



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Blyth, on Thursday 25 May at 6.00 pm

Present:

Town Councillors

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

Apologies

Councillors: A Barrass, D Carr, B Erskine, J Reid. Malcolm Wilkinson,
Deputy Town Clerk

Officers in Attendance

Joseph Hughes, Town Clerk
Maureen Hawthorne, Committee Clerk

Also in Attendance

Rob Strettle< NCC
Lee Paris, NCC
Megan Mullarkey, Advance

Members of the public: 2

Meeting

The Mayor, Councillor Warren Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting, commenting that the Town Meeting is an opportunity for residents to come along and ask questions. He said it is an honour and a privilege to be elected again as Mayor and he will be working closely with Councillor Aileen Barrass as Deputy Mayor over the next 12 months on numerous

engagements and events although the coming year won't see any historical events, unlike 2022 where we had 3 major events.

The Mayor spoke about exciting times ahead with the £90million Energising Blyth Programme, together with an extra £20million from Dluhc, the ongoing development of the Northumberland line and the relief road. The Council will again be delivering fantastic events such as Blyth Live, the Carnival and Fireworks; the Christmas event will look different this year due to work on the market place. It is hoped that the outcome of the Tall Ships lottery bid will be announced in June and if successful the money will be used to develop the Harbour Commissioners building into a maritime museum. Work continues on the play area developments and plans for the new skate park.

The Mayor moved on to talk about the Lighthouse project in Newsham – the Mayor, Councillors Anna Watson, Cliff Humphrey, Martin Robson and are now trustees on the board. This is a joint project with Northumberland County Council and the aim is to develop the old building into a family hub. A substantial amount of money has already been raised.

Work continues on the Neighbourhood Plan and we have the 125th anniversary of Blyth Spartans in 2024.

The Mayor closed his speech by talking about the tough times facing many people in Blyth for different reasons and reiterated the importance of supporting foodbanks wherever possible.

The Mayor invited approval of the minutes from the previous meeting held on Thursday 26 May 2022. These were agreed and approved by those in attendance as a true record by those present.

He introduced the guest speakers, Rob Strettle, Lee Paris and Megan Mullarkey who delivered a very informative presentation on Energising Blyth, sharing information on progress to date and timescales for the completion of various projects. A copy of the presentation is available on the Blyth Town Council website.

Questions were invited from members of the public present and Councillors.

Rob agreed to meet with a resident in the project space to clarify some points he raised and responded to the following questions from Councillors:

- It is hoped if resources can be secured longer term, then both sides of the car park will be improved.

- New projects will not cause delays on the existing ones as resources have been allocated.
- Rob is liaising with the transport team and any restrictions in terms of road closures will be site specific. The transport team are going to hold some engagement events in June and Rob will feedback Councillor Jones' interest in South Beach Road in particular.
- Link between Energy Central and Bede Academy and whether other young people will be excluded with Bede being allocated the majority of spaces on the scheme – Rob suggested it would be useful for the team to attend a BTC meeting to explore this further – Lee to action.
- Parking on Waterloo Road outside the shops will not be included in the plans. The parking arrangements that will be put in place will ensure the whole area can be managed more effectively.
- The covenant that nothing can be built on the market place has not been breached. Legal Services have been consulted on this matter.
- There are contingencies in place to cover any increases in costs due to rising inflation and costs of materials.
- Some data has been collected regarding the number of cyclists using Cowpen Road. This plan will be revisited as the scheme goes forward.

The Mayor closed the meeting, thanking colleagues from NCC for their fantastic presentation and noting that further discussion about Energy Central will take place within the Town Forum. There are exciting times ahead for Blyth.

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

Date: 30 May 2023

Signed