

Morpeth Town Council
Annual Assembly 2019

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Corn Exchange of the Town Hall Morpeth
Wednesday 17th April 2019

Present: -

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

32 Members of the public and one member of the press were also in attendance.

Clerks: Mrs T Bell and Miss K Carter
Other Staff Ms A Cole

Absent Councillors: Cllr N Bawn – Apologies Received (Personal)
Cllr D Herne – Apologies Received (Business)
Cllr J Parreira – No Apologies Received
Cllr R Thompson – Apologies Received (Business)
Cllr J Wearmouth – No Apologies Received

351/18 Mayor's Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Assembly of the Town.

The Mayor introduced councillors and Town Council staff to members of the public present.

352/18 To Confirm the Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 18th April 2018

The Mayor advised that the minutes would be published on the Town Council website from Thursday 18th April 2019.

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 18th April 2018 were confirmed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

353/18 Annual Report 2018/2019

The Mayor, Councillor J Gebhard, presented the Annual Report which reviewed the activities of the Town Council's year, along with his personal highlights as Mayor.

Various achievements and projects were highlighted, as well as the ongoing maintenance and management of many services in Morpeth.

The Mayor thanked Councillors, partners, contractors and staff for their work and support throughout the year.

There were no questions from Members of the Public regarding the Annual Report, however there was one question raised by Mrs K Bibby-Wilson.

'Can Morpeth Town Council review their policy for the use of signage for events in the Town Hall?'

The Mayor advised that this was an operational matter.

The Clerk advised that her concerns had been addressed and that a display screen, which faces out onto the street, had been procured to advertise events within the Town Hall. This conforms to Northumberland County Council's (NCC) Clear Street Policy.

A question was also raised by Mr Alan Bell.

'Why have Community Resilience Volunteers not been contacted more regarding flood alerts?'

The Mayor again advised that this was an operational matter.

The Clerk advised that volunteers had been contacted to attend an annual meeting, to which two people replied. As the event could not go ahead with such little interest, it was decided to possibly reschedule it in Spring. As also advised that volunteers would only be contacted once flood alerts from the Environment Agency (EA) had risen to a warning.

There were no further questions from the public.

354/18 Presentation of Civic Awards

The Mayor, Councillor J Gebhard, presented the Morpeth Town Council Civic Awards, giving a brief resume of the reason why the individual had been selected to receive a Civic Award.

Recipients of Award

Dai Richards

Margaret Hood

355/18 Closure

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the formal business of the meeting, which concluded at 6:24 pm, and all present were invited to partake of refreshments.