

**Minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.
On Thursday 13th February at 6.30pm.**



PRESENTATIONS

- None scheduled for the meeting.

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- A resident wanted to know why the proposed defibrillator (Bedlington Police Station wall) was going to be funded by the Town Council. The Chair informed the member of the public that this was a community defibrillator, not for Police use only, and that's why the funding will be from West Bedlington Town Council with the Police paying for its ongoing electricity supply.
- A resident was disappointed that the Willow Vale polling station had moved, but was informed that this is not a Town Council responsibility.
- A resident mentioned that there was no safe pedestrian path where the new cycleway is being constructed. The Chair, in her capacity as a county councillor, was told the plan was to create mini zebra crossings along the path for pedestrians.

PART A - ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Min ref		Attendance / apologies and declarations of interest	Determination
25/22		In attendance	Councillors Henderson, Hogg, Taylor (Chair), D Wallace, R Wallace, Thompson, and Todd. Town Clerk S Young, and Assistant Town Clerk, M McTeer. Nine (9) members of the public.
25/23	a.	Apologies for absence i. To receive and note any apologies for absence from councillors. ii. To consider and determine any dispensations for absent councillors.	i. Apologies for absence from Councillor Crosby, Todd and Hedley were NOTED . ii. There were no dispensations for absence for this meeting.
25/24	b.	Declaration of interest i. Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 12th July 2012. ii. To consider any requests for dispensations.	i. No declarations were declared. ii. No dispensations for this meeting.

PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS / SUMMARY OF DELEGATED DECISIONS

		Details of meeting or delegated decisions	Determination
25/25	a.	To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 9 th January 2025.	RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 9 th January 2025 are APPROVED as a true record.
25/26	b.	To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting that are not included as agenda items.	There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 9 th January 2025.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

		Matters for discussion / decision	Determination									
25/27	a.	<p>Revision to May's Town Council meeting date</p> <p>The Council are asked to APPROVE the proposed revised date to the scheduled May Council meeting date, to take into account the forthcoming election on Thursday 1st May 2025. Legislation provides that the first meeting of the Council following an election must be within 14 days of new members that have been elected. There would be insufficient time to issue an agenda for the scheduled 8th May 2025 meeting date, so the proposal is to change it to Thursday 15th May 2025.</p>	Members APPROVED the change of date.									
25/28	b.	<p>Annual Meeting of the Town 2025</p> <p>i. The Council is requested to APPROVE a proposal to hold the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Town on Thursday 10th April. The meeting will start after the conclusion of April's Council meeting, so it is scheduled for the same evening, but will not start before 7pm.</p> <p>ii. A suggested draft meeting agenda is distributed to members for approval. If approved, the notice of the meeting will be distributed on Wednesday 26th March 2025.</p>	Members APPROVED the date and suggested draft agenda.									
25/29	c.	<p>Christmas lights</p> <p>The Council are requested to discuss and decide in principle only (until costs are known) upon a residents' request, to extend the Christmas lights to the entrance to The Broadoaks estate. (Note – to date, Northumberland County Council have not provided their quote for the installation of commando sockets, erection, taking down, storage and safety checking of any additional lights). Estimated costs for the purchase of "refurbished" light features is £250 - £450 per light feature.</p>	Members AGREED .									
25/30	d.	<p>Community defibrillators</p> <p>The Council are asked to discuss and decide upon a request from Northumbria Police to host a community defibrillator on an accessible outside wall at Bedlington Police Station. Estimated costs – one-off £300 for electrical connection, £365 annual leasing cost for cabinet, £402.23 annual leasing cost for defibrillator.</p>	Members AGREED .									
25/31	e.	<p>Planning</p> <p>i. Planning applications – where comments have been requested</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="288 1512 1225 1998"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ref.</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Determination</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>25/00030/VARYCO</td> <td>Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on approved Application 24/01508/FUL in order to alter the garage to an office/room. Location: 18 Hartford Road East, Bedlington Northumberland, NE22 6HZ.</td> <td>Members agreed that the Town Council would OBJECT to this planning application, and in light of a serious recent road accident, the same issues from original objection apply.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/04112/OUTES</td> <td>Outline planning application, with all matters reserved, for the erection of up to ten data centre buildings of Class B8 use, totalling up to 540,000 square metres (sqm) gross internal</td> <td>Members AGREED that the Town Council would</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ref.	Description	Determination	25/00030/VARYCO	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on approved Application 24/01508/FUL in order to alter the garage to an office/room. Location: 18 Hartford Road East, Bedlington Northumberland, NE22 6HZ.	Members agreed that the Town Council would OBJECT to this planning application, and in light of a serious recent road accident, the same issues from original objection apply.	24/04112/OUTES	Outline planning application, with all matters reserved, for the erection of up to ten data centre buildings of Class B8 use, totalling up to 540,000 square metres (sqm) gross internal	Members AGREED that the Town Council would	
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		area (GIA) in addition to ancillary structures, substation, emergency generators and other associated works. Location: Land at Former Power Station Site on Northern Side of Cambois, Northumberland.	SUPPORT this planning application as it is good for the connectivity of the adjoining towns.
		<p>*Where the response date is before the date of the meeting an extension has been agreed to allow consideration of the application at the meeting and an opportunity to submit comments. Note: recent notified planning decisions and other planning applications (where comments have not been requested) are shown in PART C for information only).</p> <p>ii. Notice of planning appeal Planning Appeal Notification: Land to South of Hartford Drive, Hartford Bridge, Northumberland NE22 6AJ. Application refused - any additional comments to https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ by 25th February 2025.</p>	No additional comments were made.
25/32	f.	<p>Working groups / committees (items for decision or discussion)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any recommendations from working groups for decision by the full Council. To consider taking out bad weather insurance to cover cancellation of outdoor events. 2. Any other Items from working groups – the Working Group Chair will feed back to the Council about any other items discussed, any ongoing and future matters by the working group. 	<p>1) Members AGREED to get quotes and look into insurance cover.</p> <p>2) Easter and VE 80 events are planned for the community.</p>
26/33	g.	<p>Bank reconciliation The Council are asked to APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation of £20,265.25 as of 31st January 2025 for current account, a Deposit Account Balance of £347,101.02 as of 31st January 2025, and a CCLA account balance of £25,000.</p>	The bank reconciliations were APPROVED by members.

