

Morpeth Town Council
Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
Wednesday 5th September 2018 at 6:30pm
in the Chambers at the Town Hall, Morpeth

Present: Councillors: D Bawn - Chairman
A Tebbutt - Vice Chairman
N Best
L Cassie
R Hogg
J Parreira
R Thompson
J Wearmouth
R Wearmouth

Clerks: Mrs T Bell
Mrs J Wilson
Miss K Carter

Absent Councillors: Cllr Gebhard *ex officio* - Business

100/18 Committee Chairman's Announcements

- Members were advised of the usual rules about the recording of meetings.
- Members were reminded that mobile phones should be turned on to silent and should not be used during the meeting.

101/18 Mayoral Announcements

- The Meet the Mayor event will take place in the Corn Exchange, Morpeth Town Hall, on 7th September 2018 2-4pm.

102/18 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman received the following declarations of interest on this occasion:

Cllr N Best – CCTV – (Personal Interest – Member of Chamber of Trade)

Cllr R Thompson – CCTV – (Personal Interest – Treasurer of Chamber of Trade)

103/18 Public Participation Time

There were no members of the public present who wished to ask a question on this occasion.

104/18 Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 4th July 2018

The minutes of the above meetings were approved as a true record.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee be approved, and signed as a correct record by the chair.

105/18 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising on this occasion.

106/18 Authorisation of Payments

The payment lists for August 2018 and September 2018 were circulated for consideration.

RESOLVED

- (i) That members agreed the payment list for August 2018, totalling £54,986.89.
- (ii) That members agreed the payment list for September 2018, totalling £32,821.05.

107/18 Updates from Working Groups

a. Parish Boundary Working Group

Cllr Bawn informed members that meetings had taken place between Morpeth Town Council and Mitford, Hebron and Hepscott Parish Councils.

Hebron Parish Council had a positive opinion of the proposals as they are largely a rural parish and have less experience with suburban housing. A further meeting will take place to discuss a consultation exercise with the residents of Fairmoor.

Discussions with Mitford Parish Council are progressing as concerns were raised regarding the existing properties situated in area F on the map, which includes the land West of High House Lane.

Hepscott Parish Council are strongly opposed to the proposal to change the boundaries. Councillors were informed that the Chair of Hepscott Parish Council was to conduct a survey with residents to ascertain their opinions on the proposed boundaries; however this has not been done yet. Cllr R Wearmouth suggested that the residents present at the meeting saw the logic of the change. Mitford Parish Council have suggested that some sort of transitional relief be paid in the form of compensation. A discussion took place regarding this and councillors felt

that this would be against the rationale behind the proposals and would set a dangerous precedent.

Cllr Bawn suggested that an updated report be presented at the next meeting in October 2018.

The Clerk suggested that negotiations continue and a final report including recommendations be presented for a decision at Full Council in November 2018.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) An updated report to be brought to the next meeting.

b. In Bloom Working Group

Members were provided for information with the notes from the In Bloom Working Group meeting on 18th July 2018.

The Clerk informed members that both the national and the regional inspections had taken place. Results for the regional competition will take place on the 26th September 2018, and the results of the national competition will take place on the 19th October 2018.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

c. Morpeth Partnership Working Group

The Clerk informed members that there was nothing to report as there has been no further meeting since July 2018.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

d. Morpeth Forum

The Clerk informed members that the next Morpeth Forum meeting will take place next week and the next consultation session is scheduled for November 2018.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

108/18 **Budget Monitoring Statement**

Members were provided for information with the first quarter Budget Statement for 2018/19.

The Clerk advised members that an increase in allotment rent was due to the handover of Middle Greens allotments in April 2018, which had not been budgeted for.

The Clerk also advised members that although some cost centre codes are currently showing high balances work is ongoing on a number of projects and once these invoices are paid the Earmarked Reserves will reduce significantly.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

109/18 **CCTV**

The Clerk informed members that she has received an email from the Chamber of Trade (COT), advising that they are interested in the project; however they are unlikely to become a joint partner.

The Clerk also informed members that a meeting will take place with the police to help to identify appropriate areas for the cameras to be installed. Once this was completed detailed quotes would be sent.

Cllr Best advised that the COT would like more detailed information on exact locations and costs before committing to the project.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) The Clerk to bring a report once all the relevant information was available.

Cllr Best and Cllr Thompson declared a personal interest in this matter – see min 102/18

110/18 **Play Area Update**

The Clerk informed members that works have now been completed at both Church Walk (phase 1) and Carlisle Park play areas, and that there have been positive responses towards the new equipment.

The Clerk also informed members that the works for the second phase of Church Walk have been commissioned. These will take place on the lower part of the play area and will feature equipment designed for older children/teenagers.

Cllr Tebbutt informed members that there had been several complaints of antisocial behaviour at Church Walk since the new equipment had been installed. He also enquired as to whether there had been any further developments regarding the installation of CCTV in this area. The Clerk informed members that although there had been issues with antisocial behaviour initially, this had now ceased due to police involvement and the installation of new signage informing members of the public of the recommended age of children in this play area. The Clerk advised that information regarding the specification of the CCTV equipment was still outstanding.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) The Deputy Clerk to chase a response regarding the specification of the CCTV at Church Walk.

111/18 Small Grant Application

Members were asked to consider a Small Grant Application from the Collingwood Society for £54 to cover the hall hire charges.

The Clerk informed members that the application did not meet the criteria for a Small Grant.

Cllr Best proposed that Morpeth Town Council become a member of the Collingwood Society, which would strengthen the relationship between the society and the Town Council. Membership costs £20 per year. Cllr Tebbutt agreed that this was a good idea as Collingwood Day is celebrated in the Town Hall Buttermarket on the 21st October every year.

A vote was taken: 9 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) To decline the Collingwood Society's Small Grant Application as it does not meet the criteria.
- (iii) Morpeth Town Council to subscribe to the Collingwood Society.

112/18 Annual Town and Parish Council Conference

Members were advised that two places are available to attend the Fifth Annual Town and Parish Council Conference on Thursday 11th October 2018 at County Hall, Morpeth.

Cllr Tebbutt proposed that he and Cllr Byard attend the conference.

A vote was taken: 9 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) Cllrs Tebbutt and Byard to attend the conference.

113/18

Local Council Issues

Members were advised that the next Local Council meeting will take place on Monday 10th September 2018 in the Corn Exchange in Morpeth Town Hall.

There were no issues raised on this occasion.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

Members unanimously agreed that the following resolution be passed to exclude the press and public from the meeting, to discuss the following item in closed session:

Exclusion of Press and Public - Council members are invited to consider passing the following Resolution:

"That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the disclosure of the following items on the agenda as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of schedule 12A in the 1972 Act as indicated below."

Issues concerning: Contracts

There was no other business to discuss and the meeting concluded at 7:18pm with Councillors D Bawn, A Tebbutt, Best, Cassie, Hogg, Thompson, Parreira, J Wearmouth and R Wearmouth present.

SIGNED: 
DATE: 3/10/18
CHAIRMAN/VICE-CHAIRMAN
MORPETH TOWN COUNCIL
STANDING COMMITTEE