

# Seaton Valley Council

A Community Council

## Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 25 July 2018 at 7.00 p.m. at Seghill Institute and Community Centre.

The meeting started at 7.03 p.m.

### PRESENT:

Councillors: S Stanners (Chair), A Stanners, S Dungworth, L Bowman, K Collier and D. Nesbitt

### IN ATTENDANCE:

S Potts – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Members of the public - 15

#### CO053/18 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Burt, Hartland and Coulson.

#### CO054/18 2. Disclosure of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

#### CO055/18 3. Chair's Welcome and Civic Announcements

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and then went on to congratulate the Council's five In Bloom Groups for the excellent work they had done in the run up to this year's judging.

#### CO056/18 4. Public Question Time

The secretary of the Seghill Community Association asked a question about the probable location of the village Christmas tree for this coming Christmas. In response the Chair said that due to Health and Safety issues surrounding placing the tree in front of the Community Centre, and complaints from Community Centre officials about the inadequate size of recent trees, the Council is looking to relocate its tree this year. At the moment the preferred site is on a small grassed area on the opposite side of the main road to the Blake Arms. The Chair went onto say that the Council is still intending to hold its switch on event in front of the Community Centre, followed by a short procession to the Christmas tree.

The Community Association secretary said that she was disappointed that the Council was thinking of moving the tree and said that the Community Association would be likely to buy its own tree and hold its own Christmas event.

The Chair asked the Clerk to arrange to meet up with the Community Association to discuss the matter within the next two weeks.

A Holywell resident asked about the standard of grass cutting on the approach to Holywell from Earsdon Village and contrasted this with a better standard of grass cutting on the approach to Seghill from Annitsford. The Clerk said that he would look into the matter and discuss his findings with the resident in due course.

There being no further questions; public question time closed at 7.12pm

**CO057/18 5. County Councillor Update**

In the absence of Cllr Pidcock, Cllr Dungworth provided a brief update on County Council matters.

She referred to three issues in particular:

- NCC is currently in the process of consulting on its draft local plan. Residents are encouraged to access the plan documents via the County Council's website and make comment where appropriate.
- Neighbourhood Services teams have suffered a number of staff reductions in recent years and it may be that such reductions are now beginning to affect service standards, and
- Departments are beginning to prepare for next year's budget by drawing up plans to achieve the undoubted savings targets that are to come.

**CO058/18 6. Minutes of the Council's Annual Meeting held on 30 May 2018**

Prior to agreeing these minutes the Chair referred to item 11 of the minutes - 100 Years of Remembrance and provided a brief update – A planning application has now been submitted to erect a permanent Lighting Beacon on the promontory behind the Kings Arms, Seaton Sluice. Both the Kings Arms and the Local History Society, as occupiers of listed buildings in the area, have been consulted on the proposal separately and both support the project. Subject to planning permission being received the Council intends to arrange a 'reading out of names ceremony' (of those Seaton Valley residents who died in service in the great war) at the lighting beacon on 11 November 2018.

Following this update, the minutes of Seaton Valley Council's Annual Meeting held on 30 May 2018 were agreed as being a correct record and were duly signed and dated by the Chair.

**CO059/18 7. Minutes of Other Committee Meetings**

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 02 July 2018 were presented and received for information.

**CO060/18 8. Outstanding Achievements in Community Life**

The Chair introduced this item and started by saying that the Council had recently agreed to consider nominations for awards for Outstanding Achievement in Community Life and that he was delighted to be able to bring two nominations forward to tonight's meeting. Councillors unanimously agreed to approve the awards.

Both individuals; Mr Patrick Barber and Mr Michael Flett, are residents of Holywell who help to keep their immediate environment looking good by tending their own gardens, community spaces and the gardens of the old and infirm.

Both residents were photographed receiving their awards with the Chair and nominating Councillor, Les Bowman. The audience responded by giving the residents a round of applause.

**CO061/18 9. Services and Partnership Update**

The Chair introduced the Services Officer's report and referred in particular to a number of items:

- The management agreement between the Council and the Coppergate Allotment association is due for renewal within the next two months. The terms and conditions will remain essentially as they are now; however, minor renegotiations are likely to take place to agree the exact details. The Chair asked Council to grant delegated authority to both himself and the Clerk to finalise those negotiations and sign the new 5 year agreement on behalf of the Council,
- In relation to Dog Fouling the Chair reported that the recruitment process to employ an

Environmental Enforcement Officer to work solely in Seaton Valley and Lynemouth (two days each) is now underway and it is hoped that the officer will be in place by the end of October. NCC will be the employer and will enter into a Service Level Agreement with each of the two local Councils. The officer will concentrate on Dog Fouling Enforcement matters, but will also be able to deal with other enforcement matters too,

- In respect of Playgrounds; the Clerk reported that a consultation exercise is due to start soon around the Council's proposals for a new small park on the unused ground between the two blocks of garages at Hastings Gardens, New Hartley. The same consultation exercise will be used to propose replacing a redundant piece of equipment at the Memorial Junior Play Park with some new pieces of equipment. The proposals for each are now on display in the Council's offices, and
- A number of Councillors took the opportunity to thank all of the In Bloom groups and their volunteers for their excellent efforts this year. Councillors also pointed out the need to recruit more volunteers, especially in Seaton Delaval to share the work load out as too much work had fallen on the shoulders of two few people this year.

