



## BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Environment Committee held on Thursday 20 May 2021 in the Port of Blyth Training Rooms, Quay Road, Blyth. NE24 3PA.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** K Nisbet (Chair), M Richardson (Vice Chair), A Cartie, C Jones, J R Potts, M Robson, S Stanger, W Taylor, A Watson

Also Present: Councillor D Carr

**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(s) 1**

**Allotment Holder Questions**

There were no questions from allotment holders.

<b>Minute No</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  Councillors: B Erskine, C Humphrey
<b>2</b>	<b>Disclosure of Interests and Grant of Dispensations</b>  There were no disclosures of interest.
<b>3</b>	<b>Enforcement</b>  Councillor Watson declared an interest and left the meeting for the duration of the discussion.  The Chair welcomed John Robertson to the meeting. John was invited to talk about the core service provided by NCC as well

	<p>as the enhanced service BTC pay for (1 full time Enforcement Officer. He referred to the summary of the core work carried out BI (attached) and this outlines the work carried out for the period February – April 2021. John referred to the two weeks of action in specific areas of Blyth during April when his team worked to educate residents as to how they should dispose of waste. Leaflets were also handed out to try and encourage residents to provide intelligence about who is responsible for the fly tipping – this was not particularly successful.</p> <p>John gave some additional information around the process and timescales when dealing with fly tips etc as the Courts require evidence that the team have tried to work with residents.</p> <p>In response to a question as to how the reports are categorised, it was explained that people are encouraged to use the enforcement mailbox to report issues and reports are picked up within an hour and allocated to the team responsible for that area.</p> <p>Discussion also took place around BTC playing a role in educating residents about the services available and John agreed that whilst NCC have a dedicated page on how to dispose of care waste and advising residents to be cautious when using independent companies to do this as they must have a licence to dispose of rubbish. John said he has a supply of “Love Where You Live” leaflets and asked Councillors to let him know of any areas that would benefit from a leaflet drop. John also agreed to provide BTC as much information as possible so it can be shared on the BTC Facebook page as well as the website.</p> <p>The Chair thanked John for his attendance.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes of Environment Committee held on Thursday 25 February 2021 part I &amp; II as a true record</b></p> <p>Members accepted the minutes as a true record. Councillor Potts reminded members that a Planning &amp; Development Sub Committee has been arranged for Tuesday 25 May 2021 where Rob Murfin will give a presentation on S106, HMO’s and Neighbourhood Plans.</p> <p>Councillor Potts and Councillor Robson raised the issue again of dog fouling and litter on Gallagher’s Field as residents have asked for the bins to be reinstated The GSO will look at this again.</p>

<b>4.1</b>	<b>Partnership Working Group Minutes 23 March 2021</b>  Members accepted the minutes as a true record.
<b>5</b>	<b>Actions arising from previous Minutes</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Ownership of South Beach Play Area</b> - no further update. GSO still investigating. <b>(Ongoing)</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Environment Budget Monitoring Report</b>  Members noted the report and had no comment to make.
<b>7</b>	<b>Draft Service Plan 2021/2022</b>  Councillor Potts suggested identifying projects that can be carried out towards the end of the financial year in order to use up the remainder of the maintenance budget. This was agreed.
<b>8</b>	<b>Decision Report</b>  Members considered the Decision Report and <b>RESOLVED</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To agree to Option 1 for the Palisade Fencing at Bolam Allotments.</li> <li>2. To suspend the allotment waiting list until it has been reviewed. The GSO will gather more information on the Shared Garden scheme outlined by Councillor Stanger and this will be discussed further at the Green Working Party. The GSO will also contact NCC to see if there any available land that BTC could lease in the future that would be suitable as an allotment site..</li> <li>3. To allocate <b>£500</b> towards the British Legion Flower Bed in Ridley Park.</li> <li>4. To accept the Staithes sculpture commissioned by Councillor Webb as an asset following installation. The GSO is still trying to establish who is responsible for the Spirit of the Staithes.</li> </ol>
<b>9</b>	<b>Delegated Actions Report</b>  There were no delegated actions to report.
<b>10</b>	<b>Information Report</b>

	<p>The report was noted with regard to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trees</li> <li>2. Additional Wildflower Beds/Planters</li> <li>3. Allotments</li> <li>4. Play Areas</li> <li>5. Bins</li> <li>6. Bus Shelters</li> <li>7. Seats</li> </ol>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Specific Allotment Issues</b></p> <p>There were no specific issues to report.</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Thursday 16 September 2021. Allotment holders question session starts at 6.00pm and will be directly followed by the Committee meeting.</p> <p>Venue to be confirmed.</p>

## **Members of the Environment Committee**

Councillors:

K Nisbet (Chair)  
 M Richardson (Vice Chair)  
 A Barrass  
 A Cartie  
 B Erskine  
 C Humphrey  
 C Jones  
 J R Potts  
 J Reid  
 M Robson  
 S Stanger  
 W Taylor  
 A Watson