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR TO BE NOTED

Matters for information or to be noted									
25/34		<p>RESOLVED to NOTE Sections a, b, and c. Note section f is not part of the agenda and is included for information only.</p>							
	a.	<p>Chair's update and any reports from external meetings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Chair will make any relevant announcements and provide updates to members. ii. To receive feedback from councillors from any external meetings since the date of the last Council meeting. 	Nothing for this meeting.						
25/35	b.	<p>Consultations (not requiring a response from the Town Council)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>From</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Details</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northumberland Cycling Campaign</td> <td>Invitation to local councils to join the Northumberland Cycling Campaign and to respond to NECA Transport consultation.</td> <td>Available to all to complete https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NorthEastLTP online</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		From	Description	Details	Northumberland Cycling Campaign	Invitation to local councils to join the Northumberland Cycling Campaign and to respond to NECA Transport consultation.	Available to all to complete https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NorthEastLTP online
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25/36	c.	<p>Invitations</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>From</th> <th>Event</th> <th>Response details</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Newbiggin by the Sea</td> <td>Charity Musical Evening on Friday 14th February. Open to all - via email to – ask@newbiggintowncouncil.gov.uk</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		From	Event	Response details	Newbiggin by the Sea	Charity Musical Evening on Friday 14 th February. Open to all - via email to – ask@newbiggintowncouncil.gov.uk	
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		Town Council		Councillors NOTED
		Linguists Collective Conference	Linguists Collective Conference and Celebration of International Mother Language Day (IMLD) 2025, an online event taking place on Friday, 21 February 2025, from 10:00 to 22:00. Open to all – Zoom meeting.	Councillors NOTED
25/37	d.	Schedule of payments and receipts		
Details of payments and (receipts) to be noted since last Council update. All payments gross of VAT.				
		Payee	Amount £. p	Description
		CCLA Deposit Fund Interest	-100.89	Interest from Investment
				Councillors NOTED all payments and (receipts) since last update.
		Service and Disabled Lifts Ltd	6,755.40	Bedlington Com. Centre Lift
		Smart Office Systems Ltd	12.55	Printer Costs
		Gala Lights Limited	804.00	Bedlington Terrier Light
		Stacey Dodds	580.00	Electrical Work - Defibrillators
		Transfer In from Deposit Account	-20,000.00	Account Transfer
		Orangutan Landscapes Limited	1,345.88	Winter Planting Front Street Flower Pots and Troughs
		Widescope Web Design	96.00	.gov website domains
		Reay Security	83.04	CCTV Church Lane
		Reay Security	83.04	CCTV Cemetery Gates
		Reay Security	809.64	CCTV Bedlington
		Talk Talk Business	59.42	Telephone + Internet
		Service and Disabled Lifts Ltd	2,400.00	Bedlington Com. Centre Lift
		Reay Security	446.40	Meadowdale Gates
		Northumberland County Council	-3,000.00	County Councillor Wilczek Funding Contribution towards Bedlington Com Centre Lift
		Widescope Web Design	94.69	.gov emails
		CCLA Deposit Fund Interest	-100.89	Interest from Investment
		Amazon	59.00	Mobile Phone
		Wireless Logic Limited	539.14	CCTV Sim Card Charges
		HMRC	-10,369.18	VAT Reclaim
		Service and Disabled Lifts Ltd	2,251.80	Bedlington Com. Centre Lift
		Service and Disabled Lifts Ltd	1,200.00	Bedlington Com. Centre Lift
		House of Hamilton	1,600.00	Deposits for 2025 Street Fair
		House of Hamilton	1,000.00	Deposits for 2025 Summer Music Festival.
		Northumberland County Council	6118.02	January 2025 Payroll Costs
		Northumberland County Council	-3,000.00	County Councillor Taylor Funding Contribution towards Bedlington Com Centre Lift

