

Morpeth Town Council
Minutes of the Full Council Committee Meeting
Wednesday 23rd January 2019
at 6pm in the Council Chamber of Morpeth Town Council

Present: **Councillors:** J Gebhard - Mayor
 A Byard - Deputy Mayor
 D Bawn
 N Best
 L Cassie
 D Herne
 R Hogg
 K Holmes
 A Tebbutt
 R Thompson
 J Wearmouth
 R Wearmouth

Clerks: Mrs T Bell – Town Clerk
 Mrs J Wilson – Deputy Town Clerk
 Miss K Carter – Democratic Services Assistant

Absent Councillors: Councillor N Bawn – Apologies Received (Personal)
 Councillor J Parreira – Apologies Received (Business)
 Councillor J Tebbutt – Apologies Received (Personal)

Three members of the public were in attendance. One member of the press and an additional member of the public were also in attendance, arriving at 6:12pm.

256/18 **Mayoral Announcements**

- Members were reminded that the usual rules about recordings apply.
- Members were reminded that the usual rules regarding switching off mobile phones apply.
- There will be a Burns Night supper on the 28th January 2019 in the Sun Inn, Morpeth. There are still tickets available for this event on sale for £23.50.
- A buffet to celebrate Chinese New Year take place at Mulan in Morpeth on the 3rd February 2019. Tickets for this event are now sold out. Both events will raise money for MIND, the Mayor's chosen charity.

Cllr Tebbutt informed members that former Mayor of Morpeth, Mark Horton, had been involved in a motorcycle accident and was admitted to hospital. He has significant injuries, however, he was discharged this afternoon.



257/18 **Mayoral Diary**

Members were provided with the schedule of events to be attended by the Mayor/Deputy Mayor from January to May 2019.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

258/18 **Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman received no declarations of interest on this occasion.

259/18 **Public Participation Time**

A pupil from Chantry Middle School in Morpeth addressed the Council regarding concerns she has about single use plastic in Morpeth. She informed Members that single use plastic kills 100,000 marine animals each year and that most single use plastic comes from drinks bottles.

She proposed that shops in Morpeth should be approached to ask if members of the public may be allowed to refill their water bottles to reduce the amount of plastic waste produced. She presented members with a poster she had designed herself bearing her slogan "Refill Not Landfill". She asked for support from members to raise awareness of her campaign.

Members congratulated and thanked her for the presentation.

Cllr R Wearmouth advised that Northumbrian Water may have a similar project and that she may be able to link up with them to ask for support to further her campaign. He also suggested that she approach Coca-Cola, based in Morpeth, to propose that they set up a filling station in Morpeth so that residents can refill their bottles with branded water rather than tap water.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) Cllr Byard to contact the Managing Director of Coca-Cola for support.
- (iii) Cllr Gebhard to raise the matter with the Chamber of Trade to gain support.
- (iv) Cllr Tebbutt to raise the matter with the Governors at the Three Rivers Trust.
- (v) Cllr Hogg to raise awareness by posting the campaign on the Morpeth Matters Facebook group once it has been launched.

Three members of the public left the meeting and one member of the press and an additional member of the public arrived at 6:12pm.



260/18 Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 21st November 2018

The minutes of the above meeting was approved as a true record.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Minutes of 21st November 2018, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

261/18 Matters Arising from Full Council Committee Meeting on 21st November 2018

There were no matters arising on this occasion.

262/18 Items referred from Other Committees and Working Groups

Finance and General Purposes Committee

i. Budget 2019/20

Cllr D Bawn, Chairman of the F&GP Committee, presented the 2019/20 Budget for consideration.

The Clerk informed members that the majority of capital spend for the current year was used for the refurbishment of the play areas. Key areas of spend for the next financial year will be the refurbishment of the paddling pool. Carlisle Park toilets will also be refurbished, partly funded by Northumberland County Council (NCC) County Councillors' Small Schemes budget.

