



## BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on Thursday 21 September 2023 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, NE24 2AS.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** K Nisbet (Chair), A Barrass (Vice-Chair), A Cartie, J R Potts, J Reid, M Richardson, M Robson, S Stanger, W Taylor, and A Watson

**Also Present:**

**Officers:** J Hughes, Town Clerk, M Wilkinson, Deputy Town Clerk, J Russell, General Services Assistant

**Invited Guests: 2                      Members of the Public: 0**

<b>Minute No</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  Councillors: B Erskine, C Humphrey, and C Jones
<b>2</b>	<b>Disclosure of Interests Grant of Dispensations</b>  Councillor Watson declared an interest re Agenda Item 10.
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of the previous Environment Committee</b>  All minutes have previously been agreed.
<b>4</b>	<b>Actions arising from previous Minutes</b>  None.
<b>5</b>	<b>Environment Budget Monitoring Report</b>  Members noted the content of the report.

<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Allotment Provision</b></p> <p>Members discussed the land options available, the costs of providing allotments on those sites and the results of a Government survey which showed that the Council met the standard required.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Reid and seconded by Councillor Stanger, that there was no further need for additional provision, based on the information provided.</p>
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Allotment Rent Period</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the yearly allotment rent period be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Changed to the 1 October with effect from 1 October 2024.</li> <li>2. Officers write to allotment holders/Associations informing them of the change.</li> <li>3. A discount of 10% be given if the rent invoices issued in April are paid together with the October amount.</li> </ol>
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>North Farm Play Area Fence</b></p> <p>Residents have approached the Ward County Councillor about their concerns that the play area does not have a perimeter fence and have witnessed safety concerns with children running across the road.</p> <p>The County Councillor is providing hard standings for additional parking to improve highway management and has offered to contribute £5k from her Members Local Improvement Fund should the Council install the necessary fencing. The fencing cost will be just under £25k.</p> <p>After discussion, Members agreed to install a perimeter fence and that the cost to the Council of £20k, be met from balances.</p> <p>Officers will seek further quotations for this work in accordance with Financial Regulations.</p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Delegated Actions Report</b></p> <p>Members noted the installation of Picnic Benches at Chestnut Avenue near the new Play Park.</p>

<b>10</b>	<b>Enforcement</b>  Members noted the previously circulated information.
<b>11</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>  There was no other business.
<b>12</b>	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>  The next meeting of the Environment Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House on Tuesday 12 December 2023. Allotment holder question time starts at 6.00pm and the Committee will commence directly following.
<b>13</b>	<b>Part II</b>  Pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.  Isabella Skate Park

### **Members of the Environment Committee**

K Nisbet (Chair)	J Reid
A Barrass (Vice-Chair)	M Richardson
A Cartie	M Robson
B Erskine	S Stanger
C Humphrey	W Taylor
C Jones	A Watson
J R Potts	