



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Assets Committee held at Arms Everytne House on Thursday 11th June 2013.

Present:

Councillors:

B W Elliott, K Ellis (Vice Chair), R Parker (Chair), J R Potts, O Potts, L Rickerby and A Turnbull.

Also present:

S E Rickitt - Town Clerk (Democratic Services)

L Forsyth – Committee Clerk

001/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Reid and Rutter.

002/02 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND GRANT OF ANY DISPENSATIONS

None.

003/03 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 9TH APRIL 2013

Following on from point 5.3 in the previous minutes. Councillor J R Potts asked as to what progress had been made regarding the Bus Shelters. The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) commented that the progress has been delayed in the recent staff difficulties, it was also noted that this was to be rectified as soon as possible. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

004/04 INTRODUCTORY BRIEFING ON THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Councillor R Parker provided a report for the Committee, outlining key areas. Councillor R Parker provided an update on the current situation with the bus shelters.

Councillor J R Potts wished to remind Ward Councillors that it is helpful if they are aware of what assets are within their own ward. The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) stated that a list of the assets within each individual ward is to be provided in time. **Action: SER/Assets Officer.**

Councillor B W Elliott commented that an inventory was needed in order to pay potential contractors. Councillor R Parker commented that with any creation of a list, a map may be needed to create a user friendly accessible document for wider use. **Action: SER/ Assets Officer**

Councillor J R Potts queried whether it was still a policy that the removal of the bus shelters from the bus station and other parts of Blyth are to be transferred to sites where they are needed. The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) commented that it was his belief that the Committee Maintenance Sum which the County Council holds should be transferred to Blyth Town Council and that this will be investigated further. **Action: SER.**

Councillor O Potts commented that the bus stop at Durban House had still not been replaced. **Action: Assets Officer.**

Councillor J R Potts also queried whether there was a requirement for new bus stops to be placed beside a lamppost for the future provision of electronic timetables. **Action: SER/Assets Officer.**

Councillor R Parker then outlined the current situation regarding the provision and management of litter bins. Councillor K Ellis stated that it was key that the Town Council sought clarification from Northumberland County Council on the exact requirements. Councillor R Parker stated that £4000 in the budget for the provision of bins. Councillor L Rickerby also noted that installation had previously been carried out free of charge by the County Council and wished for this to be investigated. **Action: SER/Assets Officer.**

Councillor K Ellis noted his concerns about the current cost of bus shelter maintenance which he did not consider this value for money. Councillor R Parker commented that at present £21,000 was set aside for maintenance. Councillor J R Potts commented that initial problems often

related to the problem that Northumberland County Council not having the costs for individual services as services such as grass cutting often crossed departments.

Councillor B W Elliott sought clarification as to who sets the budget for the Assets provision and maintenance. Councillor R Parker commented that the Town Council decided the yearly budget with support from the County Council. The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) commented that it was his belief that the co-operation with the County Council was significantly improving.

With regards to floral displays it was noted by the Chair that these provide ambience to the Town and that Blyth Town Council was providing financial support to related projects. This provided an example where the base was provided by the County Council and where the Town Council's role involves improving and supplementing the service.

The issue of the War Memorials was then discussed. Councillor R Parker provided an update to the Committee regarding the Memorial sited at the Bebside Club. It was noted that the Club may close in the near future and that it is to be investigated and organised that the memorial be relocated should the club close by Blyth Town Council.

Councillor R Parker provided a brief outline regarding the Market Place. It was noted that the budget had been handed over to the Assets Committee. The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) commented that a meeting was to be organised with Northumberland County Council regarding the Market Place. **Action: SER.**

Councillor R Parker enquired whether the responsibility for the banners in the Market Place lay with the Assets Committee. Councillor John Potts commented that ideally the banners would be sorted in time for the Summer Fair, he noted that it was his belief that the basic concept of the banners needed to be changed in order to accommodate for the weather conditions. Councillor R Parker commented that potential for perforated banners should be investigated as this would address the aforementioned concern. Councillor J R Potts commented a priority should be to remove the broken banners as soon as possible. Councillor R Parker seconded this.

Councillor J R Potts stated that his opinion that it should be a long term aim of the Town Council to take responsibility and control for the Market Place. The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) commented that if desired

that he could make tentative enquiries regarding the Market Place and potential partnerships. **Action SER.**

Councillor R Parker discussed the provision of singular lamp standards. The Chair commented that he was seeking the authority to get another installed in order to avoid pulling up the footpath at a later date.

Potential to use display banners and flags posts from the Lamp Standards and wider provision was also discussed. It was agreed that this proposal was to go before the Events Committee with for further discussion and with a view to the generation of ideas.

Councillor R Parker concluded by discussing the new Allotment Committee and provided an update on the fencing at the Bolam Avenue site commenting that following on from conversations with Dave Clough that the fencing is now complete.

005/5 REQUESTS FOR WASTE BINS

The Chair commented that he believed that the Town Council should seek confirmation on the prices. It was noted that details were to be circulated including the details of the bins placement. **Action: SER/Assets Officer/LF**

Councillor K Ellis stated that the Committee should look to replace bins in a like for like manner.

Councillor R Parker commented that he believed that some new, and some replacement bins were required. Delegated authority was given to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, to order new waste bins.

006/06 FUTURE MEETINGS

The meetings as outlined were noted. The Town Clerk provided a reminder regarding the meeting at the gateway roundabout at Bebside. Councillor L Rickerby commented that submarine placement will still supported by herself, she also commented on potential to capitalise on Bebside historically being the prettiest village in Britain.

It was also noted by the Committee that a question should be raised with representatives of Northumberland County Council regarding the South Beach roundabout.

007/07 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND URGENT MATTERS

The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) provided an outline of the War Memorial consultation to be circulated to all interested parties. The report is presented as a consultation paper and is to be conducted until the end of July with reports to be submitted to the Assets Committee in August and then the full Council meeting in September.

Councillor J R Potts stated that it was his belief that contact had been made regarding retrospective issues and enquired as to whether there could be potential for a new memorial. Councillor L Rickerby commended the Town Clerk (Democratic Services) for setting up this consultation process. Councillor R Parker commented that a press statement was to be released to the local press in the next few days.

Councillor Lesley Rickerby enquired as to the estimated costings for the provision of names on the War Memorials. The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) commented that this was a key investigative issue and part of the planned consultation process.

Councillor J R Potts asked the Town Clerk (Democratic Services) where the consultation document would be sent to. The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) responded the consultation is to target service and ex-service organisations, churches ward councillors and copies were to be made available both online and in the office.

Councillor R Parker sought as to whether any research had been conducted into the space available on current War Memorials. **Action:SER.**

The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) presented the proposed stickers for both bus shelters and litter bins. Cllr A Turnbull commented that the telephone number should be altered as often people with learning difficulties have difficulty in reading red ink on white background. Subject to that comment the Committee agreed the aforementioned stickers and authorised their installation.

008/08 DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

It was agreed that the next scheduled meeting of the Assets Committee is to take place on the 13th August 2013 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber of Arms Everytne House.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.35pm