



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber at Arms Everytne House on Thursday 15 November at 6.00 pm

Present:

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

Officers:

J Hughes, Town Clerk
M Wilkinson, Deputy Town Clerk
D Clough, General Services Officer
S Mitcheson, General Services Assistant
M Hawthorne, Committee Clerk

Other Attendees: Mr G Gavin, Northumberland County Council

Members of the Public: 0

Minute No	
1	Apologies for Absence Councillor R Parker
2	Disclosure of Interests Grant of Dispensations None.
3	New Partnership Agreement Greg Gavin attended to deliver presentation on the proposals for the new partnership agreement.

	<p>The presentation was also circulated to all Councillors; following a number of discussions four options have been prepared for consideration and the draft proposal has been submitted. Mr Gavin referred to the slide which contained the options summary table and highlighted the difference between the enhancement options 1-4. Also included is the formal resolution process for when things go wrong and how NCC propose to account for the way they spend the contribution from NCC. Key points from the presentation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Services – the format of core services and future developments. • More effective ways of managing specific services. • Use of mobile recording apps. • 7% contribution from BTC to recover direct costs. <p>The Town Clerk commented that a final decision will be made at the Full Council Meeting in January 2019. If members wish to make major changes or want NCC to come up with alternative solutions they should email their comments to the Town Clerk who will pass them on to NCC.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Environment Committee Budget 2019/2020</p> <p>The Town Clerk referred to the budget sheet for 2019/20 adding that there are further items in the decision report for consideration. The budget will go to the Governance Committee in January and then Full Council for approval overall. Any changes will go into the revised budget.</p> <p>Councillor J Potts commented that some of the codes for the Allotments were going to be removed and asked if there is a project will it be set against the specific allotment site. The Town Clerk said some things could go into maintenance, however, specific pieces of work would be approved beforehand and recorded separately. Councillor Reid added that the allotments should not cost BTC anything and too much money is spent on them.</p> <p>Members approved the proposed budget.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 4 September 2018 for approval as a true record</p> <p>The minutes were noted as a true record.</p>

6	<p>Items for Information (not for discussion at Committee)</p> <p>The information report was noted by members.</p>
7	<p>Report on Delegated Actions</p> <p>The delegated action report was noted by members in respect of the War Memorial at Ridley Park.</p>
8	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>The Committee considered the recommendations outlined in the decision report and RESOLVED the following:</p> <p>8.1 <u>Market Revitalisation Scheme</u></p> <p>To extend the temporary contract until March 2019, subject to confirmation from NCC that BTC will not be responsible for any additional costs with regard to employment rights.</p> <p>Not to support a third year of the Market Regeneration Initiative.</p> <p>8.2 <u>Additional Litter Picking – Monday to Friday</u></p> <p>To defer this item as it may be included in the Partnership Agreement.</p> <p>8.3 <u>Bowes Street Improvements</u></p> <p>To defer this item until further information is available with regards to any plans the Town Forum may have for Bowes Street. This may also be part of the Local Transport Plan. BTC have also invited a representative from NCC to come along and speak to members on this matter.</p> <p>8.4 <u>Additional CCTV Cameras x 2</u></p> <p>Agreed to purchase two cameras for the Market Place at a cost of £1,400 per camera plus relocation costs per annum of £680 if required. Costs to be met out of this year’s budget.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk advised that BTC are now in a position to monitor the cameras as the General Services Assistant has recently completed the necessary course to allow him to do so.</p>

	<p>In response to a question about the advantages of CCTV, the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the data has been used to identify youths involved in a recent incident in the market place as well as an incident in a play area where a child was attacked by a dog.</p>
8.5	<p><u>Community Defibrillator</u></p> <p>Agreed to the purchase of a community defibrillator to be situated at a suitable location in the Town Centre at a cost of £2,090 per annum (for defibrillator, battery and electrode replacement). Costs to be met out of this year's budget.</p>
8.6	<p><u>Increased Disabled Facilities in Play Areas</u></p> <p>Not to include £20,000 in the budget for this. BTC will write to NCC to see if they have plans to include disabled play equipment in Ridley Park and the beach. All relevant legislation will be adhered to when future refurbishments are considered.</p>
8.7	<p><u>Small Business Incentives – Retail Improvement Grants</u></p> <p>To defer this item until further information is available regarding the BID and Town Forum.</p>
8.8.	<p><u>Increased Enforcement Provision</u></p> <p>Agreed to increased enforcement. This will go in next year's budget. Further discussion is required with NCC.</p>
8.9	<p><u>Increased resources for Litter Picking (weekends/public holidays)</u></p> <p>The Town Clerk to explore with Greg Gavin whether this can be incorporated into the Partnership Agreement options.</p>
8.10	<p><u>William Smith Sculpture/Sponsoring Main Sail on the Ship</u></p> <p>Councillor Reid commented that sponsoring a main sail is not within the remit of the Environment Committee. This matter will be considered by the Governance Committee/Community Development Committee.</p>

<p>8.11</p>	<p><u>Town Centre Revitalisation</u></p> <p>The Town Clerk asked members whether they wished to pay for some consultancy advice with regard to the above. Members agreed to defer a decision on this matter until more information is obtained through discussions on the Town Forum</p>
<p>8.12</p>	<p><u>Allotments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bebside – repairs to the boundary fencing at a cost of £3,869, budget code 696 from the current year’s budget. • Delaval Gardens – Replace the wooden gates with Palisade at a cost of £1,124, budget code 696 from the current year’s budget. • Twenty Third Avenue Allotments lane access– consideration as given to the request to construct a lane to provide easier access to the plots. The cost of this work could not be met from the current year’s budget. A discussion took place regarding the viability of the proposal and members decided to defer this matter at present. Councillor Potts noted that Harworth Estates own the old railway line and this could provide a better access route. • Twenty Third Avenue water system – The GSO advised that Harworth Estates and NCC have no objections to the proposals to run the pipes under the old railway line. It was agreed to proceed with this piece of work at a cost of £8,670, budget code 696 from the current year’s budget. Two Councillors disagreed with the vote. • Play Areas – to continue to maintain Chase Farm play area until the matter of who owns the land is resolved. No refurbishment work will be carried out. The Town Clerk will make contact with NCC with a view to resolving this issue and also the ownership of land for the South Beach play area. • Ogle Drive/Broadway – a discussion took place with regard to which play area should be refurbished. It was agreed that the GSO will prepare a report outlining plans and costs to the next Environment Committee. This will include the costs of extending Broadway if this is possible.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV – agreed to move the CCTV camera from Bolam Avenue to the MUGA at St John’s Walk. The cost of this will work be £340, budget code 714, from this year’s budget. • Bus Shelters – to move the bus shelter from Amersham Road to Wharton Street at Newsham. The cost of removal/reinstatement work will be £1,985, budget code 710 from this year’s budget. • Sandringham Drive – remove the PVC sheets from this shelter, which is not being used, to stop vandalism. The cost for this is approximately £100, budget code 710 from this year’s budget. • Agreed to gift the original statue from the Cowpen War Memorial to the TA Barracks where it will stand in the foyer. • Ransom Strip – agreed to make enquires to ascertain ownership of the land. In the meantime BTC will organise an initial tidy up at a cost of £586.00, budget code 710 from this year’s budget.
9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>
10	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Environment Committee will be held on Thursday 28 February 2019 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House.</p>
11	<p>Part II</p> <p>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.</p>

Members of the Environment Committee

Councillors:

O Potts	M Richardson
A Cartie	D Carr
K Nisbet	R Parker
J R Potts	J Reid
S Stanger	G Thompson
W Taylor	D Walls