

**Morpeth Town Council**

**Minutes of the Full Council Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber of Morpeth Town Council**

**Present:**    **Councillors:** N Best                    -            Mayor

D Bawn  
N Bawn  
A Byard  
J Gebhard  
R Hogg  
J Parreira  
J Wearmouth  
R Wearmouth

**Clerks:**        Mrs T Bell – Town Clerk  
                     Mrs J Wilson – Office Manager

**Absent Councillors:**    Councillor L Cassie – Apologies Received (Holiday)  
                                  Councillor D Herne – Apologies Received (Business)  
                                  Councillor K Holmes – Apologies Received (Personal)  
                                  Councillor R Thompson – Apologies Received (Business)  
                                  Councillor A Tebbutt – No Apologies Received *before meeting*  
                                  Councillor J Tebbutt – Apologies Received (Illness)

Angie Cole and Kim Carter (Admin Officers), County Councillor John Beynon, two members of the public and one member of the press were also in attendance.

**331/17        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.
- The Mayor's Ball will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7pm in the Town Hall. Tickets are still available at £30 per person.
- A Burns Nights supper will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, at the Sun Inn. Tickets are on sale for £20 from the Sun Inn, Morpeth Town Hall, Bin 21 and the Chamber of Trade.
- Members were reminded that nominations for a Civic Award can now be submitted. All nominations will be reviewed in February, the policy for nominations will be forwarded to all councillors.

**332/17**      **Mayoral Diary**

Members were provided with the schedule of events to be attended by the Mayor/Deputy Mayor from January to May 2018.

**RESOLVED**

- (i)      The information was duly noted

**333/17**      **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest on this occasion.

**334/17**      **Public Participation Time**

Two members of the public were present to discuss Storey Park Community Centre (SPCC), Jo Gooding addressed members. She advised that she is a resident in Kirkhill and would like to know the following –

- What is the future sustainability of SPCC;
- What is the centre used for;
- What are the current maintenance issues;
- How can the centre meet the changing needs of the community and
- Can a public consultation be held?

Cllr R Wearmouth advised that the building is being considered as part of the larger Morpeth Masterplan exercise which will include what services are to be offered in which building. He advised that certain parts within SPCC have been condemned and it is essential that something is done with the building however, the Town Council have previously looked in to the associated costs to both repair and rebuild the centre. Cllr R Wearmouth confirmed that Northumberland County Council (NCC) have suggested a Community Asset Transfer of the freehold of the building and land, along with a dowry payment. This will be considered by the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) committee on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

**RESOLVED**

- (i)      The information was duly noted

**335/17**      **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017**

**RESOLVED**



- (i) that the Minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**336/17 Matters Arising from Full Council Committee Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017**

See appendix A.

**337/17 Items referred from Other Committees and Working Groups**

**Finance and General Purposes Committee**

**i. Budget 2018/19**

Cllr D Bawn, Chairman of the F&GP Committee, presented the 2018/19 Budget for consideration.

Cllr R Wearmouth queried the variance in the budgeted and estimated outturn for 2017/18 and the loss as projected for the 2018/19 budget. The Clerk advised that the changes in the 2017/18 budgeted and estimated outturn is due to a number of projects being budgeted for but not completed within the current financial year. The earmarked funds for projects have been carried forward to the 2018/19 budget and it is expected that the projects will be completed moving forward in the next financial year. The balance shown is not a loss but an indication as to the amount which will be used from earmarked funds.

Cllr Best read out the following Resolutions:

- (a) To approve the enclosed third version of the Draft Budget for 2018/19 and medium term financial plan 2018-21 as adopted by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and to
- (b) Levy the recommended Precept of £582,328 on Northumberland County Council, for the Financial Year 2018/19, representing a 2% increase for council tax payers.

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

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Draft Budget 2018/19 and the medium term financial plan for 2018-21 be adopted by Full Council
- (ii) That a Precept of £582,328 be levied on NCC representing a 2% increase

*Members of the public and press left the meeting at 6.55pm, member of the press returning at 6.58pm.*

## Planning and Transport Committee

### ii. North of Tyne Devolution – Governance Review Consultation

Members were provided for consideration with a draft response from Cllr Best to the above consultation.

Cllr R Wearmouth pointed out that the Ashington-Blyth-Tyne line is now referred to as the Northumberland Line and should be amended prior to submitting the response.

Cllr Best proposed that the draft response is submitted, following the amendment, and a copy be sent to leader of NCC Cllr Peter Jackson and Stephen Rickitt at NALC.

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

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) To submit the amended response to the consultation.

