



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held at 6.30 pm on Thursday 13 October 2022 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Blyth. NE24 2AS

Present:

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

Officers: J Hughes, Town Clerk, M Wilkinson, Deputy Town Clerk, M Hawthorne, Committee Clerk

Also Present:

Members of the Public: 1

Invited Guest(s): 0

Min No	
1	Apologies for Absence Councillors: A Cartie, S Davey, B Erskine, C Humphrey
2	Disclosure of Interests and the Grant of any Dispensations None
3	Mayor's Announcements The Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming Les and Margaret Welsh, who have been granted the honour of Freeman of The Town. The scheme was introduced in 2015 and Les and Margaret are the first to be nominated. The Mayor said it was his pleasure to present Les and Margaret with a scroll in recognition of their work over the years with the young, elderly and those with mental health issues.

Alongside this Les and Margaret have ran the Empire School of Boxing for over 30 years and have fostered over 35 children. The club are understandably incredibly proud of Savannah Studley who won a bronze medal in the Commonwealth Games.

The Mayor recalled a visit he made to the club and how impressed he was that the children were encouraged to become good people before making them good boxers, teaching them that there are others worse off than themselves by getting the children involved with the foodbanks.

In closing his speech the Mayor said unfortunately, being granted Freeman of Blyth does not mean Les and Margaret can graze their sheep on Crofton Field. He thanked them on behalf of the Council for all of their work.

In response Les said that without the support of Blyth Town Council there would not be the boxing club, as in 2005 the building was for sale and local councillors helped to raise funds and he feels that this was the best investment ever.

He reiterated the comments of the Mayor that the club produce good people first and good boxers second – not everyone can be a boxer but everyone can try and be a good person.

On behalf of himself and Margaret, Les thanked Blyth Town Council for their help and the decision they made to support the club which helped in the way it has evolved over the years.

Since the last Council the Mayor has attended a number of Council events along with other members of the Council, notably the Circus School at the beach, Art in the Park and the sandcastle event, where he almost had to call the coastguard, concerned that Councillor Carr was going to get lost on his paddle board.

Operation Elf has been launched this year. Everyone is familiar with Operation Elf and the Mayor said he would encourage members to support this in any way they can. Information has been posted about drop off points for donations.

Last week saw the official opening of the new South Beach Play area, again attended by a number of Councillors.

	<p>The Mayor was invited to visit the Riverside Centre at Kitty Brewster Industrial Estate to look at the project which the Council helped to fund. This is a fantastic centre and the Mayor would recommend it to anyone who gets the chance to visit.</p> <p>Since the last Council, the country has mourned the death of Queen Elizabeth II. A book of condolence was set up in the foyer of Arms Everytne House and the Mayor attended a service at St Bede’s Church together with Councillor Potts, Robson and Humphrey. He then travelled to Hexham Abbey for a county service. The Mayor recited the Proclamation of Accession which was videoed for YouTube. Everyone is now looking forward to the Coronation of King Charles III on 6 May 2023.</p> <p>On Monday night the Mayor was at the Phoenix Theatre where the pride of place project was showing a series of short films about Blyth.</p> <p>The Mayor and his wife were invited to visit Solingen where they had a wonderful time. As part of the visit there was an official reception and a new charter was signed to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the town twinning – a copy will be displayed in the Council Chamber.</p> <p>A visit was arranged to a High School where they are looking at a new initiative a “Green Classroom”. Solingen has over 140 different nationalities living in the town and have taken in over 3,000 refugees. The Mayor concluded by reading a letter he received from the Mayor of Solingen which emphasises the bond between the two towns.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>The following minutes were noted as a true record</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Full Council held on Thursday 21 July 2022 b. Special Full Council held on Wednesday 3 August 2022
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Actions outstanding from Previous Minutes</p> <p>Thursday 21 July:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda Item 10 – Audio/Video Recording. Agenda Item 7 • Agenda Item 13 – Local Transport Plan. TC to write to NCC outlining the comments from members. Achieved

<p>5</p>	<p>Minutes resolved by the following Standing Committees (any Councillor wishing to raise a matter from the minutes below should speak to the Chair/Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk in advance of the meeting)</p> <p>a. Governance Committee held on 29 September 2022 b. Environmental Committee held on 4 October 2022. c. Community Development Committee held on 6 October 2022</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>The following minutes were considered by Standing Committees for approval (for information only)</p> <p>a. Partnership Working Group held on 26 July 2022 b. Community Funding Sub Committee held on 6 September 2022 (part I and II) c. Accommodation Working Group held on 29 September 2022</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Decision Report</p> <p>1. <u>Audio Visual (Recording of Council & Committee Meetings)</u></p> <p>The DTC referred to the decision report which gave different options and costs should the Council wish to record and stream meetings. Councillor Nisbet moved that BTC should not proceed with this proposal due to the current economic climate. Councillor Potts seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.</p> <p>2. <u>Blyth Town Council Policy and Procedures</u></p> <p>Members noted the list of current Policy and Procedures as well as the reference to recently amended policies.</p> <p>3. <u>Office Arrangements – Christmas 2022</u></p> <p>Members RESOLVED to approve the closure of the office from noon on Thursday 22 December 2022. It will reopen on Tuesday 3 January 2023.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Interim Internal Audit Report 2022/23</p> <p>Council approved to accept the interim reports as per the recommendation from Governance:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audit Controls & Tests 2. Interim Audit Checklist 3. Office Arrangements – Christmas 2022 <p>Council also noted the receipt of the External Audit Return regarding the 2021/22 and the fact there were no issues raised.</p>
9	<p>Youth/Teenage Assembly</p> <p>The DTC had previously circulated the motion proposed by Councillor Erskine. Councillor G Davey pointed out that the motion was invalid and he moved that the discussion should be deferred to a future meeting whilst Officers seek advice from NCC regarding how they support the youth council and address any safeguarding issues. This motion was carried unanimously.</p>
10	<p>Delegated Decisions Report</p> <p>There were no delegated decisions.</p>
11	<p>Information Report</p> <p>There were no items for information.</p>
12	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>
13	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Thursday 12 January 2023 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House. Public Question Time starts at 6.00 pm and Council will commence directly afterwards.</p>
14	<p>Part II</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 were instructed to withdraw.</p>

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Councillor W Taylor (Mayor)
Councillor K Nisbet (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 J R Potts
Councillor J Reid
Councillor M Richardson
Councillor S Stanger
Councillor A Watson