



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL held in the Port of Blyth Training Rooms on Monday 17 May 2021.

Present:

Councillors: W Taylor (Mayor), M Richardson (Deputy Mayor), D Carr, A Cartie, G Davey, S Davey, B Erskine, C Humphrey, C Jones, K Nisbet, J R Potts, J Reid, M Robson, S Stanger, A Watson

Officers:

Joseph Hughes Town Clerk
Malcolm Wilkinson Deputy Town Clerk
Maureen Hawthorne Committee Clerk
Kimberley Lawson Customer Services & Admin Assistant

Members of the Public: 9

Min No	
1	<p>Election of the Mayor</p> <p>Councillor Taylor, the current Mayor, extended his thanks to the Port of Blyth for providing the venue for the AGM adding that this reflects the good relationship BTC have built with the Port over the last few years.</p> <p>Councillor Taylor went on to say that it has been an honour and a privilege to hold the position of Mayor of Blyth over the past two year and feels incredibly proud and humbled in helping to try and raise the profile of Blyth. Wherever possible he has tried to promote the positive things that are happening in the town and has gave 100% during his time in office. He reflected on some of the fantastic achievements of BTC; the Carnival, the legendary Fireworks Display and the Christmas light switch on with the ice sculptures.</p>

	<p>Councillor Taylor participated in a school politics week and the Croftway's Got Talent competition. One of the highlights for Councillor Taylor was the Hen Project at the Oaks Care Home, this was very successful and he has an everlasting memory of having a photo taken with a resident, and a hen perched on his head! He also introduced some new initiatives, one being a "meet the Mayor" session in Wetherspoons, giving residents the opportunity to come along and raise any issues they had. Councillor Taylor was also instrumental in the introduction of a Mayors Handbook. He greatly enjoyed a visit in February 2020 to HMS Prince of Wales in Liverpool where he was presented with a wonderful glass paperweight which will be displayed in the Council Chamber.</p> <p>Throughout the pandemic, as Mayor, Councillor Taylor has worked closely with a number of agencies to help support those most in need working with Community Food and Friendship, Engage and the food bank. Operation Elf was also a great success and helped the most disadvantaged families of Blyth with food and presents for children.</p> <p>In closing, Councillor Taylor thanked the officers of BTC for their continued support over the past two years.</p> <p>Councillor Nisbet nominated Councillor Richardson for the position of Mayor of Blyth Town Council. This was seconded by Councillor G Davey.</p> <p>Councillor Richardson thanked members for electing her as Mayor. She presented Councillor Taylor with his Past Mayor's medal and thanked him on behalf of the members and residents for all of his hard work for the town during his two years in office.</p>
2	<p>Receive the Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office</p> <p>Councillor Richardson signed the declaration of acceptance office.</p>
3	<p>Election of Deputy Mayor</p> <p>Councillor Cartie nominated Councillor Potts as Deputy Mayor. This was seconded by Councillor G Davey and the motion was carried.</p> <p>Councillor Potts thanked the Council for the opportunity to be Deputy Mayor.</p>

