



## BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Environment Committee held via Zoom on Tuesday 1 September 2020 at 4.30 pm

#### Present:

**Councillors:** M Richardson (Chair), E Anderson-Smith (Vice Chair), D Carr, A Cartie, K Nisbet, A Parsons, J R Potts, S Stanger, J Reid, W Taylor

#### Officers:

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

**Members of the Public 4 Invited Guest(s) 1**

<b>Minute No</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Observe a minute's silence to remember Councillor Olga Potts</b>  Members and Officers observed a minute's silence to remember Councillor Olga Potts.
<b>2</b>	<b>Election of Chair and Vice Chair</b>  Councillor Nisbet nominated Councillor Richardson as Chair. Councillor Potts seconded this and the motion was carried.  Councillor Nisbet nominated Councillor Anderson-Smith as Vice Chair. Councillor Taylor seconded this and the motion was carried.

<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Vacancy of a Councillor</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that he has prepared the vacancy notice and will forward it to NCC. If 10 members of the public ask for an election there should be one, however, due to Covid -19 regulations this will not be the case. If less than 10 people request an election, the Council can then go through the co-option policy.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Naming Tribute in recognition of the public service of Councillor Olga Potts</b></p> <p>The Chair proposed renaming Ogle Drive Play area as a tribute to the public service of Councillor Olga Potts. NCC have confirmed they have no objections. This is seen as a fitting tribute as both Councillor Olga and John Potts invested a great deal of time in this Ward as well as using their Councillor’s allowance to purchase additional equipment for the play area. Members unanimously agreed with the proposal.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Councillors: G Thompson</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Disclosure of Interests and Grant of Dispensations</b></p> <p>There were no disclosures of interest.</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>7.1</b></p> <p><b>7.2</b></p> <p><b>7.3</b></p>	<p><b>Previous Minutes</b></p> <p><b>Minutes of the Special Environment Committee held on Tuesday 26 May 2020 (Part I)</b></p> <p><b>Minute No 4 – Insurance Claims for injuries</b> – The Deputy Town Clerk clarified that there is only one outstanding claim which has been with a solicitor for a couple of years now and it is not possible to say when the matter will be concluded.</p> <p><b>Minute No 5</b> – Ownership of South Beach Play Area – this is ongoing and no further updates are available.</p> <p><b>Minutes of the Special Environment Committee held on Tuesday 26 May 2020 (Part II)</b></p> <p><b>Minutes from the Partnership Working Group held on Tuesday 28 July 2020</b></p>