Following the Chairs summing up of the Service Officer's report, **Council RESOLVED To : delegate authority to the Chair and Clerk to finalise negotiations relating to the new management agreement between the Council and Coppergate Allotment Association and to sign the new 5 year agreement on the Council's behalf.**

#### **CO062/18 10. Northumberland Local Plan; Draft Plan Consultation**

The Clerk presented his report which provided information relating to the consultation process for NCC's Northumberland Local Plan.

The Clerk's report identified three matters that the Council might want to draw to NCC's attention as part of the Consultation process and after a short discussion Council **RESOLVED to raise the following three issues with NCC:**

- **Clarification of the draft sites identified for potential new Seaton Valley stations on the proposed Northumberland Rail Line,**
- **The need to continue to identify the existing Coty Site and the undeveloped land immediately to its west as a local employment site, and**
- **Support for developing green belt land to the north of Seaton Delaval (fields south of the Keel Row Public House, to the west of the main A190), as a Sports Complex, should another more appropriate site not be available.**

#### **CO063/18 11. Seaton Valley Youth Council**

Councillor Dungworth spoke to the Clerk's report and said that she was delighted to see concrete proposals for the establishment of a Seaton Valley Youth Council being brought forward. The Youth Council will be made up of from School Council representative from our two middle schools and from Astley High School. She said that the Council will be looking to set the first meetings of the Youth Council up towards the end of September and that it will use the remaining six months of the financial year to bed in.

With effect from April 2019 the Youth Council will be allocated a budget of £1,000 to utilise at its discretion and will formally feed its views and observations into Full Council.

All members welcomed the report and looked forward to the Youth Council becoming operational.

#### **CO064/18 12. Local Transport Programme 2019/20**

The Clerk's report asked the Council to identify its top three priorities for potential inclusion in the County Council's Local Transport Programme (LTP) 2019/20 and included a list of all 'highways improvement' requests submitted to NCC by residents over the past year.

His report also provided an update on the three priorities the Council submitted last year i.e.

- Concerns over speed of traffic on The Avenue, especially near New Hartley junction. Suggestion is to move the beginning of the 40mph speeding restriction towards Seaton Delaval so that it includes both the New Hartley junction and the cycle crossing point ,
- Completion of Road Safety Audit of the Main A192 as it passes through Holywell between Holywell Dene Care Home and Holywell Bridge, and
- The need for marked out parking bays on the wide pavement area on the west side of Astley Road between the Avenue Head roundabout and the junction of Astley Road with Western Avenue. Such works are required to better utilise the space for increased and improved parking.

The first two of the Council's top three priorities were successful in making NCC's 2018/19 Local Transport Plan and both schemes are in their design phase at the moment. However, the third priority didn't score highly and it would appear that the only way such works will be approved is if the local NCC Ward Councillor tries to take it forward again.

In discussing the report members agreed to use the list of 'highways improvement' requests shown at Appendix 7A and their own knowledge of the area to let the Clerk know their individual top three highway improvement priorities for potential inclusion in NCC's 2019/20 Local Transport Programme. They further agreed to do this before Friday 10 August.

Before closing the debate on this matter the Chair said that he was disappointed that the Astley Road Parking Bays scheme hadn't been taken forward and asked the Clerk to approach the Portfolio Holder responsible for Town Centre Parking at NCC (and the NCC Ward Councillor) to see if there was any way to resurrect this scheme.

### CO065/18 13. Cycle Parking Solutions

The Chair introduced the Engagement and Development Officer's report which provided a comprehensive review of where the most appropriate sites in Seaton Valley are to install bike stands. The report also reviewed the types of stand available and recommended the use of Sheffield Stands.

In terms of location the report concentrated on existing cycle routes and paths and on other areas where concentrations of cyclists have been observed. Unfortunately some locations had had to be discounted due to lack of space on the pavement.

The report recommended installing Sheffield Stands of various sizes at the following locations:

- Seaton Delaval – top of The Avenue
- Seaton Sluice – opposite Castaways café and outside the Harbour View restaurant
- Holywell – Holywell Dene Road, close to Milbourne Arms, and
- New Hartley – shops on St Michaels Avenue

One member drew attention to there not being any provision in Seghill, whilst recognising that space was at a premium at the obvious location i.e. outside the shops.

Following the debate it was **RESOLVED to install Sheffield Type Cycle Stands at the locations described above and to meet the additional £260 (over and above the current budget of £1,000) from its Community Fund budget.**

**CO066/18 14. Bank Reconciliation as at 30 June 2018**

Council agreed to receive the report, and noted that the Council's bank accounts had been successfully reconciled to its financial records.

**15. Budgetary Control Report**

**CO067/18** The Clerk presented his report which provided detailed and summarised information on the Council's income and expenditure compared to budget as 30 June 2018. In summary, the Clerk said that at this early stage in the financial year the Council's income and expenditure is more or less in line with budgets when known variations are taken into account. The report highlighted one or two of these variances and provided explanations where required. Council **RESOLVED TO: receive and note the content of the report.**

**16. Dates of Future Meetings**

**CO068/18**

<b>2018</b>	<b>Committee/Council</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Wednesday 19 September	Full Council	7pm	Seaton Sluice Community Centre
Wednesday 31 October	Finance & General Purposes	6pm	Seaton Valley Council Offices
Wednesday 28 November	Full Council	7pm	Seaton Valley Council Offices
Wednesday 12 December	Finance & General Purposes	6pm	Seaton Valley Council Offices

There being no other business on the Agenda, the meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed by the Chair: .....

Dated: .....