

PONTELAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, PONTELAND ON 10 JULY 2019

Present: Councillor A Varley (in the Chair)

Councillors S Ahmed, R Dodd, Mrs C Greenwell, A Hall, Mrs S Johnson and Mrs K Overbury.

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C Caisley, L Darwin, A Shanley and Mrs K Woodrow.

37. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 12 JUNE 2019

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 June 2019 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

39. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Thank you letter from Richard Coates CE Primary – Minute 24(ii) Refers

A copy of a letter received from the head teacher at Richard Coates CE Primary thanking the Town Council for their donation towards a mosaic plaque had been circulated.

(ii) Poppy project – Minute 28 refers

It was reported that the project had been launched. Letters had been sent to the schools, the Guides and Scouts and the Boys and Girls Brigades. Information had been included in PNV and a follow up article would appear in the August edition.

40. PLANNING

(i) Planning Committee

Minutes of meetings held on 14th and 28th May 2019 were circulated for information.

(ii) Report on recent planning decisions

There were no reports

41. PROJECTS REPORT

The projects report had been circulated for the consideration of Councillors. In relation to the project for the extension of the swan neck lighting in the Conservation area, the Clerk reported that some funds had been received from the Leader of the County Council and the Council was now able to place the order for the work which had a 12-week lead time.

The Clerk reported that NCC had confirmed that planning permission was not required for the external lighting to the public toilets at Thornhill Road. The Ecology department had made some recommendations regarding bats and the impact lighting could have on the species and these comments were noted. The order would now be placed for the work.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The report be accepted.
- (ii) The Council agree to place the order for the extension of the swan neck lighting in the Conservation area.

42. VE DAY 75

The Clerk had circulated a brief report relating to information that had been received from Bruno Peek, the Queen's Pageant Master in relation to suggested events for VE Day 75.

Members were reminded that a national agreement had been made to move the May Day Bank Holiday from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May in 2020 to allow for a weekend of celebration.

Councillor Mrs Overbury had produced a report which included suggestions for ways in which the Council could assist the community to get involved in the celebrations. These and other suggestions were discussed. There were some concerns at the level of resources available to assist with the organisation of events.

The Clerk had had a recent meeting with the Vicar of St' Mary's Church and he had mentioned the VE Day celebrations. It was suggested that the Councillor Mrs Overbury and the Clerk should meet with the Vicar to discuss this in more detail and report back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED – The Council agreed to discuss this item in more detail after the suggested meeting as outlined above had been held.

43. PONTELAND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BRIDLEWAY PROJECT

A letter had been received from the Ponteland Community Partnership (PCP) regarding their bridleway project. The letter requested the Council to consider accepting responsibility for the pedestals and way markers that had been installed on the bridleway as part of the above project.

The Clerk reported that she had been advised by the Chairman of the PCP earlier this week of vandalism to the pedestal on Rotary Way. The damage was beyond repair and the item had been removed from its location.

43. PONTELAND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BRIDLEWAY PROJECT

Councillors were concerned at the impact this would have on the costs of replacement and insurance, particularly if one of the pedestals required immediate replacement. They also had concerns regarding the possible impact on contract labour who would be required to repair and maintain the items.

The Council appreciated the work that had gone into the project but felt that they were unable to agree to the request for the reasons outlined above.

RESOLVED – It was agreed that the Clerk be asked to write to the PCP outlining the reasons above for their decision not to agree to the request.

44. AUGUST RECESS

A report by the Clerk had been circulated.

Members were reminded that a suggestion had been made at the June meeting to consider not holding a Council meeting in August.

Many parish and town councils did not hold meetings in August. The report included reference to the same suggestion being made in 2014 which was not agreed at the time.

If agreement was made not to hold an August meeting, Councillors would need to agree to delegate any urgent matters that required attention to the Clerk in consultation with the Mayor although all Councillors would be advised by email. In cases of extreme urgency, a special Council meeting would have to be called.

RESOLVED – It was agreed not to hold a Council meeting in August and that any urgent matters be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Mayor. In the event of an extremely urgent issue, a special Council meeting would be held.

45. ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

Minutes of a meeting of the Working Party held on 24 June 2019 had been circulated.

There was some discussion regarding the situation with banners being displayed in Ponteland by organisations to advertise their events. The Clerk explained the background to this and the current situation regarding the enforcement of these displays. Councillor Hall also mentioned a productive meeting he had recently had with the Environmental Enforcement officer. He had suggested that an area should be designated to allow events to be advertised.

RESOLVED –The minutes be agreed, and the following recommendation be approved:

Item 4(i)(e) – Sensory garden

The Council agree to proceed with two display signs on lecterns, size A2 and in a Prima Dura panel material at a cost of £425 each plus additional costs of design/setting up of artwork and delivery and installation which was a total cost of £1295 plus VAT. It was noted that there was a sum included in the budget for this item.

46. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Richard Dodd reported that he had received a report of dog fouling near to the funeral directors at Merton Way. He asked the Clerk to report this to the Environmental Enforcement Officer.

He informed members that there were some forthcoming changes to the planning system at NCC and he reminded members of the forthcoming meeting with the Director of Planning on 30th July.

He also reported that there a review of polling stations was being carried out and all parish and town councils would be asked for their views.

47. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor submitted details of his diary engagements for June, July & August 2019.

48. REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

(i) Ponteland Community Partnership

The Minutes of the PCP meeting held on 17th April had been circulated.

49. ACCOUNTS/ BANK RECONCILIATION/ BUDGET REPORT

The Accounts Committee approved payments totalling £33,081.93. A copy of the monthly budget report was also circulated, as well as the Bank reconciliation for June 2019.

RESOLVED – The reports be accepted.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 6.45 P.M.
AT THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES. IN ACCORDANCE WITH MINUTE 44
ABOVE, THE AUGUST MEETING HAD BEEN CANCELLED.**

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE