



## BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 30 May 2023 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, NE24 2AS.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** K Nisbet (Chair), A Barrass (Vice-Chair), C Humphrey, C Jones, J R Potts, J Redi, M Richardson, S Stanger, W Taylor, A Watson

**Also Present:**

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

**Invited Guests: 3**

**Members of the Public: 0**

<b>Minute No</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  Councillors: A Cartie, M Robson. D Clough, General Services Officer
<b>2</b>	<b>Disclosure of Interests Grant of Dispensations</b>  There were no disclosures of interest.
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of the previous Environment Committee</b>  There were no previous minutes to consider.
<b>4</b>	<b>Actions arising from previous Minutes</b>  None.

<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Environment Budget Monitoring Report</b></p> <p>Members noted the content and the amendment to budget codes 712 and 713.</p> <p>Comments were made about the condition of the bus shelter at the bus station and officers will action.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Berwick Bank Windfarm Presentation</b></p> <p>Gary Vlad from the Berwick Windfarm project gave an extremely informative presentation on the plans for the Berwick Windfarm (please see attached presentation) and answered questions from members. They agreed to come along and provide updates when they are next in the area and the presentation will be shared on the BTC website.</p>
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Presentation re Partnership Agreement 2024</b></p> <p>Steven Wardle, NCC outlined the trial that is being carried out this year (please see presentation attached), which will be monitored and reviewed prior to the more detailed partnership agreement for 2024 onwards. Further reports will be brought back to future Environment Committees.</p>
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Report 1 – Allotment Lanes</b></p> <p>Following discussions it was agreed to go with Option 2 and build the total estimated amount of £76,000 into the 2024/2025 budget. Officers will liaise with the association regarding closing the gates with immediate effect. Officers will also continue to monitor the position with the management committee.</p> <p>It was pointed out that any significant spending of this nature will have an adverse effect on the 7-year financial plan. Council have already agreed that work be carried out in order to achieve a balanced budget by 2029/30 and this expenditure would materially affect it.</p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Report 2 – Additional Allotment Sites</b></p> <p>Discussion took place and points were raised covering wellbeing and the positive effects of having more allotment sites. Other aspects included the effects of the change of use of existing land and potential implications for the residents nearby.</p>

	<p>It was agreed that further work be carried out on land availability with NCC including the piece of land between 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and to carry out a survey of residents within the town about the needs for allotments.</p> <p>A Councillor referred to a previous suggestion about the feasibility of household garden sharing. After discussion the suggestion was withdrawn.</p> <p>Officers were also asked to explore any additional funding.</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Decision Report 3 – Allotments Statistics</b></p> <p>Members agreed that they would like further analysis of the waiting list, to include identifying wards and to collate information from other Authorities to compare how many sites they have.</p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Decision Report 4 - MLIS Funding Contribution, Kitty Brewster</b></p> <p>Members RESOLVED to agree to receive the contribution of £10,000 and use the funds to enhance the facilities at Kitty Brewster.</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Delegated Actions Report</b></p> <p>There were no delegated actions to report.</p>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Enforcement</b></p> <p>Reports are circulated on a monthly basis. Members are reminded that any queries should be raised with the Town Clerk upon receipt of the reports.</p>
<b>14</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>There was no other business.</p>
<b>15</b>	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of the Environment Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House on Thursday 21 September 2023. Allotment holder question time starts at 6.00pm and the Committee will commence directly following.</p>

<b>16</b>	<p><b>Part II</b></p> <p>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.</p>
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### **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	