

PONTELAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT MERTON HALL ON 13th SEPTEMBER 2023

Present: Councillor K Overbury (in the Chair)

Councillors S Ahmed, C Caisley, R Dodd, C Greenwell, A Hall, N Sehgal, A Varley, K Wilson and K Woodrow.

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Darwin and S Johnson.

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

47. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12th JULY 2023

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th July 2023 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

48. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 38(i) and (ii) Grant applications.

The Clerk reported that emails of thanks had been received from the Citizens Advice Bureau and NE Youth.

49. PLANNING

(i) Planning Committee

Minutes of meetings held on 4 and 18 July, 1 and 15 August 2023 were circulated for information.

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(ii) Report on recent planning decisions

There were no reports.

50. GRANT APPLICATIONS

(i) Sport Tynedale

A grant application had been received from the above organisation requesting a donation towards the work they do including providing grants to individuals to encourage them to gain coaching qualifications and also to help those who wanted to achieve sporting excellence.

Funds would also assist with the provision of their annual awards evening which celebrated sporting achievement and involvement at all levels.

RESOLVED – A grant of £250 was agreed.

51. ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

Minutes of a meeting of the above Working Party held on 24 July had been circulated for consideration.

There were several recommendations which required the approval of the Council.

Councillors were asked to approve a policy relating to offering multiple memorial plaques on council owned seats. This was in response to requests received for memorial seats which could not be accommodated at this time.

Councillors were also asked to approve suggested amendments to the new allotment tenancy agreement which had been previously agreed by the Council at the May 2023 meeting (Minute 13 refers). This would then be sent to tenants and new tenancy agreements would be issued.

Councillors were informed that NCC had asked if the Town Council would consider providing planters for the hatched area of the Zebra crossing at Broadway. The Clerk had researched planters that would be suitable, and members were asked to delegate the expenditure of up to £2500 to the Clerk for the planters, compost and plants which would be a mixture of perennials and bulbs.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The Minutes be approved.
- (ii) The policy relating to multiple plaques on council owned seats be approved.
- (iii) The revised allotment tenancy agreement be agreed and issued to tenants.
- (iv) That the Clerk be authorised to source planters up to a cost of £2,500 for installation at the Broadway Zebra crossing.
- (v) The Council agreed to provide a bin at the old High school field site on Callerton Lane at a cost of approximately £400. This would be a metal bin in the appropriate colour.

52. EVENTS WORKING PARTY

Minutes of a meeting of the Events Working Party held on 25 July had been circulated for consideration.

In relation to item 6, D-Day 80 there was considerable discussion on this issue. Various suggestions were made as to how the Town Council could mark this event and it was agreed that these suggestions would be further discussed by the Working Party who would report back to the Council in due course.

In relation to item 8(iii), Councillor Caisley said she would provide some information relating to an Alice in Wonderland theme for the Easter Trail which could perhaps be used for a future event.

52. EVENTS WORKING PARTY (Continued)

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved, and it was agreed that the item relating to D-Day 80 would be further discussed by the Working Party.

53. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Dodd reported that he had received a report of blocked gullies on North Road following the heavy rain on the 10 September. Various reports had been made to NCC and Councillor Dodd would carry out further examination of gullies in his division during the next period of heavy rain. He mentioned that it appeared shoplifting was becoming an issue for shops and supermarkets. He suggested holding a meeting with the managers to discuss this item.

Councillor Dodd reported that he had been appointed as Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee and he said that he would be examining the issue of defibrillator provision in the parish area.

54. MAYOR'S REPORT

A report by the Councillor Overbury had been circulated.

55. REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Councillor Varley stated that he would be presenting a report on his attendance at the Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee at the next meeting.

56. ACCOUNTS/ BANK RECONCILIATION/ BUDGET REPORT

The Accounts Committee approved payments totalling £36,925.30 for July and payments of £32,397.65 for August 2023.

A copy of budget reports for both months were also circulated, as well as the Bank reconciliations for July and August 2023.

RESOLVED – The reports be accepted.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC – Councillors are asked to pass the following resolution - That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the disclosure of the following item on the agenda as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of schedule 12A in the 1972 Act.

57. STAFFING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 12 July 2023 had been circulated.

A Councillor suggested that the Staffing Committee be disbanded if it were no longer required. A long discussion followed and it was agreed that the

57. STAFFING COMMITTEE(Continued)

Committee, set up in 2022 to monitor and assist with staffing matters, should continue to meet when needed.

RESOLVED – The Minutes be approved.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
WOULD BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2023 AT 6.15 P.M. AT
MERTON HALL.**