



## **BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL (Full Council) meeting held at 6:00 pm on Thursday 9 January 2025, in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Blyth, NE24 2AS.**

### **Present:**

**Councillors:** A Cartie (Deputy Mayor), B Erskine, C Jones, K Nisbet, J R Potts, J Reid, M Richardson, S Stanger, W Taylor, and A Watson.

### **Officers:**

M Wilkinson (Town Clerk), E Brown (Deputy Town Clerk), M F Hotak (Committee and Research Officer).

### **Members of the Public: 2**

#### **Questions from the public:**

A member of the public raised concerns about the ongoing demolition of the Broadway roundabout garages regarding the perceived lack of proper safety measures during the process. The individual emphasised the importance of adequately sealing the premises to prevent public access, highlighting the danger of asbestos.

Councillor K Nisbet updated that the garages are private property and that the issue has been reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Councillor A Watson added that the matter has already been communicated to Northumberland County Council (NCC), which previously owned the site through the arms reach company Advance Northumberland.

The Town Clerk informed that town council was pursuing through NCC who may be responsible, and it was agreed to establish through NCC whether any warnings regarding public access should be provided.

<b>Min No</b>	
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b></p> <p>Apologies received and were accepted from Cllr A Barrass (Mayor) Cllr D Carr, Cllr G Davey, Cllr S Davey.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Disclosure of Interests and Grant of Dispensations</b></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Mayor's Announcements</b></p> <p>As an apology was accepted from the Mayor, the Town Clerk highlighted several events in which the Mayor participated as part of her community engagement. These events included Christmas celebrations, school visits, and more.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 24 October 2024</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Council meeting held 24 October 2024 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Actions outstanding from Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk informed that three additional consultation sessions were organised at different community venues in Blyth to encourage public participation in the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan consultation. She noted that the attendance was poor. All responses to the consultation were forwarded to the Neighbourhood Planning Consultant for collating Committee.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Committee meeting Minutes for approval</b></p> <p>The Environment Committee meeting minutes held 10 December 2024, and the Governance Committee meeting minutes held 7 January 2025, were agreed as a true record of the meetings.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Decision Reports – Civility &amp; Respect Pledge</b></p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk presented a report on the Civility and Respect Pledge. After detailed discussions, Council RESOLVED to sign the Civility &amp; Respect Pledge, adopting the Training and</p>

	Development Policy, and the Dignity at Work policy and amend any documents in line with the pledge.
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Decision Report – Committee membership</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk reported on the Committee membership, it was discussed, and the Council noted the potential change to Committee membership numbers, following the result of the Newsham by election to be held on 9 January 2025, and any resulting action to be taken place.</p> <p>At the request of Cllr C Jones and Cllr D Carr, she would swap with Cllr D Carr for the Partnership Board (PB) meeting. The Town Clerk will confirm the date of the next PB meeting, and Cllr C Jones will be invited to attend.</p> <p>Councillors J Reid and S Stanger announced that this would be their final Council meeting, noting they did not plan to stand for re-election. They expressed their enjoyment in working with Blyth Town Council.</p> <p>On behalf of the members, Cllr W Taylor extended thanks and best wishes to them for the future.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Decision Report – Precept 2025/2026</b></p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to agree the budget of £1,492,579 and to fix the Precept on Northumberland County Council for 2025/26, at £1,490,046 which incorporates a 0% increase in Council Tax on 2024/25. £2,533 of reserves would be used.</p> <p>The Town Clerk went on to give a detailed overview of the reserves held.</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Delegated Decision Report</b></p> <p>There were no delegated decisions to report.</p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>None.</p>

<b>12</b>	<p><b>Date of the Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of Full Council and AGM of Blyth Town Council will be held on Thursday 8 May 2025 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House. Public Question Time Starts at 6.00pm and Council will commence shortly afterwards.</p>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Part II</b></p> <p>There were no agenda item for Part II in this meeting.</p>

The meeting closed at 6:45 pm

**MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**

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