### **338/17** Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members received the Outside Organisation reports.

Cllr Parreira advised that he was unable to attend the last meeting of the Greater Morpeth Development Trust (GMDT) as the start time is too early for him to attend, he confirmed that he has requested a later start time for meetings to allow him to attend on a regular basis. Cllr R Wearmouth provided an update on GMDT –

- They are progressing with the plans to refurbish Morpeth Railway Station, works are due to commence in February 2018.
- They are looking in to re housing the Bagpipe Museum within the Boys Brigade building on Manchester Street
- The Film Festival will take place on the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 and have asked if the Town Council could reconsider their policy on advertising event on the front of the Town Hall.

The Clerk advised members that the advertising policy has been recently reviewed and approved by Full Council. GMDT have been advised that they can use the catenary wires on the front of the Town Hall to advertise but they will need to hire the appropriate equipment to comply with Health and Safety law and this will be at their own cost. The Clerk also reminded Council that the advertising of any events held in the Town Hall is up to the individual organisation, the Town Council assist where possible.

Cllr D Bawn provided an update on behalf of Cllr Herne, representative on the Community Safety Hub (CSH). The boundaries for the CSH have been amended to be in line with the Police boundaries, Morpeth now falls in to the North area and the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January was not for this area. Cllr Herne will provide an update following the next appropriate meeting.

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) The information was duly noted.
- (ii) Cllr R Wearmouth to ask GMDT to amend their meeting start time in future.

**339/17**

### **Strategic County Councillor Updates**

Cllr D Bawn advised members that

- County Council is in the process of making the budget for 2018/19.
- The next Morpeth Masterplan Drop In session is on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 2pm–8pm in Morpeth Town Hall.
- Repairs to the A197 are currently underway with thanks from County Cllr Sanderson pothole repairs fund.

Cllr Hogg asked what the timescale for the Morpeth Masterplan will be. Cllr R Wearmouth advised that it will depend on the feedback received at the next drop in session. He advised that the drop in session will provide feedback on what the public said at the last events. Land owners and developers, for a number of key sites, have been invited to attend and discuss their plans.

Cllr Beynon advised members that the initial BID group were tasked with facilitating the BID process however a steering group has been formed to campaign for a yes vote prior to the ballot.

Cllr D Bawn also advised members that the results of the car parking study are available and proposals to address the issues raised will be discussed at the drop in session.

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) The information was duly noted.

**340/17**

### **Mary Hollon Trust**

Members were provided with a letter from the Mary Hollon Trust regarding proposed constitution amendments for consideration. Cllr Byard advised members that there are two main changes which will affect the Town Council –

1. The Morpeth Town Council nominated trustee becomes co-terminus with the Council's election period. Cllr Byard's current period comes to an end in

September 2018 however, under the proposed amendments it would be extended until May 2021.

2. In the event of the Trust defaulting on its responsibilities, Morpeth Town Council would be the default organisation to which any individual could turn to for assistance. All that would be required by the Town Council would be to appoint someone to take on the role of secretary and treasurer and appoint new trustees. Morpeth Town Council would not run the charity.

Cllr Best proposed to approve the two changes which affect the Town Council.

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

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) The information was duly noted.
- (ii) To write to the Mary Hollon Trust to confirm the Town Council approve the amendments proposed.

### **341/17 Local Council Issues**

Members were asked if there were any issues to be raised.

Cllr J Gebhard advised members that the Chamber of Trade have been informed that they will need to pay to have the streets closed for Fair Day. It was suggested to the Chamber of Trade that they apply to the Community Chest for assistance with these costs. Cllr Gebhard asked if it would be appropriate to raise this at the next Local Council meeting to see if NCC would waiver these charges.


### **RESOLVED**

- (i) The information was duly noted.
- (ii) Cllr Gebhard to raise to issue of street closure costs for the Chamber of Trade at the next Local Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7:15pm with Councillors' N Best, D Bawn, N Bawn, A Byard, J Gebhard, R Hogg, J Parreira, J Wearmouth and R Wearmouth

**336/17 Matters Arising from Previous Committee Meetings – Appendix A**

Minute Number	Item	Current Position	Action from meeting
262/17	Representatives on Outside Bodies	Cllr R Wearmouth advised that he has received no response from Cllr J Riddle regarding the absence of an invite for local councils to participate in the Emergency Planning Exercise.	Information duly noted. Cllr R Wearmouth to chase a response.
264/17	Area Council Issues	Cllr R Wearmouth advised he has not had a response from NCC Highways regarding the lack of signage for the A697 Rothbury/Wooler road.	Information duly noted. Cllr R Wearmouth to contact Cllr Glen Sanderson regarding the issue. Item to be referred to Planning and Transport for an update.

SIGNED:   
 DATE: 21-3-18  
 CHAIRMAN/VICE-CHAIRMAN  
 MORPETH TOWN COUNCIL  
 STANDING COMMITTEE

