



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytyn House on Tuesday 29 October 2019 at 6.30 pm

Present:

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

Officers:

Joseph Hughes, Town Clerk
Malcolm Wilkinson, Deputy Town Clerk
David Clough, General Services Officer
Maureen Hawthorne, Committee Clerk

Members of the Public: 0

Invited Guest - 4

Minute No	
1	Apologies for Absence Councillors: J Reid, W Taylor
2	Disclosure of Interests Grant of Dispensations None.
3	Enforcement Officers John Robertson, Phil Atkinson and Michelle Linney in attendance. The Chair welcomed the Officers to the meeting. John Robertson explained that Michelle has recently joined the team

	<p>and she covers 2 days of the SLA. Phil covers 2.5 days and the remaining half a day is covered from core service staff. This makes a full time post for Blyth. NCC have 5 Enforcement Officers one of whom operates in Blyth x 5 days per week. John clarified that in terms of monitoring, he will provide statistics of what the Enforcement Officers have dealt with from both the enhanced and core services. The statistics will be broken by job and by day.</p> <p>John advised that a website is under development where it will be possible to break down statistics for fly tipping and abandoned vehicles by ward. Councillors will have access to that website in order to see what is happening in their wards. NEAT staff are going to become involved in taking photos of any incidents and reporting them back to the EO's immediately.</p> <p>It was clarified that members should report any problems to the Town Clerk or GSO/GSA and they should also advise residents to do the same.</p> <p>Previous discussions have taken place about the possibility of the EO's being based in the Council offices. Whilst this would not be practical, it has been suggested that they could hold surgeries in the office one day per week where residents could come and voice their concerns. However, members felt they would be more productive working out in the community.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Bowes Street Development</p> <p>Richard McKenzie in attendance to provide an update on the above development.</p> <p>Richard starting by echoing the comments of members that the Blyth showcase event proved extremely successful. He then moved on to clarify some of the queries raised by members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street lighting – no costs as yet, however, Richard will forward them as soon as they are available. • Removal of pergola and planters behind Morrisons will be included in the scheme and costs met from NCC. The concrete will be reinstated. The work does include Church Street. • Telephone box – Richard will investigate with BT whether this can be removed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Street/Bowes Street crossing. This will be included in the design also and will be DDA compliant. • The bollards outside Argos will be removed and replaced with traditional kerbs. • Christmas lights in the trees – BTC will have to organise removal with NCC Street lighting Team. • Diversions whilst the work is being carried out – Richard will look at what temporary measures can be put in place. • The road is 3 metres wide which will allow for HGV vehicles. • Richard will continue to provide updates via the Town Clerk. • It is anticipated the work will not start until February/March 2020. <p>The Chair thanked Richard for his attendance.</p>
5	<p>Minutes of the Special Environment Committee (Part I & II) held on 10 September 2019</p> <p>The minutes were noted as a true record.</p>
6	<p>Minutes of the Partnership Working Group held on Thursday 26 September 2019</p> <p>The minutes were noted as a true record.</p>
7	<p>Environment Committee Budget Monitoring Report</p> <p>Members accepted the information and agreed to discuss any queries under agenda item 10 (Budget 2020/21).</p>
8	<p>Items for Information (not for discussion at Committee)</p> <p>Members noted the details contained in the information report.</p>
9	<p>Report on Delegated Actions</p> <p>The Town Clerk referred to his report which outlines the delegated decisions taken.</p>
10	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>Committee considered the recommendations in the Decision Report and RESOLVED the following:</p>

Budget 2020/21

The following queries were raised:

1. Budget code 611- 20th Avenue Water overspend. The GSO clarified that a new water meter has been installed and this should reduce future bills.
2. Budget code 9003 – income from allotment rents. This is the net amount after the allotment association has been paid their money.
3. Budget code 7102 – bus shelter repairs. This includes the cost of refurbishment.
4. Budget 771 - £14,500 – refers to demolition of two stone shelters and replacements x 2.

