000• Laverock - £45.000• Lindsay - £22.000 <p>The Committee considered the three areas and decided to go ahead with Laverock and Lindsay at a total cost of £67.000. The ES Officer asked if Committee would consider progressing Chase Farm play area if the funds become available via S106. Councillor Parker asked that clarification is sought regarding the ownership of this piece of land. The Chair added that this play area was not on the original list when the play areas were transferred to BTC. The Chair commented that NCC should consult the parish councils on 106 agreements before they are approved. The ES Officer will progress this.</p> <p>Councillor Parker added that he would like further information about what S106 money can be spent on and how it can be used for the benefit of the town. The Town Clerk proposed that the ES Officer arrange a meeting with his contact to explore this</p>

	further.
7	<p>ROAD SIGNS ON GATEWAY ENTRANCES</p> <p>The ES Officer showed a design example for the gateway signs. Councillors considered this and agreed it would be useful to meet with the designer in order to agree a final design which will include the Blyth Crest, Town Twinning information and the Tall Ships logo. The approximate cost is £350 per sign and planters cost approximately £750 each. The signs will be placed at the following entrances to Blyth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cowpen Road (Asda) • Horton Road • Laverock Road • Links Road <p>The ES Officer will circulate the draft design to all Councillors.</p>
8	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR URGENT ATTENTION</p> <p>8.1 The Town Clerk said that all of the artefacts have been photographed and the information is now available to view in the Members Room. He acknowledged the hard work of the officers who carried out this work.</p> <p>8.2 <u>National Association of British Market Authorities Event in September 2017</u></p> <p>NCC will be attending the event and are hoping to deliver a presentation on the revitalisation of the Market Place. The Chair proposed that 2 members from the Council attend with the NCC party. The Town Clerk will advise Mr Gavin that the Town would like to be represented.</p>
9	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting of the Environmental Services Committee will take place on Tuesday, 11 April 2017 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber.</p>

MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors:

J R Potts (Chair)

B Elliott

K Ellis

J Reid

D Rutter

R Parker (Vice-Chair)

A Cartie

O Potts

L Rickerby