

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

ASHINGTON & BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Ashington & Blyth Local Area Council** held at YMCA Ashington, North View, Ashington, NE63 9XQ on Wednesday, 15 May 2019 at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor G Webb
(Chair, in the Chair)

MEMBERS

E Cartie
J J Gobin
L Grimshaw
J Lang
K Nisbet

K Parry
J Reid
E Simpson
T Wilson

OFFICERS

D Laux
K Norris
J Millard
A Ward

Head of Technical Services
Democratic Services Officer
Communications Support Assistant
Communications Lead

Public: 26

01. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Membership and Terms of Reference for the Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council, as agreed by Council on 1 May 2019, were reported for information.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Campbell, G Davey, S Davey, Gallacher, Purvis and Rickerby.

03. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Ashington & Blyth Local Area Council held on Wednesday, 13 March 2019, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

At that point in the meeting Councillor Gobin asked that his thanks to members of the committee be placed on record for their decision to grant planning permission for planning application 18-03990-FUL, construction of dwelling, land south of Berristock, Cambois.

04. COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS

The Chair welcomed recipients of Community Chest funding to the meeting and said the awards were in recognition of the valuable contribution that local groups and small charities made to the lives of residents in the county. The Grant Panel Chair presented a certificate to representatives of the following local organisations and photographs were taken. It was noted that a group photograph would be taken following individual presentations.

- Newbiggin Heritage Partnership
- Watbus
- Beach Access North East
- Ashington Sea Cadets Corps
- Newbiggin Traders Association
- YMCA Northumberland
- Friends of LV50
- Headway Arts
- 1st Woodhorn Rainbows
- Blyth Battery Volunteers Ltd
- Ashington Panto Group
- Blyth Star Enterprises

On behalf of the committee, the Chair thanked the representatives for their contributions, hard work and commitment.

05. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were put forward.

06. PETITIONS

- (a) No new petitions were received;
- (b) There were no reports to consider;
- (c) There were no updates to report on petitions previously considered.

07. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

In the absence of the Area Managers of Technical Services and Neighbourhood Services, who were unable to attend the meeting, the Head of Technical Services provided an update on their behalf as follows:

Neighbourhood Services

- Partnership agreements between NCC and Ashington, Blyth and Newbiggin Town Councils had again been signed and would provide a robust and beneficial service to all residents.
- The new larger replacement vehicles would help with efficient route planning for the waste service.
- The garden waste service had commenced and there were over 8050 customers across the county so far.
- Grass cutting had started in March and was on schedule to give all required cuts, weather permitting.
- Grounds maintenance staff were now working the longer seasonal hours.
- Weed spraying was underway (this only worked when weeds were visible and starting to grow).
- Blue dye would be used again this year as it had worked well last year. The dye was only visible for a short period of time and would show that spraying had started.
- New cleansing routes in Ashington and Blyth were progressing well.
- The new rapid response team within the Ashington area was going well and over 4 tonnes of fly tipped rubbish had been collected in the first four weeks.
- Work was being carried out with Environmental Enforcement teams to try and prevent fly tipping.
- One pedestrian sweeper had been replaced in Ashington with two more to be replaced in 2020 in Blyth and Ashington.

Technical Services

- The new Local Transport Plan was now in place and officers were currently programming work whilst continuing with maintenance.
- There were no new initiatives to report at the current time.

Questions and comments were invited.

- Concerns were expressed about the cost of waste collection and it was queried if costs could be reduced. In response the Head of Technical Services said it was a difficult balance to achieve in times of such austerity. Most people were prepared to pay the costs involved but he understood that many people were unable to do so.
- It was suggested that the cost of the picking up of fly tipped rubbish had increased because of what people were paying for waste collection. It was stated that, overall, the costs for waste collection were appropriately balanced but the point would be taken back to the Service Director, Local Services and the Head of Neighbourhood Services.
- The Head of Technical Services agreed to provide Councillor Gobin with a written update on the proposed works regarding the road into Cambois.
- The Head of Technical Services agreed to pass on a member's concerns about what she felt was the disgraceful state of the Home Zone area in Cowpen Quay to the Area Manager of Technical Services.
- With regard to the Local Transport Plan, work was currently being programmed and members could soon be informed of when work in particular areas would commence.

- It was highlighted there were some substantial defects in roads in the west end of Ashington which needed urgent attention.
- Councillor Grimshaw asked that her thanks be passed on to teams who were working in partnership with Ashington Town Council.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and the issues raised be followed up.

08. OUTSIDE BODIES

Members were asked to make appointments to outside body organisations within the Local Area Council's remit. A list of outside bodies was attached to the agenda for consideration (attached as Appendix A to the signed minutes).

It was noted that Bliss Mediation Service was no longer in existence. Discussion ensued and it was:

RESOLVED that

(1) Bliss Mediation Service be deleted from the list.

(2) the following be reappointed:

Blyth Valley Disabled Forum - K Nisbet
 Briardale Community & Training Centre - D Campbell
 Buffalo Community Centre - K Nisbet
 Northumberland Community Voluntary Action - L Grimshaw
 Industrial Communities Alliance - S Davey

(3) The following changes be made:

Community and Voluntary Action Blyth Valley - K Nisbet
 Industrial Communities Alliance - G Davey

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

09. MEMBERS' LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES - PROGRESS REPORT

Members received an update report on Members' Local Improvement Schemes as of 1 May 2019 (attached to the official minutes as Appendix B).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME

Members received the latest version of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings (attached to the official minutes as Appendix C).

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 12 June 2019 at Newbiggn Sports and Community Centre - time to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 6:35 pm

Chair _____

Date _____