Committee moved on to look at the other items in the decision report and **RESOLVED:**

Play Areas

1. **Crofton Grange** – BTC will advise NCC that they will not take over future maintenance.
2. **Future developments west of A189** – BTC to request NCC to consider this as well as requesting NCC to be more specific with local needs e.g. bus shelters.
3. **Kitty Brewster** - Agreed to look at later in conjunction with an overall review.
4. **Ogle Drive** refurbishment - to carry out a tender process to ensure BTC is getting value for money from future contractor(s).

Future Projects – Town Centre

To carry out further research, cost investigation and feasibility for a scheme outlined in the report. Liaise with NCC and the Town Forum to include any agreed works in the budget for 2020/21. New lighting columns in Bowes Street has already been discussed and agreed.

Water Feature, Ridley Park

To make provision in the 2020/21 budget for the cost of staffing to enable the water feature to be available for the Easter break in 2020 up to May 2020 (decision to be made by the Town Clerk in consideration with the weather forecast). The cost is **£5335.00**.

Memorial Frames

That the memorial frames are stored at the Fabricator's workshop until a more appropriate location is found.

Memorial Plaques

That BTC do not agree to memorial plaques going on seats belonging to the Council.

Use of Allotment Associations for Management Purposes

The Chair moved the proposal that the Council continue with the present management arrangement with the Allotment Associations. This was unanimously agreed.

Transfer Lists – Allotments

The Committee agreed unanimously with the proposal to agree plot transfers between tenants, following approval and written consent from the Town Clerk.

High Street Car Park

The additional costs for this scheme:

- Tower Planters x 10 at a cost of £6,160
- Giant Precinct Planter x 8 at a cost of £3,870
- Street lighting columns x12 (indicative costs of £25,000 based on past quotations).
- Replacement trees x 59 at a cost of £10,680.

Councillor Stanger asked about traffic circulation in respect of traffic coming into the High Street. The GSO will speak to Richard McKenzie about this.

Future Planting

Purchase a poly tunnel and paving to accommodate additional bedding plants. **£7,980, budget code 710 Partnership Projects & Maintenance 2019/2020.**

Purchase of a Bowser. **£1,580 from budget code 773 Northumberland and Blyth in Bloom 2019/2020.**

Additional temporary employee to maintain seasonal bedding during the summer months. The Town Clerk asked members to approve this post for 5 days per week although this may be implemented for 3 days a week subject to ongoing discussions.

Proposed Sculpture

To commission a sculpture at Elfin Walk (including fabrication/power supply/installation and planning application). **Cost £23,000.**

Seats

- To purchase 2 additional seats at a cost of **£918.00 from budget code 712.**

- **Bins & Bin Pads**

1. Purchase 12 x 90 litre bins at a cost of **£1,620.00 budget code 713.**
2. Purchase 10 x 18 litre bins at a cost of **£1,890.00 budget code 713.**
3. Installation of pads for 4 ground mounted bins at a cost of **£540 budget code 713.**

Asset Transfer of Public Convenience from NCC to BTC

Following discussion Councillor J R Potts moved that BTC do not take over the assets from NCC. This was seconded by Councillor Nisbet and the motion carried unanimously.

The Town Clerk asked members to accept the budget which will go forward to Governance Committee in January. He noted that there are some additional items in the budget to do with seasonal work and water feature in Ridley Park.

	<p>The budget for the emergencies and future development has been increased to cover the cost of the sculpture.</p> <p>Gateway Signs</p> <p>To purchase two additional boards for each of the 4 gateway notices at an overall cost of £2160. The Cost of the quick fixings at £240, and future event printing annual cost of £480.</p> <p>Councillor JR Potts moved the budget to go to Governance Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Stanger and unanimously agreed.</p>
11	<p>Environment Enforcement Officer Reports for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. July 2019 2. August 2019 3. September 2019 <p>It was noted that future reports will include statistics for all EO's covering Blyth.</p>
12	<p>Specific Allotment Issues</p> <p>There were no specific issues raised.</p>
13	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There was no other business</p>
14	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Environment Committee will be held on Thursday 30 January 2020 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Arms House.</p>
15	<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
E Anderson-Smith
D Carr
A Cartie
K Nisbet
J R Potts
J Reid
M Richardson
S Stanger
G Thompson
W Taylor