	The minutes of the above meetings were all accepted as a true record.
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Environment committee Budget Monitoring Report</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk referred to the budget monitoring report, stating that there has been a very low spend to date as the first instalment of the Partnership Agreement hasn't been paid. The High Street project has not yet started due to Covid -19 and he is still trying to establish a start date.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Decision Report (1)</b></p> <p><b>Committee RESOLVED to agree the following (budget code 710 Partnership Projects &amp; Maintenance 2020/2021 for items 104)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To purchase replacement planters for High Street and Bowes Street following completion of the scheme as well as barrier planters on the in-bound side of the carriageway at Kitty Brewster. All will be purchase from. Costs are listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Tower Planters x 3 at a cost of <b>£1,740</b></li> <li>•Giant Precinct Planters x 14 at a cost of <b>£7,010</b></li> <li>•Barrier Planters x 24 at a cost of <b>£2,860</b></li> <li>•Barrier Planter Liners x 24 at a cost of <b>£910</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Carpet Bedding - to use a conventional planting scheme, agree to the reduced costs as well as the indicative costs for a revised planting scheme in autumn 2020 (<b>£2,000</b>).</li> <li>3. Poly Tunnel – to purchase a second poly tunnel which will be installed at Stakeford at a cost of <b>£3,990</b>. NCC will contribute 50% of the cost. Installation of a maintenance path at a cost of <b>£1,230</b>.</li> <li>4. Additional Bulb Planting – a mixture of tulips around the outer ring of the Cowpen War Memorial at a cost of <b>£1,000</b>. A mix of tulips to be planted on the grassed area next to Kwik Fit and the South Quay Nursing home at a cost of <b>£500</b>.</li> <li>5. Additional Barrier &amp; Tower Planters (Various Locations). Costs listed below:</li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barrier Planters x 48 at an indicative cost of <b>£5,710.</b></li> <li>• Barrier Planter Liners x 48 at an indicative cost of <b>£1,820.</b></li> <li>• Tower Planters x 3 at an indicative cost of <b>£2,900.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>6. Additional CCTV</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Martyn Burnikell, PCSO, Northumbria Police, who gave an overview of the problems residents are experiencing with regard to motorcycle disorder, drug dealing etc around the Barras Avenue area. Concerns have been raised that this type of activity is taking place on a path used by residents and school children and there have been incidents outside a family home. There have been lots of reports of vehicle disorder in the Mermaid car park. A detailed discussion took place and it was agreed unanimously to purchase the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One unit to be sited on the entrance of the pathway between Barras Avenue and Burnham Close at an annual cost of <b>£1,000.</b></li> <li>• Two unit to be sited at the Mermaid Car Park at an annual cost of <b>£2,000.</b></li> <li>• The cost for three commando sockets to be installed at the above locations - <b>£1,350.</b></li> </ul> <p>It was noted that this expenditure is not in this year’s budget therefore it will be an additional item.</p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Report (2)</b></p> <p><b>Acceptance of Quotations x 4 Play Areas</b></p> <p>Following agreement at a previous Environment Committee work has taken place to identify contractors who can carry out the work of installing additional equipment for disabled users in the following play areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Farm</li> <li>• Burns Avenue</li> <li>• Newsham Farm</li> <li>• Mulberry</li> </ul> <p>The Town Clerk stated that Officers have completed an evaluation process taking a number of factors into account and recommended members accept the preferred option. It was agreed to move to Part II to discuss additional information.</p>

	<p>A discussion took place around the type of disabled equipment that is included in the quotes – all the companies have quoted for a carousel type. A question was asked about installing wheelchair accessible swings, however, the GSO advised that there have been issues with this type of equipment.</p> <p>Members agreed that the installation of more disabled equipment in play areas should be looked at for next year’s budget. It was also agreed that the GSO will prepare a report for the next Environment Committee outlining the types of disabled equipment that is available.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Report (3)</b></p> <p><b>Bus Shelter Replacement Scheme</b></p> <p>Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to increase the budget by £1,500 to cover the costs of replacing two stone bus shelters located on Princess Louise Road and Newsham Road.</p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Delegated Actions Report</b></p> <p>Committee noted the delegated actions taken by the Town Clerk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To approve the work for the relocation and rebuilding of a planter on Laverock Hall Road at a cost of <b>£1,030 from budget code 710.</b></li> <li>• To approve the work for the VE seats to be fixed with polyflex back and retaining clips at a cost of <b>£500 from budget code 710.</b> This work was carried out after concerns were raised about the seats being a possible health and safety risk for children.</li> </ul>
<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>Information Report</b></p> <p>Members noted the contents of the Information Report with regard to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trees</li> <li>2. Allotments</li> <li>3. Play Areas</li> <li>4. Bins</li> <li>5. Bus Shelters</li> </ol>

<b>14</b>	<b>Specific Allotment Issues</b>  There were no specific issues for discussion.
<b>15</b>	<b>Environment Enforcement Officer Report for July 2020</b>  Members noted the information and asked if this could be provided in a different format as it was very difficult to read and some of the data was incorrect. The Town Clerk will speak to John Robertson about this.
<b>16</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>  There was no other business.
<b>17</b>	<b>Date and time of Next Meeting</b>  The next meeting of the Environment Committee will be held on Thursday 26 November 2020. If the current arrangements continue this will be a virtual meeting.

### **Members of the Environment Committee**

Councillors:

M Richardson (Chair)  
E Anderson-Smith (Vice-Chair)  
D Carr  
A Cartie  
K Nisbet  
A Parsons  
J R Potts  
J Reid  
S Stanger  
G Thompson