



## BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Full Council held at 6.30 pm on Thursday 12 January 2023 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Blyth. NE24 2AS**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** W Taylor (Mayor), K Nisbet (Deputy Mayor), A Barrass, D Carr, A Cartie, G Davey, S Davey, B Erskine, C Jones, J R Potts, J Reid, M Richardson, M Robson, S Stanger, A Watson

**Officers:** J Hughes, Town Clerk, Malcolm Wilkinson, Deputy Town Clerk, M Hawthorne, Committee Clerk

**Also Present:**

**Members of the Public: 1**

**Invited Guest(s): 0**

**There were no questions from the public**

<b>Min No</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  Councillors: C Humphrey
<b>2</b>	<b>Disclosure of Interests and the Grant of any Dispensations</b>  None
<b>3</b>	<b>Mayors Announcements</b>  The Mayor wished members, officers and members of the public present a Happy New Year.  The Mayor summarised some of the events since the last full Council in October 2022; He attended a Tall Ships Event where historian David Olusaga presented Clive Gray with the "National Lottery Awards Heritage Winner" prize.

Congratulations to Clive as he was one of hundreds of nominees. The prize secured a further two years grant funding and Clive is looking to develop a world class community led maritime heritage centre. This will be a cultural flagship for Blyth and the Mayor encouraged everyone to check out the website.

The Mayor referred to Blyth Town Councils Fireworks Display, Remembrance Day services and the Christmas Light Switch On – all very successful events. Congratulations were extended to winners of the Blyth in Bloom competition and Northumbria in Bloom where Blyth Town Council won a Silver Gilt Award and Ridley Park/Friends of Ridley Park a Gold Award.

The Mayor was busy around Christmas time attending a number of events including, Churches Together, The Christmas Tree Festival, Headways Saturnalia Event, the NRP Christmas Dinner and Sharing the Future of Communities, thanks to Adeline for her work in bringing everyone together.

He received a lovely letter from the Obermeister, Tim-O. Kurzbach, OberBurgermeister, Solingen which he shared with everyone.

What else has happened – the World Cup ended a little disappointingly and Blyth had a visit from Thor the friendly walrus (this made the national news in New Zealand).

Blyth Town Council has a busy year ahead in 2023, with the Energising Blyth Development, development of the Neighbourhood Plan, the beach retail park opening and the ongoing work on the Northumberland Line. The Council will also be making plans on how to celebrate the King's Coronation.

The Mayor spoke of the proposed Newsham Family Hub Development and some people are already involved in this and the Isabella Heap developments – thanks to all Councillors who are involved in both. He would also like to develop a programme where Councillors visit grant recipients e.g. Dales School Train which has been included in George Clark's Amazing Spaces programme on Channel 4. The Mayor spoke of his hopes of Newcastle winning the Carabou Cup.

Finally, the Mayor thanked Members and Officers for all the work done over 2022, for their dedication and commitment to their roles. Thank you as Chair of the Council.

4	<p><b>Minutes of the Full Council held on Thursday 13 October 2022</b></p> <p>The minutes were noted as a true record.</p>
4.1	<p><b>Actions outstanding from Previous Minutes</b></p> <p><b>Agenda Item 9 – Youth Assembly</b> update: there is a report on this, agenda item 8.</p>
5	<p><b>Minutes resolved by the following Standing Committees</b>  <i>(any Councillor wishing to raise a matter from the minutes below should speak to the Chair/Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk in advance of the meeting)</i></p> <p>a. Community Development held on 17 November 2022  b. Environmental Committee held on 24 November 2022.  c. Governance Committee held on 10 January 2023</p>
6	<p><b>The following minutes were considered by Standing Committees for approval (for information only)</b></p> <p>a. Partnership Board held on 25 October 2022  b. Community Funding Sub Committee held on 8 November 2022</p>
7	<p><b>Decision Report 1 – Precept 2023/2024</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk referred to the decision report and asked members to consider the recommendation <b>“Following a meeting of the Governance Committee on 10 January 2023, it is recommended that the Council resolve to fix the precept on Northumberland County Council for 2023/24, at £1,402,764 which incorporates a 3% increase in Council Tax on 2022/23,</b></p> <p>Councillor Potts moved to accept the recommendation and this was seconded by Councillor Watson therefore the motion was carried. Councillor Reid commented on BTC’s balances and the Town Clerk referred to the presentation delivered to members where a 7 year plan was set out.</p>

<b>8</b>	<p><b>Decision Report 2 – Youth Cabinet/Parliament</b></p> <p>The Chair referred to the comprehensive report prepared by the Deputy Town Clerk, which outlined the investigative work carried out by Officers, including a meeting with Ben Sanderson, Project Lead Youth Services. Councillor Watson moved to approve the recommendation that BTC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Work alongside NCC to promote the work of their Youth Cabinet and Youth Parliament by reaching out to other groups of young people</b></li> <li>• <b>Create another means by which young people can put forward their views and concerns</b></li> <li>• <b>Use the Council’s website to reflect the work and services we provide for the youth of the town and the work being carried out by NCC</b></li> </ul> <p>Members unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to agree the above and agreed with the comments made by Councillor Watson that BTC should promote the work we do in supporting youth services in the area and encourage youth services to apply for community grants.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Delegated Decisions Report</b></p> <p>There were no delegated decisions.</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>There was no other business.</p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of the Full Council and AGM will be held on 11 May 2023 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House. Public Question Time starts at 6.00 pm and Council will commence directly afterwards.</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Part II</b></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 were instructed to withdraw.</p>

## **MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**

Councillor W Taylor (Mayor)  
Councillor K Nisbet (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor A Barrass  
Councillor D Carr  
Councillor A Cartie  
Councillor G Davey  
Councillor S Davey  
Councillor B Erskine

Councillor C Humphrey  
Councillor C Jones  
Councillor J R Potts  
Councillor J Reid  
Councillor M Richardson  
Councillor M Robson  
Councillor S Stanger  
Councillor A Watson