

# **PONTELAND TOWN COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, PONTELAND ON 13 FEBRUARY 2019**

**Present:** Councillor A Varley (in the Chair)

Councillors S Ahmed, Mrs C Caisley, R Dodd, Mrs C Greenwell, A Hall, Mrs S Johnson, Mrs K Overbury, A Shanley, L Darwin and Mrs K Woodrow

### **144. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor T Edwards-Clay. An apology for lateness was received from Councillor A Shanley.

### **145. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **146. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16 JANUARY 2019**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 January 2019 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

### **147. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **(i) Minute 137 – Budget and Precept 2019-20**

The Clerk reported that the precept request had been sent to NCC.

#### **(ii) Minute 138 – Consultation re future direction of Ponteland Middle School**

The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to the Regional Schools Commissioner as agreed.

The Mayor reported on a meeting he and the Clerk had had with the headteacher of the Middle School.

### **148. PLANNING**

#### **(i) Planning Committee**

Minutes of meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> December and 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were circulated for information.

#### **(ii) Report on recent planning decisions**

There was nothing to report.

### **149. GRANTS**

#### **(i) Ponteland Community Partnership**

A grant application had been received from the above-mentioned organisation for a grant towards their running costs. It was reported that the organisation had been successful in obtaining grants from various sources to carry out

**149. GRANTS (Continued)**

**(i) Ponteland Community Partnership**

projects in Ponteland. However, they were unable to obtain grant funding for revenue costs. The Clerk reported on the current budget situation for small grants.

RESOLVED – A grant application of £650 be approved.

**150. PROJECTS REPORT**

The projects report had been circulated for the information of Councillors. The Clerk had provided additional information relating to item 4 on the report – tree surveys for inside and outside of the Park.

This matter was becoming urgent in view of a recent ruling against a parish council who had not carried out a tree survey for a number of years. It was now suggested that this work be carried out on a more regular basis of two to three years.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the consultant who had carried out the previous surveys (Woodsman Arboriculture) and the County Council to provide quotes for the work. The NCC Tree Officer had reported back that he was unable to make a commitment to carry out the work. A quote of £2000 for the work outside of the Park had been provided by Woodsman Arboriculture. The company had agreed to provide a quotation for the work in the Park and this was expected shortly.

The Council was asked to agree to award the contract to Woodsman which would be funded from asset replacement.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The projects report be accepted.
- (ii) The Council agree to award the tree survey work for outside of the Park to Woodsman Arboriculture at a cost of £2000 which would be funded from the asset replacement fund.

**151. NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL PLAN – PUBLICATION DRAFT**

A report by the Clerk had been circulated to Councillors.

Members were reminded that the Northumberland Local Plan – Publication Draft was currently out for public consultation from 31.1.19 to 13.3.19. This was the final opportunity for representations to be made before the Plan was submitted for independent examination. Members were reminded that this was a formal, statutory stage and views were requested on the ‘soundness’ of the plan; whether it is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

The report included details of policies the Town Council had commented on during the last consultation period in July/August 2018 and compared those with the current document. Any changes were highlighted within the report.

Alongside the Local Plan, Publication Draft, NCC had published two scoping documents for comments within the same timescale. There was a Design Guide for Northumberland and a Highways and Transportation Design and Delivery document. Various policies were referred to in the scoping documents and copies were made available to Councillors. These documents were intended to provide

**151. NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL PLAN – PUBLICATION DRAFT**  
**(Continued)**

developers, landowners and applicants with holistic design principles, guidance and good practice.

It was suggested that Councillors should attend the drop-in session on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February from 2.00 p.m. until 7.00 p.m. at the Memorial Hall. They could raise any queries with officers at the event and then submit any comments they may have to the Clerk to ensure a response was submitted by the deadline date.

RESOLVED – The report be accepted, and Members submit any comments they have on the documents referred to in the report, to the Clerk by the week before the deadline date of 13<sup>th</sup> March so that a response could be submitted.

**152. HIGHWAYS WORKING PARTY**

Minutes of a meeting of the Working Party held on 11 January had been circulated. There were no recommendations for approval.

In relation to item 4 regarding lighting levels at Thornhill Road car park, Councillor Mrs Caisley mentioned the lighting at Hemingway Court was very bright. She had raised the issue with the developers.

RESOLVED – The Minutes be approved.

**153. ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY**

Minutes of a meeting of the Working Party held on 21st January 2019 had been circulated.

RESOLVED –The minutes and the following recommendation be approved:

**Item 6(i) – Request for litter bin at seat opposite Clickemin**

It was agreed to approve the installation of a bin at the above location, at an approximate cost of £350, subject to NCC agreeing to empty the bin.

**154. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

Councillor Dodd reported that the application in respect of the new Fire Station would be considered by the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council meeting in March.

He referred to the ongoing work at the school and leisure complex and stated that the piling works would be starting soon.

**155. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor submitted details of his diary engagements for February and March 2019.

**156. REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

**(i) Ponteland Community Partnership**

Minutes were circulated for the November PCP meeting which was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018

**(ii) Ageing Well**

Minutes of the Ageing Well meeting which was held on the 21st January 2019 had been circulated. It was noted that the 'Step into Spring' event was being held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at Merton Hall.

**157. ACCOUNTS/ BANK RECONCILIATION/ BUDGET REPORT**

The Accounts Committee approved payments totalling £32,222.33. A copy of the monthly budget report was also circulated, as well as the Bank reconciliation for January 2019.

RESOLVED – The reports be accepted.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEM ON THE GROUNDS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED.**

**158. MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD**

Councillors were reminded that nominations were required for the above award which was presented to the nominated recipient at the Annual Town Meeting held in April. The award had been presented to Lucinda Porter in 2018. Various suggestions were made.

RESOLVED – The matter be deferred to the March meeting when a decision would be made on the recipient for 2019.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019 AT 6.45 P.M. AT THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES.**