



**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting** held in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, Blyth NE24 2AS on Thursday 30 May 2019 at 6.30 pm.

**Present:**

**Members of the Public: 5**

**Town Councillors:**

W Taylor (Mayor), M Richardson (Deputy Mayor), D Carr, K Nisbet, J Potts, O Potts, S Stanger, D Walls and G Webb.

**Apologies:**

Councillors: E Anderson-Smith, A Cartie, K Ellis, R Parker, L Rickerby, G Thompson

**Officers in Attendance:**

Town Clerk – Joe Hughes  
Deputy Town Clerk - Malcolm Wilkinson  
Administration and Customer Services Assistant – Adam Spratt

**Meeting**

Councillor Warren Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself as the new Mayor. The Mayor invited approval of the minutes from the previous meeting held on Thursday 24 May 2018.

The minutes of last year's Annual Town Meeting held on Thursday 24 May 2018 were **AGREED** by those in attendance.

## **Review of the Year 2018/19**

The Mayor delivered a presentation highlighting achievements and events over the past year together with some of the plans and ambitions we have for the future. The Council have worked hard to make improvements in the town, including the installation of speed sensors that can be moved to different locations, refurbishment of the War Memorials, tree sculptures and the carpet bedding display.

## **Northumberland County Council – Enforcement Officers Role Presentation**

John Robertson and Phil Atkinson from Northumberland County Council were in attendance and Phil gave a presentation on enforcement issues in the Town. The presentation gave an insight into all the areas of enforcement that is carried out within the Town – how it is tackled as well as some of the problems that can arise.

A number of questions were asked with regard to enforcement and issues within the town and surrounding areas.

### Question 1

Would it be possible to place an advert in the local paper to remind people they are responsible for disposing their waste?

### Answer

There will be education through local papers, websites social media etc.

It was suggested that leaflets are used to target hot spots as not all areas receive local papers.

### Question 2

There is a fence and the field behind it belongs to a landowner where a lot of junk has been dumped, can anything be done about it?

### Answer

If it is a private landowner and there is an accumulation of waste which is having an adverse effect on the locality then action can be taken.

### Question 3

A Councillor asked if there was any information he could put on notice boards.

### Answer

Yes, posters including the green dog walker poster can be provided.

### Question 4

A question was received from Co-ordinator who is working with a team in North Blyth area. There is a lot of dog litter left as there aren't enough bins to dispose of it. There is a project with the school in Cambois for the children to create signs to remind people it is their responsibility to dispose of dog litter. In areas where there are major problems can we not encourage schools in Blyth to do the same and get the children to create signs?

### Answer

That is part of the educating people. Work has been done with the local team who went into schools to help the educate children. The children participated in litter picks as well as a recycling project.

Volunteers from the Blyth Community Volunteers were present and they outlined their work with regard to litter picking within the Town and of the help they could give other groups.

Positive comments were received from the public who were supportive of a number of actions taken and of their desire to improve the Town.

### Question 5

Is it worth considering the use of coloured sprays to spray dog fouling to make people aware that it is a big problem in Blyth?

### Answer

Perhaps it would be worth speaking to Seaton Valley to get some information as they have used sprays in the past.

### Question 6

If a vehicle is SORN and has been on a resident's drive for a lengthy period, can anything be done about it?

### Answer

Not if it is their property and recorded as off road.

### Question 7

Would some of the problems with fly tipping be addressed if it wasn't so expensive to take some waste to the tip? It has made it more difficult for people to dispose of waste.

### Answer

It is almost a national policy now that Councils charge at tips.

### Question 8

Do we have any influence in recovering costs from private landlords/absentee landlords where there are accumulations of litter, as opposed to the tenants?

### Answer

If there is an accumulation of domestic waste, the first point of contact is usually with the tenant. If the tenant does not take any notice, a CPN is issued at which point the landlord is informed as well as the mortgage company or bank as their asset is at risk.

The Mayor summarised the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and taking part within it. He added that the Council have achieved quite a lot in 2018 by which they should be proud of, however, there is still a lot of work ahead in 2019. It is hoped the Council can involve the public more in the coming year in the decision making process.

The Mayor thanked everyone especially the officers and everyone who works at Blyth Town Council.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

Date:

Signed