4	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Councillors: A Barrass</p>																		
5	<p>Disclosure of Interests and the Grant of any Dispensations</p> <p>None.</p>																		
6 a	<p>To appoint representatives of Outside Bodies</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">NALC</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Councillor J R Potts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disabled Forum</td> <td>Councillor A Watson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friends of Ridley Park</td> <td>Councillor S Davey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Young People</td> <td>Councillor A Cartie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BRIC</td> <td>Councillor K Nisbet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cultural Strategy</td> <td>Councillors K Nisbet/W Taylor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Heart of Blyth</td> <td>Councillor A Watson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EDF Advisory Committee</td> <td>Councillor W Taylor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bernicia Trust</td> <td>Councillor Watson (if this is still operational).</td> </tr> </table> <p>Committee Clerk to check this out.</p> <p>6 b To appoint 4 Blyth Town Councillors to the Blyth Town Forum</p> <p>Councillors: A Cartie, G Davey, J R Potts, W Taylor</p> <p>6c Town Deal</p> <p>Councillor Taylor is the BTC representative.</p>	NALC	Councillor J R Potts	Disabled Forum	Councillor A Watson	Friends of Ridley Park	Councillor S Davey	Young People	Councillor A Cartie	BRIC	Councillor K Nisbet	Cultural Strategy	Councillors K Nisbet/W Taylor	Heart of Blyth	Councillor A Watson	EDF Advisory Committee	Councillor W Taylor	Bernicia Trust	Councillor Watson (if this is still operational).
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7	<p>To appoint members to the Committees for the next Municipal Year</p> <p>Councillor Reid moved an amendment to the recommendation outlined in the decision report so “that all Committees of the Council have all members on the Committee”. Councillor Carr seconded this motion.</p> <p>A voted was taken the proposed motion was not carried.</p> <p>Councillor Potts moved that the recommendation outlined in the decision report “that the total current number of representatives on Committees and Sub Committees be increased from 36 to 39 for Committees and 36 to 40 for Sub Committees”. Councillor G Davey seconded this motion.</p>																		

A vote was taken with the result being 9= for and 5= against therefore the motion was carried.

Councillor J R Potts advised that the Labour Town Councillors had allocated seats and the Conservatives have provided information regarding which Committees they wish to sit on. The Liberal Democrats will take the remaining seats.

As was past custom and practice, to aid the running of the Annual Meeting, the Labour Councillors had submitted to Council officers and all members, a written list of the nominations they would make at the meeting and the proposed names of Chairs and Vice chairs would be read out during the meeting by Councillor Potts.

Councillor Reid queried whether a Councillor who doesn't sit on a parent Committee can sit on a Sub Committee. The Town Clerk advised that this will be clarified before seats are allocated.

NB This has subsequently been checked and a Councillor can be on a Sub committee and not on the parent Committee.

7.1 Committee Membership					
Standing Committee	Total	Lab.	Con.	Lib Dem	
Environment (includes Allotments/Partnership etc)	13				
Community Development (includes Planning/Community Grants/Community Events etc)	13				
Governance (includes Strategic Priorities/Budgets/Staff/Complaints etc)	13				
Total	39	24	10	5	
Proportion %	100 %	62.5 %	25 %	12.5 %	
Labour need to allocate to Committees – 24 members Conservatives need to allocate to Committees - 10 Lib/Dem need to allocate to Committees – 5					
Sub Committees					
Complaints & Grievance (Governance)	10				
Planning (Community Development)	10				
Staff (Governance)	10				
Community Funding (Community Development)	10				
Total	40	25	10	5	
Proportion %	100	62.5	25	12.5	
Labour need to allocate – 24 members Conservatives need to allocate – 10 members Lib/Dem need to allocate – 5 members					
Working Groups e.g. Events/Partnership					
All members can attend working groups (any recommendations of a working group need appropriate Standing Committee Approval).					

<p>8</p>	<p>The following provision shall only apply to the Complaints and Grievance Panel</p> <p><i>"Where any member of the Committee is unable to attend a scheduled meeting of that body, for a reasonable reason, then a representative of that political group (if any), to which that member belongs, may, by written notice to the proper officer at any time before the day of the meeting in question, authorise the proper officer to make a change to the standing appointments of the committee to substitute an alternative member for the duration of that meeting."</i></p>
<p>9</p>	<p><i>NB Councillors appointed to Committees shall so act until the next Annual Meeting of the Council or until they cease to be a Town Councillor or they are removed by a resolution of the Council.</i></p> <p>The Council then stood adjourned for a short period to enable the Committees to elect their respective Chairs and Vice-Chairs.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Community Development Committee Meeting to be held after Agenda Item 9 to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair</p> <p>Councillor J R Potts nominated Councillor Cartie as Chair of the Community Development Committee and Councillor Taylor as Vice-Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Nisbet.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Environment Committee Meeting to be held at the rising of the Community Development Committee to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair</p> <p>Councillor J R Potts nominated Councillor Nisbet as Chair of the Environment Committee and Councillor Richardson as the Vice-Chair. This was seconded by numerous other Councillors.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Governance Committee Meeting to be held at the rising of the Environment Committee to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair</p> <p>Councillor J R Potts nominated himself as Chair of the Governance Committee with Councillor Taylor as Vice-Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Reid.</p>

