

Morpeth Town Council
Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 6:30pm
in the Corn Exchange at the Town Hall, Morpeth

Present: **Councillors:**

D Bawn	-	Chairman
A Tebbutt	-	Vice Chairman – arriving at 6:32pm
N Best	-	Mayor, <i>ex-officio</i>
L Cassie	-	arriving at 6:35pm
D Herne		
R Hogg		
J Parreira		
R Thompson		
J Wearmouth		

Clerks:

Mrs T Bell
Miss K Carter

Absent Councillors: Cllr J Gebhard – Business

378/17 **Committee Chairman’s Announcements**

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

379/17 **Mayoral Announcements**

- Lateral Art are running a competition on behalf of the Town Council to replace the designs currently on the planters located on the Market Place. The winners of the competition will have their designs placed on the planters in the Market Place. The theme is Morpeth Heroes. Thirty five entries have been submitted so far. The competition will run until May.
- The International Women’s Day service will take place on the 8th March 2018 at St Mary’s Church at 12pm. The procession will then lay wreaths and flowers at Emily Davison’s grave. Refreshments will be served afterwards at Storey Park Community Centre
- The Annual Charity Swimmathon will be taking place on Saturday 10th March 2018 at 2pm. Cllr Byard has put together a team to raise money for the Mayor’s charity.
- There will be an Edwardian Tea Room in the Town Hall on the 10th March 2018 to celebrate the suffragette movement. 200 suggestions on how to improve your life or community have been received and five have been shortlisted. The vote will take place between 10am and 2pm.
- The Annual Easter Oranges event will take place on Easter Monday, 2nd April 2018 at 11am in Carlisle Park. Active Northumberland are organising Easter themed games on the day.
- A Morpeth Town Council and Morpeth In Bloom page has now been set up on Facebook. Members were asked to both like and promote the new pages.

380/17 **Declarations of Interest**

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

Cllr Rachael Hogg – Updates from Working Groups, Parish Boundary Working Group – (Personal Interest – resident of Southfield estate)

381/17 **Public Participation Time**

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

382/17 **Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 7th February 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.

383/17 **Matters Arising**

See Appendix B.

384/17 **Authorisation of Payments**

The monthly accounts were circulated for consideration. Members were provided with an amended payments list.

RESOLVED

- (i) That members agreed the amended payment list for March 2018, totalling £57,716.04.

385/17 **Updates from Working Groups**

a. Parish Boundary Working Group

Members were provided with the draft business case for consideration. Cllr Bawn thanked all Councillors who had contributed to the draft business case.

Cllr Tebbutt expressed his concerns regarding the negative tone of the business case and had previously voiced concerns regarding the

potential damage to the relationship between Morpeth Town Council, Hebron, Hepscoth and Mitford. Cllr Bawn informed members that the proposal should stand on its own merits rather than the personal feelings of individual Councillors.

Cllr Bawn took members through the draft proposals so that each parcel of land could be discussed individually.

A proposal was made to vote on the inclusion of each parcel of land to the administrative parish of Morpeth:

Plot A – Southfields Development

A vote was taken: 7 For, 1 Against and 1 Abstention

Plot B – Stobhill Manor Estate – to be implemented following the next election if possible.

A vote was taken: 7 For, 1 Against and 1 Abstention

Plot C – Northgate and St Andrews Development

Cllr Hogg will be attending Hebron's Parish meeting on Wednesday 15th March 2018.

A vote was taken: 8 For, 1 Against and 0 Abstention

Plot D – Mitford Parish - Land Safeguarded for future economic development

Cllr Best informed members that this is the only area in the Neighbourhood Plan identified for economic development

A vote was taken: 8 For, 1 Against and 0 Abstention

Plot E – Mitford Parish - Planning permission has been granted to large scale residential and commercial development

A vote was taken: 8 For, 1 Against and 0 Abstention

Plot F – Mitford Parish – largely rural

Cllr Cassie enquired as to whether the 16 properties in the proposal included the six new self-build sites on the old water works.

Cllr Best suggested that we remove the text after Morpeth Neighbourhood plan onward from the last bullet point of the FOR section.

A vote was taken: 6 For, 2 Against and 1 Abstention

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) To clarify if the properties on Plot F include the new self-build sites.
- (iii) To refer the amended draft business case to Full Council on the 21st March 2018 for approval.

Cllr Hogg declared a personal interest in this matter, see Min 380/17.

b. In Bloom Working Group

Members were provided for information with the notes of the meeting held on 14th February 2018.

Cllr Best informed members that Greater Morpeth Development Trust (GMDT) are organising litter picks, one of which has already been carried out. A second litter pick, due to take place on Sunday 4th March, had to be postponed due to adverse weather conditions; it is now due to take place on Sunday 18th March 2018. Cllr Byard is keen for Councillors to take part in litter picks in Morpeth.

Benmar House and Heighley Gate Garden Centre are currently organising a garden competition for Morpeth residents for 2018.

The Clerk informed members that she had attended a regional In Bloom meeting on the 7th March 2018. Morpeth's Spring judging will take place on the 25th April 2018 and the Summer judging will take place on the 20th July 2018. There is no date as of yet for the national judging, but it will be taking place in the first two weeks of August. Regional results will take place on the 26th September 2018 and national results will take place on the 19th October 2018 in Belfast.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

c. Town Team

The Clerk informed members that the Town Team Meeting in March has been postponed until the day after the BID ballot results are made public. If the BID is implemented the Town Team will need to review its remit.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

386/17

Property and Assets Update

Members were provided with the Property and Assets report.

Cllr Bawn informed members that the Community Asset Transfer for Storey Park community centre is still in discussion. The Clerk and Cllr Best attended a funding fair on the 7th March 2018 to talk to potential funders. Unfortunately Morpeth Town Council is excluded from a lot of types of funding. The Clerk and Cllr Best are currently in conversations with lottery funding and LEADER funding.

The Clerk will be attending a meeting with Northumberland County Council (NCC) next week to discuss the Community Asset Transfer.

The new digital display screen has been installed in the Buttermarket and is operational.

Following the completion of Church Walk play area an Opening Ceremony will be held. The play equipment providers will supply goodie bags for the children.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

387/17

Review of Local Government Ethical Standards

Members were provided with a copy of the Stakeholder Consultation for the above review.

Cllr Tebbutt informed members that up until 2011/12 the Standards Commission had a much stronger system of standards in place. They were able to step in and suspend a Councillor who had been found to be in breach of the code of conduct. After the election in 2010 the Department of Communities and Local Government decided that they would engage in a consultation, and due to immense pressure, they decided to revoke the Standards Commission's power to suspend Councillors. The only power that the Standards Commission has now is to give a "slap on the wrist" if the involved Councillor accepts it. This is not sufficient.

Cllr Tebbutt would like to see the Standards Commission's power to suspend reinstated so that breaches of the code of conduct can be dealt with more effectively and abuse of power/officers will cease.

Cllr Bawn proposed that we set up a working group to formulate a response to this review. Members agreed to a working group consisting of Cllrs Tebbutt (Chair), Bawn, Herne and Parreira, and the Clerk. The Town Council has until the 18th May 2018 to respond.

RESOLVED

- (i) The working group to draft a response to bring back to the Finance and General Purposes committee on the 2nd May 2018 for approval.

388/17

Communications

Members were asked to consider any items for the next issue of the Town Cryer.

There were no new items raised on this occasion.

389/17

Community Safety Hub Issues (CoSH)

Member were provided with proposed changes to the current structure of the CoSH.

The Clerk informed members that CoSH used to be known as Local Multi Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) and that this group were able to invest money to solve problems. Now that it is CoSH it no longer has any money to make a difference. With the introduction of the new administration it has been decided that instead of there being hubs there will now be a local contact which will make the process more fluid.

Members were also asked if they had any issues to raise with the Community Safety Hub.

There were no new issues raised on this occasion.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted

390/17

Local Council Issues

Cllr Tebbutt advised members that he will not be able to attend the next Local Council meeting as he has a previous engagement, but that Cllr Gebhard will be attending in his place.

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:


“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: Information relating to financial or business affairs.

There was no other business to discuss and the meeting concluded at 7:50pm with Councillors D Bawn, Best, Cassie, Herne, Hogg, Parreira, Tebbutt, Thompson and Wearmouth present.

Min 383/17 Matters Arising from Previous Committee Meetings – Appendix B

Minute Number	Item	Current Position	Resolution
347/17 (304/17) (270/17) (229/17) (208/17)	Community Safety Hub Issues	<p>Cllr Herne was asked to raise concerns regarding speeding on the A196, close to the school and the lack of a pavement. Cllr Herne advised members that he had attended the Community Safety Hub but that the boundaries had been changed. Morpeth now comes under Alnwick and the North of Northumberland. Cllr Herne informed members that there had not been another CoSH as of yet.</p> <p>Cllr Hogg informed members that in the Stobhill area there had been an issue regarding a motorbike being driven on paths and through fields. The culprit has now been arrested and has been found to have no insurance. If the same person commits the same offence their bike will be destroyed. Cllr Parreira informed members that one of his neighbours has CCTV installed on their property and will try to capture the culprit in the act so that the footage can be given to police as evidence.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt informed members that there had been a spate of thefts had taken place in Loansdean and Merley Gate. The police are urging people to ensure that their cars are locked and that they do not leave anything valuable in plain sight. Cllr Herne also informed members that he is aware that there had been several thefts take place on Green Lane as well.</p>	<p>Information duly noted Cllr Herne to raise these issues at the next CoSH meeting and report back to the next appropriate meeting of this committee.</p> <p>Information duly noted</p> <p>Information duly noted</p>

SIGNED: 
DATE: 6/6/18

CHAIRMAN/VICE-CHAIRMAN
MORPETH TOWN COUNCIL
STANDING COMMITTEE



Morpeth Town Council
Authorisation of Payments - March 2018

Supplier	Cheque No.	Description	Net Amount £	VAT £	Gross Amount £
Tracey Bell	BACS	Travel Expenses	82.80	0.00	82.80
Jewson	BACS	Bin Maintenance	5.10	1.02	6.12
Jewson	BACS	Bin Maintenance	5.44	1.09	6.53
Jewson	BACS	Bin Maintenance	12.40	2.48	14.88
Jewson	BACS	Bin Maintenance	8.58	1.72	10.30
Jewson	BACS	Bin Maintenance	25.44	5.09	30.53
SSE SWALEC	BACS	Electricity supplied Jan - Feb 2018 SJCC	52.16	2.60	54.76
Contact Mental Health	BACS	Award Payment	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
The Knowledge Academy	BACS	GDPR Training Course	1,785.00	357.00	2,142.00
Jewson	BACS	Repairs - Church Walk	40.22	8.04	48.26
Jewson	BACS	Maintenance - SJCC	38.71	7.74	46.45
Jewson	BACS	Maintenance - SJCC	4.00	0.80	4.80
Jewson	BACS	Maintenance - SJCC	7.12	1.42	8.54
Kings Catering	BACS	Catering Mayors Ball	1,689.40	337.88	2,027.28
NCC	BACS	Morpeth Town Hall Rent	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
Northumbria in Bloom	BACS	Spring meeting	10.00	0.00	10.00
Thomas Owen	BACS	Cleaning products Bus Station Toilets	214.10	42.82	256.92
Ian leech Publicity Services	BACS	Town Cryer Insert to Inside Morpeth Publication	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
Jewson	BACS	Skate park maintenance	4.91	0.98	5.89
Jewson	BACS	Middle Greens allotment maintenance	13.26	2.65	15.91
Jewson	BACS	St. James CC Cellar maintenance	10.81	2.16	12.97
Jewson	BACS	St. James CC Cellar maintenance	12.59	2.52	15.11
Jewson	BACS	In Bloom maintenance	18.56	3.71	22.27
Bowman TV	BACS	Disco supplied - Mayors Ball	200.00	0.00	200.00
Falon Nameplates Ltd	BACS	Plaque ordered for dedicated seat	84.90	16.98	101.88
Tracey Bell	BACS	Travel expenses	102.45	0.00	102.45
NCC	BACS	Grass cutting	12,421.54	2,484.31	14,905.85
NCC	BACS	Xmas lights	16,872.82	3,374.56	20,247.38
ABS Business Supplies	BACS	Stationery	36.09	7.22	43.31
Thomas Owen	BACS	Cleaning goods for SPCC	38.73	7.75	46.48
Jewson	BACS	Maintenance - SJCC	77.56	15.51	93.07
Jewson	BACS	Maintenance - SJCC	71.87	14.38	86.25
John Stewart	BACS	Contractor Claim	2,669.70	0.00	2,669.70
Ros Thew	BACS	Contractor Claim	476.00	0	476.00
Northumberland Cleaning Co.	BACS	Contractor Claim	697.00	0	697.00
			47,989.26	6,702.43	53,518.69
NCC Salary Payments					0.00
Sub Total Staff Costs			0.00	0.00	0.00
Direct Debits Paid February 2018					
Gaffey Technical	DD	Hyprolyser Rental fee	295.00	59.00	354.00
Team Valley Web Design	"	Website Hosting - Feb 18	41.67	8.33	50.00
Information Commissioners Office	"	MTC Data Protection Registration	35.00	0.00	35.00
EE & T-Mobile	"	MTC Office Mobile	43.89	8.78	52.67
BNP Paribas	"	Photocopier Rental Charge	1,171.49	234.30	1,405.79
Bankline	"	Online Banking Monthly Charge	30.90	0.00	30.90
Worldpay	"	Transaction Charges - Jan 18	15.32	0.06	15.38
Worldpay	"	Subscription Fees - Feb 18	7.50	1.50	9.00
Corona Energy	"	SPCC Charges 01-31/01/18	16.46	0.82	17.28
Gazprom Energy	"	SPCC Charges 31/12/17-31/01/18	433.39	86.68	520.07
Gazprom Energy	"	SJCC Charges 31/12/17-31/01/18	360.40	72.09	432.49
Sub Total Direct Debit Payments			2,451.02	471.56	2,922.58

