



BRIDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Established: May 2000

Mayor – Councillor Liam Dealtry

Minutes (subject to confirmation) of the TENTH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 6th May 2009 in the Bridlington Town Hall

Present: Councillors R Allerston, P Austin, L Chambers, M Charlesworth, L Dealtry (presided), S Finlay, M Charlesworth, C Marsburg, D Metcalf. Councillor E Chadwick (ERYC) attended, six local electors and Mr Budd from Whitby.
Mrs King, Administrative Assistant attended and recorded the minutes.

1. Welcome by the Mayor:

Councillor Dealtry welcomed everyone to the Tenth Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Charlesworth, S Marsburg and R Owen.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Ninth Annual Parish Meeting held on 6th May 2008:

Minutes of the Ninth Annual Parish Meeting were available at the meeting.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Ninth Annual Parish Meeting were approved as a true record.

4. Actions taken and matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

5. Questions received in writing:

Mr Felton posed the following questions:-

1. Can the Council explain the increase in precept from £81,000 in 2000 to £209,000 in 2009 without, apparently, any increase in duties?
 - A. The details are in the break down of the Town Councils budget for 2009/10 supplied with the Council Tax bill. To be able to consider the rise in the precept one must consider inflation and the effect inflation has on the precept and the services the Bridlington Town Council supplied for example public convenience services (£14,400 pa) public access to Sewerby Cricket Club toilets (£1,000 pa) Flagg wash, repair and change (£1,872) the Gasworx Skatepark capital costs and running subsidy (£100,000), the Multi Use Games Area (in course of construction)(£27,000), Christmas Lighting £14,728, bus shelters (£526 per annum for cleaning) and £8,000 of grants to worthy local organisations. Mr Felton added that cumulatively Bridlington Town Council had spent over £1 million pounds in 9 years and enquired as to why there are so many committees and what could they possibly do? Councillor Finlay added that part of the precept did not include wages for Councillors as they give all their time for free and voluntarily to all committees and duties on behalf of the Bridlington Town Council and that they do a good job for what works out to cost £1 per councillor per year. Councillor Austin responded that the committees of Bridlington Town Council have devolved powers to ensure that everything the Bridlington Town Council have to do is more effectively broken down into areas with delegated powers to alleviate full council meetings once a month. Councillor Austin added that the cost of living and inflation were currently over 2.5% more than what they were in 2000 and that shows the precept if given the same inflation percentage this year would be £202,500.00 and it is currently at £209,439.40, which shows that the Bridlington Town Council is requesting a mere £6,939.40 over inflation in the 9 years of its existence.
2. My understanding of a parish council precept is to enable a parish to raise funds for the benefit of the parish and its inhabitants. What has the Council done in the last 9 years to satisfy this criteria?
 - A. The Mayor explained that the answer to question two had been addressed with the answers to question one but Mr Felton added that he did not consider that all things benefitted the Parish of Bridlington as a

whole and stated the Skatepark did not benefit him. Councillor Finlay explained that the Skatepark was a facility that had been requested by the residents of Bridlington and not something that the Bridlington and that the St Johns toilets and the Sewerby toilets and some bus shelters did not benefit her personally but were also provided to benefit some of the residents depending on where they lived and if they chose to make use of them. The Sewerby toilets were also mentioned by Mr Felton who expressed that in his opinion that the Sewerby Cricket Club were “conning” the council for the fee paid per year for the use of the toilet facilities. The Mayor explained that the Sewerby toilets were opened throughout the season to ensure that anyone visiting Bridlington, who did not choose to pay entrance to Sewerby Hall had a toilet provision seven days a week. The Mayor promised to look into the matter of opening hours to ensure that this facility was available as agreed.

3. Can the Council justify the vast proportion of the precept that goes on administration and bureaucracy?

A. Firstly the Council does not create bureaucracy (unnecessary officialdom) but has to deal with that created by others. Administration is about 22% of the budget to cover essentials of an ever-increasing workload, including the escalating demand for the presence of the Mayor. (The ERYC is over 50% of Council tax). It should be noted that in the absence of the Clerk, since last November, certain unpaid councillors have had to assume duties to enable the Council to function and progress. i.e. office relocation, budget preparation, negotiation of the MUGA contract, recruitment of the new Skatepark Manager and other minor matters. Mr Felton also questioned removal costs and was informed by both Councillor Finlay and Councillor Austin regarding administration costs and removal costs and clarified both in relation to the budget.

4. Are the parish electorate ever going to be given the opportunity to vote for the abolition of the council?

A. There is a Representation of the People Act 1997 (unfortunately not to hand) which resulted in the creation of the Town Council, the same Act allows for the calling of a local referendum. It requires nine electors to hold a properly organised public meeting, details in the Act. The referendum is not binding but can demonstrate concern. Mr Felton gave his version of the history regarding the formation of Bridlington Town Council and accused an absent Councillor of “jiggery pokery” regarding postal voting in 1999. Councillor Finlay enquired whether Mr Felton registered his concerns to the Electoral Commission at the time and Mr Felton responded that he had not and added that at the time the Council was created on a very small minority, of less than 200 votes for. Councillor Chambers was a member of the East Riding Steering Group for the creation of a Town Council and informed Mr Felton that there was a massive supporting case for the creation of a Town Council as the East Riding of Yorkshire Council were provided with two separate petitions of cumulatively over 10,000 Bridlington resident signatures requesting the creation of a Town Council and to say that there was no great level of support was simply untrue.

6. Questions from the floor:

- i) Mr Budd introduced himself from Whitby and explained that he wished to simply observe the Annual Parish Meeting in Bridlington and as he is not an electorate of Bridlington he could not officially take part in the meeting.
- ii) Mr Riddiough questioned the amount of light bulbs that do not work along the sea front of Bridlington and was asked to contact the East Riding of Yorkshire Council who maintain this particular lighting in Bridlington.
- iii) Mrs Grimshaw asked if there was any response from the District Auditor and Councillor Finlay explained that she had spoken to the District Auditor the previous Friday (1st May 2009) to request an update and was informed that there would be a definitive answer soon. The Acting Responsible Officer for the Council would be making enquiries regarding and as soon as anything was received it would be made available for the F&GP meeting on 27th May 2009. Mrs Grimshaw added that it was very bad that an unsecured loan had been issued in the first instance.
- iv) Mr Felton asked when the Bridlington Town Council proposed to move the noticeboard currently outside the Community Resource Centre and was informed that it would remain there as long as IB2K were happy for it to be there and that the Bridlington Town Council are in the process of obtaining a new noticeboard outside the new offices on 62 Quay Road.
- v) Councillor Chadwick wished to thank the members of the Bridlington Town Council who attending the car parking review panel meeting at the Spa and was sad to report that only 52 people attended what was

a very important meeting. Councillor Austin reported the information she had received from the newsletter enquiry regarding car parking and Councillor Chadwick requested that it could be forwarded to the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, to which Councillor Austin reported that it already had been. The Mayor thanked Councillor Chadwick and agreed that if the proposals for car parking in Bridlington go ahead as outlined that it should be a positive move for Bridlington.

The meeting was closed by the Mayor at 7.30 p.m.

Signed:

Date:

Mayor of Bridlington

N.B. The Eleventh Annual Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 5th May 2010 at 7 p.m.