<p>13</p>	<p>Community Funding Sub Committee to be held at rising of the Governance Committee to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair</p> <p>The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee (Community Development) will be the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Community Funding Sub Committee.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>Complaints and Grievance Sub Committee Meeting to be held at rising of the Community Funding Sub Committee Meeting to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair</p> <p>The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee (Governance) will be the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Complaints and Grievance Sub-Committee.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>Planning & Development Sub Committee Meeting to be held at rising of the Complaints and Grievance Sub Committee to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair</p> <p>Councillor J R Potts nominated himself as Chair of Planning & Development Sub Committee and Councillor Cartie as Vice-Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Taylor.</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>Staff Sub Committee Meeting to be held at rising of the Planning & Development Sub Committee to elect the Chair and Vice- Chair</p> <p>The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee (Governance) will be the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Staff Sub Committee.</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>Events Working Group to be held at rising of the Staff Sub Committee to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair.</p> <p>Councillor Potts proposed that if a Committee sets up a working group the Chair and Vice-Chair of the parent Committee will be Chair and Vice Chair of the Working Group. Councillor Nisbet seconded this.</p> <p>All Councillors can participate in Working Groups.</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>Partnership Working Group to be held at rising of Events Working Group Committee to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair</p> <p>Councillor Potts proposed that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee (Environment) will be Chair and Vice-Chair of</p>

	<p>the Partnership Working Group. This was seconded by Councillor Watson.</p> <p>All Councillors can participate in Working Groups.</p>
19	<p>The Council Resumed</p> <p>Council agreed to adopt the minutes of:</p> <p>a) Special Council Meeting held on 4 February 2021 b) Emergency Covid Council (Part I&II) held on 16 February 2021 c) Emergency Covid Council (Part I&II) held on 23 March 2021 d) Special Council Meeting held on 29 April 2021</p>
20	<p>Council noted the following Minutes of the Community Development Committee as a true record:</p> <p>a) Community Development Committee held on 16 February 2021 b) Special Community Development Committee Minutes held on 23 March 2021</p> <p>Minutes of the Community Funding Sub Committee</p> <p>There have been no Community Funding Sub Committee Meetings</p> <p>Minutes of the Planning & Development Sub Committee</p> <p>There have been no Planning & Development Sub Committee Meetings</p>
21	<p>Council noted the Environment Committee Minutes (Part I&II) held on 25 February 2021 as a true record</p> <p>Council noted the following minutes of the Partnership Working Group as a true record:</p> <p>a) PWG held on 19 January 2021 b) PWG held on 23 March 2021</p>
22	<p>Council note the following minutes of the Governance Committee as a true record:</p> <p>a) Minutes of the Special Governance Committee held on 25 February 2021. b) Minutes of the Governance Committee held on 29 April 2021.</p>

	To note the minutes of the Accommodation Working Group held on 18 February and 27 April 2021 as a true record.
23	Register of Interests To remind Councillors of the need to regularly review and revise their personal Declarations of Interest.
24	Any Other Business There was no other business to consider.
25	Date and Time of Next Meeting Thursday 22 July 2021, 6.30 pm at the Port of Blyth Training Rooms, Quay Road, Blyth. NE24 3PA.
26	PART II 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.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Councillor M Richardson (Mayor)
 Councillor J R Potts (Deputy Mayor)
 Councillor A Barrass
 Councillor D Carr
 Councillor A Cartie
 Councillor G Davey
 Councillor S Davey
 Councillor B Erskine
 Councillor C Humphrey
 Councillor C Jones
 Councillor K Nisbet
 Councillor J Reid
 Councillor M Robson
 Councillor S Stanger
 Councillor W Taylor
 Councillor A Watson