The Clerk also informed members that the budget heads had been realigned due to a number of efficiencies, these will be utilised on employing a horticultural trainee and a seasonal worker through NCC to cope with increased demand during the summer months.

An amendment to the Council tax base has been received from NCC. This has resulted in an increase in the precept, however, the overall increase to residents will remain at 2%.

Cllr Gebhard read out the following Resolutions:

- (a) To approve the enclosed third version of the Draft Budget for 2019/20 as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and to
- (b) Levy the recommended Precept to Northumberland County Council, for the Financial Year 2019/20, representing a 2% increase for council tax payers.



A vote was taken for each resolution: 12 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Draft Budget 2019/20 and the medium term financial plan be adopted by Full Council.
- (ii) That a Precept be levied on NCC representing a 2% increase.

Cllr Holmes left the meeting at 6:25pm, returning at 6:27pm.

263/18 Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members were provided for information with the Outside Organisation reports.

Cllr Gebhard informed members that The Chamber of Trade had agreed to support the Town Council's proposal for CCTV in the town.

Cllr Tebbutt advised members that he would produce a written update on NALC once he had received the minutes from the meeting that took place on Saturday 19th January 2019. He also advised members that NCC are currently looking to align their staff so that during busy periods there will be more staff available. The Clerk informed members that this proposal should have no impact on the Town Council and the work the NEAT Team undertake.

Cllr Cassie circulated an update on the Millennium Green. He expressed his admiration for the ten trustees who had been running the project for 8/9 years. He also informed members that the Green is open to members of the public for a number of community activities.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

264/18 Strategic County Councillor Updates

Members were provided for information with the County Councillor updates.

Cllr Byard queried if there had been any news regarding the car accident at Pottery Bank. Cllr Bawn informed her that he had asked NCC Highways department to obtain the police report with respect to the incident, but has not received any further information.

Cllr Hogg informed members that the interactive speed sign in Stobhill is due to be fixed.

Cllr Tebbutt raised concerns regarding several broken street lights in the town. He informed members that he had been reporting them, but had received no feedback

from NCC and they are still broken. Cllr R Wearmouth advised that there is an ongoing discussion with Galliford Try to solve these issues. Cllr Hogg advised that County Councillor Glen Sanderson is also dealing with this.

Cllr Herne raised concerns regarding the pedestrian crossing next to the train station as there had been several near misses on this section of the road. Cllr Gebhard advised him to raise his concerns directly with County Cllr John Beynon.

RESOLVED

(i) Information duly noted.

265/18

Councillor Motion

Cllr Bawn read out the following motion –

That this Council supports the aims of the Parkrun group nationally in the promotion of good health and wellbeing and the principle of free of charge, stewarded and timed 5k runs on a weekly basis.

Cllr Bawn informed members that the scheme had been very successful in other towns in Northumberland. He also informed members that discussions are currently taking place between NCC and Morpeth Town Council to determine whether Carlisle Park would be a suitable location for the run to take place. He proposed that the Town Council approve in principal as it promotes health and fitness and would also bring more people to Morpeth.

Cllr Cassie enquired, as the run is free, who would pay for the setup of the event. Cllr Bawn informed him that setup fees are a one-off payment of £3,000 which would be raised by volunteers, small grants and through the Community Chest.

A proposal was made to approve the motion in principle.

A vote was taken: 12 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) Motion was approved in principle.

266/18

Local Council Issues

There were no issues for Local Council raised on this occasion.



The meeting concluded at 6:37pm with Councillors' N Best, D Bawn, A Byard, L Cassie, J Gebhard, D Herne, R Hogg, K Holmes, A Tebbutt, R Thompson, J Wearmouth and R Wearmouth.

SIGNED: 
DATE: 20/04/2019

CHAIRMAN/VICE-CHAIRMAN
MORPETH TOWN COUNCIL
STANDING COMMITTEE

