

PONTELAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, PONTELAND ON 12 FEBRUARY 2020

Present: Councillor A Varley (in the Chair)

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

See notes attached re presentation by the EA made in advance of the meeting.

131. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Dodd, T Edwards-Clay and A Shanley

132. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 15 JANUARY 2020

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 January 2020 were submitted for approval. It was noted that the wrong date had been included in the title for item 116 and this should read '11 December 2019'.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved subject to the above amendment being made.

133. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

134. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute 120 (i) – Ponteland Beer Festival

An email of thanks had been received from the organisers of the Ponteland Beer Festival in respect of the grant awarded at the last meeting.

(ii) Minute 120(ii) – Tynedale Hospice at Home

A letter of thanks had been received from the above organisation in recognition of the grant awarded to them towards the cost of providing a volunteer delivered patient transport service.

135. PLANNING

(i) Planning Committee

Minutes of meetings held on 23rd December 2019 and 21st January 2020 were circulated for information.

(ii) Report on recent planning decisions

There were no reports.

136. PROJECTS REPORT

The projects report had been circulated for the consideration of Councillors. Members noted the action taken in respect of item 1, registration of Council land ownership.

RESOLVED – The report be accepted.

137. NCC LIBRARY CONSULTATION

Councillors had been advised that the County Council were carrying out a consultation with the residents of the county to help decide the future of library services. The consultation had started on 18th December 2019 and ended on 18th March 2020.

There had been a consultation event held in Ponteland on 28th January and several Councillors had attended.

A report had been provided by Councillor Mrs Greenwell which outlined useful information that had been provided to the Library service in relation to Ponteland. Other Councillors who had attended stated that the service hoped to get as many responses as possible to the consultation and Members were urged to submit a response by the 18th March. The Library service was also open to any thoughts or ideas people had to improve the facilities offered.

RESOLVED – The information be noted, and Councillors be asked to submit a response to the consultation by 18th March 2020.

138. REMEMBRANCE DISPLAYS – FEBRUARY UPDATE

A report by Councillor Mrs Overbury relating to the above had been circulated. Members were reminded that the Council had previously given approval for three frames for knitted and crocheted poppies to be displayed at three locations, Coates Green; the sensory garden and in front of the Pele tower. The actual costs had increased to £150 each.

Details of the planned activities to progress this project were outlined within the report. They included:

Knitting and crochet patterns had been researched and would be available in print or digitally. Patterns to be put on PTC website and Facebook account. Letters explaining the project to be sent to the four old people's care homes, including a copy of each pattern, asking for poppies. Emails or letters to be sent to organisations such as the four WIs that meet in Ponteland and Darras Hall, plus Guides and Scouts, Girls and Boys Brigades and local churches.

An appeal for people to supply homemade poppies would be made and an article would appear in Pont News & Views March edition.

A drop-in session would be held at Merton Hall on Saturday 28th March from 10 until 3pm for a Poppy-making session. The costs would be £30 for room hire plus £10 for teas/coffees and biscuits. A small amount of wool would be purchased.

Posters would be put up on PTC noticeboards and, if permitted, other noticeboards advertising the drop-in.

138. REMEMBRANCE DISPLAYS – FEBRUARY UPDATE(Continued)

The Clerk had submitted a pre-application to NCC to check if planning permission was required for the temporary displays as they were within the Conservation area and a response would be provided by 28th February. In the event of this being refused, the poppies would be used elsewhere in Ponteland.

The sum of £250 had been allocated for this project in the 2020-21 budget and a request for a further £200 to carry out the works outlined above was made. This could be met from any underspend in the Remembrance Day budget heading or from contingencies.

RESOLVED – Members agreed to note the information provided and approve the additional expenditure required which would be met from the budget heading or contingencies if necessary.

139. CHANGE OF DATE FOR MAY MEETING

Members were reminded that the May Town Council meeting was scheduled to take place on 13th May.

The Mayor had indicated his intention to stand down from his position in May however, he would be away at the time of the meeting and he should chair this meeting for the first item, Election of Mayor.

It was proposed to change the date of the meeting to a week later, Wednesday 20th May to allow the Mayor the opportunity to be present at the meeting.

RESOLVED – Members agreed to change the date of the May meeting from the 13th to the 20th May 2020.

140. HIGHWAYS WORKING PARTY

Minutes of a meeting of the above Working Party held on 17th January 2020 were submitted. There were no recommendations for approval.

There was some discussion regarding the confusion around the proposed permit parking on Cheviot View. It was noted that this was an NCC initiative and the Town Council were not involved with this issue. Residents were urged to contact NCC direct if they had any concerns.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

141. ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

Minutes of a meeting of the above Working Party held on 20th January 2020 were submitted. The following recommendation was approved:

(i) Enquiry re possibility of installing water at Prestwick allotments

Members had been asked to discuss this item and submit a recommendation to this meeting. After some debate the EWP meeting felt that the option to offer water butts for each plot as the most cost effective and practical method

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141. ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY (Continued)

of progressing this item. The Clerk had provided details of costs which were attached to the report.

RESOLVED – The minutes and the recommendation relating to the provision of water butts be approved.

142. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Mrs Jones referred to the reporting of potholes via the NCC website which was useful as the correspondent could pinpoint on a map exactly where the problem was – see link below:

<http://mapreport.northumberland.gov.uk/potholes/>

She mentioned the ongoing budget discussions at NCC and stated that a £150m investment was being made for new schools in Ponteland, Hexham, Berwick and Seaton Valley.

She reported that the County Council was now in 34th place on the Stonewall Index of Employers for 2020 compared to being 86th in 2019.

Councillor Mrs Jones also mentioned the LTP report that included several items relating to Ponteland. The Clerk had circulated a link to that report to Councillors.

She also mentioned a problem with the provision of streetlights at Burnside and Deneside. The columns had been fitted but not all residents were in favour of the installation. A solution was currently being sought.

She reported that there were temporary parking restrictions outside of Darras Hall Primary school at present and complaints had been received.

Councillor Dodd had asked if some information could be conveyed to Members in his absence.

He was still working with NCC officers regarding a solution for the Merton Way north car park and the recycling bins. It was reported that the bins were one of the most high performing sites in the county and NCC were reluctant to remove them unless another site could be found. A potential solution had been suggested which involved moving some of the bins to the outer edge of the car park. An alternative site next to the fish and chip shop in Merton Way had also been suggested or the land which had just been re-seeded in the main car park. He also queried whether the clothing bin outside of One Stop was on Council land.

143. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor submitted details of his diary engagements for January, February and March 2020.

144. REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

(i) Ponteland Community Partnership

Minutes of a meeting of the PCP held on 20th November were circulated for information.

(ii) Town and Parish Liaison Group

A summary of a meeting of the above Group held on 16th January 2020 had been circulated. The Mayor had attended the meeting on behalf of the Town Council.

145. ACCOUNTS/ BANK RECONCILIATION/ BUDGET REPORT

The Accounts Committee approved payments totalling £40,700.66. A copy of the monthly budget report was also circulated, as well as the Bank reconciliation document for January 2020.

RESOLVED – The reports be accepted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 11th MARCH 2020 AT 6.45 P.M. AT THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

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