



## **BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Governance Committee** held in the Council Chamber at Arms Everytne House on Thursday 10 January 2019 at 6.30 pm

**Present:**

**Councillors:** J R Potts (Chair), W Taylor (Vice-Chair), E Anderson-Smith, A Cartie, K Nisbet, R Parker, O Potts, J Reid, M Richardson, S Stanger, G Webb

**Also Present:**

Councillor D Walls

**Officers:**

J Hughes, Town Clerk  
M Wilkinson, Deputy Town Clerk  
A McCabe, Office Manager  
Maureen Hawthorne, Committee Clerk

**Other Attendees:**

**Members of the Public - 0**

<b>Minute No</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  Councillors: L Rickerby
<b>2</b>	<b>Disclosure Interests and Grant of Dispensations</b>  Councillors K Nisbet, R Parker, J R Potts, O Potts, M Richardson and the Deputy Town Clerk declared an interest in Agenda Item 6, Blyth Citizens Exchange Group.

<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes of Governance Committee held on Thursday 27 September 2018</b></p> <p>Members received the minutes as a true record of the Committee Meeting.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Report on Delegated Actions</b></p> <p>There were no delegated actions to report.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Budget 2019/20</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk referred to the decision report and appendices which were circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Decision Report</li> <li>• Appendix 1 – budget sheets – Governance</li> <li>• Appendix 2 – summary sheets of all Committees.</li> <li>• Appendix 3 – Budget Sheets –Environment and Community Development Committees</li> </ul> <p>He added that a base budget review has been carried out as a matter of course. BTC are still awaiting Band D council tax figures therefore the Town Clerk will be working on estimated figures. It was noted that £110,000 has been taken out of reserves for next year and there is £500,000 in a CCLA account accruing interest.</p> <p>The budget as submitted was approved and recommended to Full Council to accept.</p> <p>Councillor Parker raised his concern that no funds under budget code 696 have been allocated to providing an access road to the allotment site at 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, adding that this has been an issue he has spoken about previously. He would like this to be raised with NCC. It was explained that there is presently an informal arrangement whereby allotment holders can access their sites via the recreational field. If a formal request is made to NCC then they may stop access altogether. This matter was discussed at Environment Committee and a decision taken to defer an approach to NCC because of discussions re the potential use of the old railway line, therefore Councillor Parker will have to raise it at Full Council.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Blyth Citizens</b></p> <p>This part of the meeting was chaired by Councillor W Taylor, Vice Chair. Those Councillors who declared an interest, together with the Deputy Town Clerk, left the room whilst the discussion and decision making took place.</p>

	<p>The Vice Chair referred to the letter received from the exchange group asking for some money to support the visit of the citizens from Solingen between 3-6 May 2019 inclusive.</p> <p>Committee considered the request and agreed to award <b>£600.00.</b></p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Supported e mail System (decision report)</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk explained that in introducing a supported email system it would make it more secure for Councillors. The cost would be <b>£1,200 p.a.</b> It was clarified that the emails would be accessed using a separate server from personal email accounts, however, full training and guidance will be provided. It is hoped that this could be introduced by April 2019.</p> <p>Committee agreed to this proposal.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Items for Information</b></p> <p>The Committee noted the contents of the information report.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>There was no other business.</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be held on Tuesday 16 April 2019 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House.</p>

### **Members of the Governance Committee**

J R Potts (Chair)	J Reid
W Taylor (Vice-Chair)	M Richardson
E Anderson-Smith	L Rickerby
A Cartie	S Stanger
K Nisbet	G Webb
R Parker	
O Potts	