		M Wilkinson	84.00	Internal Audit Charges																
25/38	e.	<p>Other planning applications Where comments have not been requested. None for this meeting.</p>																		
25/39	f.	<p>Planning decisions notified to West Bedlington Town Council by Northumberland County Council</p> <p>Councillors – NOTED ALL.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ref.</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Decision</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>24/03941/PRUTPO</td> <td>Tree Preservation Order Application to: T1 (Sycamore) prune to provide a 3-meter clearance from the house. Location: Street Record Footway Outside 7-16 Oakapple Close Bedlington Northumberland.</td> <td>PERMITTED</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/04124/FUL</td> <td>Converting the garage into a habitable space, extending the rear of the garage and fitting a roof lantern into a new flat roof. Location: 9 Winchester Way, The Chesters, Bedlington, Northumberland NE22 6JN.</td> <td>GRANTED</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/03951/FUL</td> <td>Replacement garage with kitchen diner extension, first floor bay, extended entrance canopy, new fence and driveway. Location: 6 Windsor Gardens, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5SY.</td> <td>GRANTED</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/03905/FUL</td> <td>Proposed alteration works including new dining room window to end elevation, new external metal fencing / gate surround to existing external metal fire escape staircase and new kitchen extract vent to front elevation. Location: Howard House School, Netherton Colliery, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6BB.</td> <td>GRANTED</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Ref.	Description	Decision	24/03941/PRUTPO	Tree Preservation Order Application to: T1 (Sycamore) prune to provide a 3-meter clearance from the house. Location: Street Record Footway Outside 7-16 Oakapple Close Bedlington Northumberland.	PERMITTED	24/04124/FUL	Converting the garage into a habitable space, extending the rear of the garage and fitting a roof lantern into a new flat roof. Location: 9 Winchester Way, The Chesters, Bedlington, Northumberland NE22 6JN.	GRANTED	24/03951/FUL	Replacement garage with kitchen diner extension, first floor bay, extended entrance canopy, new fence and driveway. Location: 6 Windsor Gardens, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5SY.	GRANTED	24/03905/FUL	Proposed alteration works including new dining room window to end elevation, new external metal fencing / gate surround to existing external metal fire escape staircase and new kitchen extract vent to front elevation. Location: Howard House School, Netherton Colliery, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6BB.	GRANTED
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25/40	g.	<p>Police report No Police report for this meeting. The next scheduled regular report is for the March 2025 meeting.</p>																		
25/41	h.	<p>Matters for information only Any matters pertaining to the Council, that members would like to bring to the attention of other members and residents. For Information only, no proposals or voting on these matters.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors – any matters for information only. Town Clerk – the Neighbourhood Plan consultation is to be included within the next edition of Update (the Town Council's newsletter) which is scheduled for distribution the first week of April. Also, a short presentation about the Neighbourhood Plan will be part of the Annual Meeting of The Town (if approved at Part B 2b. above). Chair – to provide an update about the replacement of the bus stops along Ridge Terrace via external funding on the Bedlington Active Travel Corridor. 																		
25/42	i.	<p>Date of next meeting The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 13th March 2025 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 5th March 2025.</p>																		

PART D – EXEMPT BUSINESS

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

		Matters for discussion / Decision / Information	
25/43		There is no exempt business for this meeting.	

25/44		Close of meeting The Chair closed the meeting at 7.02pm	
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WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL - COUNCILLORS:

Bill Crosby, Paul Hedley, Cath Henderson, Adam Hogg, Christine Taylor, Victoria Thompson, Jayne Todd, Dianne Wallace, and Russ Wallace.

Signed by Chair

Date

DRAFT