

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Assets Committee held at Ebor House, Blyth on Tuesday 9 April 2013 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors Ellis K, Newman J, Nisbet K and Parker R.

Councillor Ellis chaired Items 1-3 and Councillor Newman chaired items 4-9.

Officers: Westwell D and Rickitt SE.

Members of the public: Mrs J Maltman (Secretary of the Solingen Residents Association) and Mrs Ann Smith (a resident of the Solingen Estate).

1: Apologies for Absence

None.

2: Declarations of Interest and Grant of Dispensations

None.

3: A meeting with three representatives from the Solingen Estate and consideration of the issues raised by them and other residents.

3.1: Mrs Maltman and Mrs Smith expressed the concerns of their association about the proposed allotment extension, the location of the fence and the lack of consultation. The members and the Town Clerk again apologised for any deficiencies in the consultation process.

3.2: Following a lengthy discussion of the issues, Mrs Maltman and Mrs Smith stated their preferences:-

- They would prefer no extension in the present location, but if there was then,
- The fence should be moved a further three metres from their boundaries, thus providing a gap (for a roadway) of four metres between their boundaries and the allotment plots.

3.3: The Committee agreed the following process:

- A letter-drop to residents within the next two working days to explain the future actions.
- Following the elections on 2 May, a site meeting with residents,
- Followed by consultation on a preferred option by a letter-drop,
- Before a final decision is made by the Allotments Committee.

4: Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th February 2013.

These were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair of the meeting.

5: Current Work

5.1.1 Gateway Projects – the Committee recommends that the next gateway project should be in the area of the Asda Roundabout at Bebside. Members suggested a submarine theme.

5.1.2 Members have asked that research be undertaken on any changes to the criteria for “primary destinations” on the principal route network. The Town Clerk will also restart the process for the erection of signs marking the twinning with Solingen.

5.2 The Market Place including the lighting columns on Waterloo Road & Market Street – members asked that the County Council be asked to ensure that any replacement street lighting columns include fixtures for Christmas Lighting. If there is an extra cost, the Committee require details.

5.3 Ongoing Works (Bus Shelters, Play Areas, Seats, War Memorials, and Grass Cutting). – The Committee reviewed the current position and instructed that

5.3.1 – A plan should be prepared showing the location of all the Town’s bus shelters and saying whether they are the responsibility of the Town Council.

5.3.2 – The 2012 condition survey is to be updated.

5.3.3 – The Committee recommends that the shelters being removed as part of the Bus Station refurbishment should be relocated to Ogle Drive (South or Field Side) and West Court (Eastern Side)

5.3.4 – Work is to be commenced on the costing and style of a shelter on Hodgson’s Road by Durban House.

5.3.5 – A report had been received from the County Council on the inspection of the Play Areas. This is to be circulated to Town Councillors.

5.3.6 – A report is to be obtained on the potential for refurbishing the War Memorials at Cowpen and Newsham.

5.3.7 – The County Council are to be again requested for plans showing the area for which Homes for Northumberland are responsible.

5.4 Open Spaces - The Committee noted that assets transfers from the County Council are on hold.

5.5 Allotments

5.5.1 – The Committee authorised the purchase of a Dirty Water Pump, engine and piping at an approximate cost of £280 provided that:

- (a) Northumbrian Water Limited give consent for discharge in the sewage system, and
- (b) Arrangements have been made for the storage of the pump, engine and pipes.

5.5.2 – The Committee agreed the principle of raised beds at 10th Avenue, subject to grant finance being available. The decision on installation is to be made in consultation with the chair and vice-chair of this committee (or of the Allotments Committee if after 9 May 2013)

5.5.3 – Officers are to get a costing for the clearance of waste materials on unused allotment plots at Wensleydale.

6: Report on the draft contract with the County Council.

The Committee stated their wish for this to be progressed as soon as possible.

7: Any Other Business.

The Committee were informed of an ownership issue affecting the Wensleydale allotments and the Persimmon housing site. The Committee authorised officers to negotiate and (if possible) resolve the issue in consultation with the chairs and vice-chairs of the Assets and Finance Committees.

8: Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 11 June 2013.

9: Confidential Matters (if any)

None.

Approved as a True Record and Signed by the Chair

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Dated: