

PONTELAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, PONTELAND ON 11 DECEMBER 2019

Present: Councillor A Varley (in the Chair)

Councillors S Ahmed, Mrs C Caisley, L Darwin, Mrs C Greenwell, A Hall, Mrs K Overbury and Mrs K Woodrow.

Police Community Support Officers Laura McCann and Cameron Hall were in attendance to observe the meeting. They were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

101. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Dodd, Mrs S Johnson, and A Shanley

102. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 13 NOVEMBER 2019

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 November 2019 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

104. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

105. PLANNING

(i) Planning Committee

Minutes of meetings held on 29th October and 12th November 2019 were circulated for information.

(ii) Report on recent planning decisions

There were no reports.

106. PROJECTS REPORT

The projects report had been circulated for the consideration of Councillors. It was reported that the lights on the toilets at Thornhill Road had been installed to assist with lighting up the car park. One complaint had been received and a slight adjustment to the lights had been made. No further complaints had been received.

**109. PROPOSED CHANGE OF DATE – JANUARY 2020 TC MEETING
(Continued)**

RESOLVED – The Council agree to the proposed date changes and to holding the Town Council meeting on the 15th January and the budget meeting on the 8th .

110. ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

Minutes of a meeting of the Working Party held on 18 November 2019 had been circulated.

A recommendation had been made by the Working Party for Ponteland to enter the Northumbria in Bloom competition in 2020 depending on a positive response being received from the owner of a prominent building on Main Street. The Clerk reported that a response to the letter had not been received.

There was some debate relating to the proposed entry. Some Councillors felt that there had been no difference in the standards this year when Ponteland had not entered whilst others were concerned at the lack of community involvement. Concerns were also raised at the number of empty business properties and other issues that could have a negative impact on the entry.

It was suggested that consideration should be given to having two community events next year to involve residents and volunteers in various clean-up activities. After a vote, it was agreed by 5 votes to 3 not to enter the competition in 2020 and to positively engage with the community as outlined above.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved, and the Council agree not to enter Northumbria in Bloom in 2020 but that the Council would organise two community events as outlined above with further detail to follow.

111. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

There were no County Councillors in attendance.

The Clerk advised Councillors that the permanent play area on Callerton Lane was currently being discussed by Northumberland County Council who had asked for the input of the Town Council. A couple of layouts would be circulated to Members in the near future for their comments.

It appeared that the contractor would be supplying some new equipment as the current items could not be reused and insured. The Clerk had recommended that any equipment be in metal and not wood due to potential vandalism issues.

The Clerk had advised NCC that it was likely the Town Council would want to add some items to whatever was installed. The issue of fencing, surfacing, CCTV and lighting were also mentioned.

..... DATE

CHAIRMAN

111. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT (Continued)

Councillors asked if it would be possible to find out what was being included in the new Leisure Centre and it was suggested that a request for a tour of the new facility should be requested.

112. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor submitted details of his diary engagements for November and December 2019 and January 2020.

He reminded members that his Christmas reception would be held at the Golf Club on Monday 16th December from 11.30 until 1.00 p.m.

113. REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

(i) Ponteland Community Partnership

A summary of the meeting of the PCP held on 20th November that had been attended by Councillor Mrs Greenwell was circulated.

(ii) Richard Coates Educational Foundation

A summary of a meeting of the above Foundation held in October had been circulated for information.

(iii) Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee

A summary report of the above Committee held on 3rd December had been circulated.

The problems with access to the airport roundabout at certain times was raised. Councillor Mrs Caisley was asked to raise the suggestion of lights on the roundabout to be operational at busy times only with the airport to obtain their opinion. This would ultimately be the responsibility Highways England.

114. ACCOUNTS/ BANK RECONCILIATION/ BUDGET REPORT

The Accounts Committee approved payments totalling £36,232.91. A copy of the monthly budget report was also circulated, as well as the Bank reconciliation document for November 2019.

RESOLVED – The reports be accepted.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 15th JANUARY 2020 AT 6.45 P.M.
AT THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
PLEASE NOTE THE REVISED DATE.**