(Handwritten signature)

Morpeth Town Council
Authorisation of Payments - March 2018

Supplier	Cheque No.	Description	Net Amount £	VAT £	Gross Amount £
Petty Cash					
Iceland	4757	Corporate Refreshments	9.82	1.93	11.75
Thomas Potter Ltd	"	Church Walk - maintenance	7.50	1.50	9.00
Iceland	"	Parlour Visit with Mayor	2.92	0.58	3.50
Shoecare	"	SJCC - Keys cut	9.17	1.83	11.00
Home Bargains	"	Cleaning Supplies	4.78	0.95	5.73
Lidl	"	Mayors Ball Supplies	11.06	2.21	13.27
Clintons	"	Stationery	1.25	0.25	1.50
Morrisons	"	Parlour Visit with Mayor	3.00	0.60	3.60
Yorkshire Trading	"	SPCC - Cleaning Supplies	0.83	0.17	1.00
			50.33	10.02	60.35
Credit Card Statement					
Personnel Checks	DD	Personnel Checks x 2	85.66	7.14	92.80
Amazon	"	SPCC - Step Ladders	29.16	5.83	34.99
Virgin Trains	"	Rail Tickets to Birmingham	272.40	0.00	272.40
RHS London	"	Tickets to RHS Event	50.00	0.00	50.00
Microsoft Office	"	Computer software	126.71	0.00	126.71
Amazon	"	Maintenance Equipment	2.91	0.58	3.49
Tool-Craft	"	Maintenance Equipment	9.99	0.00	9.99
Amazon	"	Returned Maintenance Equipment	-2.91	-0.58	-3.49
Amazon	"	Computer Cables	5.59	0.00	5.59
Original Factory Shop	"	MTC Office Equipment	20.83	4.17	25.00
The Safe Shop	"	MTC Office Equipment	497.45	99.49	596.94
Sub Total Credit Card Payments			1,097.79	116.63	1,214.42
Total Payments F&GP Committee 7th March 2018			51,588.40	7,300.64	57,716.04