

Morpeth Town Council
Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
Wednesday 4th July 2018 at 6pm
in the Chambers at the Town Hall, Morpeth

Present:	Councillors:	D Bawn	-	Chairman
		A Tebbutt	-	Vice Chairman
		R Hogg		
		J Parreira		
		R Thompson		
		J Wearmouth		
		R Wearmouth		
Clerks:		Mrs T Bell		
		Ms A Cole		
Absent Councillors:		Cllr Best	-	Holiday
		Cllr Gebhard	<i>ex officio</i>	- No apologies received
		Cllr Cassie	-	No apologies received

Cllr Byard and 1 member of the public were also in attendance.

44/18 **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.

45/18 **Mayoral Announcements**

- Picnic in the Park is on 15th July 2018. There will be a stall for a Raffle and Tombola, and all proceeds going to the Mayors charity.
- The Stobhill Community Lunch took place on Sunday 1st July 2018. A stall which was supported by several councillors raised £66.75 for Northumberland and Tyneside MIND.

46/18 **Declarations of Interest**

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

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

47/18 **Public Participation Time**

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

48/18 **Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 6th June 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.

49/18 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising on this occasion.

50/18 **Authorisation of Payments**

The payments list for July 2018 was circulated for consideration.

RESOLVED

- (i) That members agreed the amended payment list for July 2018, totalling £45,701.09

51/18 **Updates from Working Groups**

a. Parish Boundary Working Group

The Clerk informed members that the Mitford Parish Council meeting will take place tonight at 7.30pm. Cllrs D Bawn and R Wearmouth will attend to speak to members regarding the proposals. A meeting will take place with Hebron Parish Council on 18th July at 7pm, therefore members have been advised that Full Council will start at 6pm.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) Clerk to provide an update at the next committee meeting.

b. In Bloom Working Group

Members were provided for information with the notes from the In Bloom Working Group meeting on 12th June 2018.

The Clerk informed members that it has been proposed to delay the unveiling of the Emily Wilding Davison statue until September which is after the Britain in Bloom judging. Concerns were raised regarding the delay due to the adverse impact on the Britain in Bloom judging.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) Cllrs Bawn and R Wearmouth are to request the installation date be reinstated back to the end of July to meet the Britain in Bloom deadline.

c. Morpeth Partnership Working Group

The Clerk informed members that the monthly meeting went well and the funding towards the Annual Food and Drink Festival was greatly appreciated. A town wide Christmas Lights switch on will take place on 17th November 2018, a number of attractions are being planned across the day to attract visitors to the event.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

d. Morpeth Forum

Members were informed by the Clerk that the next Forum drop in session will take place in the Town Hall on Friday 6th July 2018, between 2pm and 7pm. Among those attending will be representatives from KEVI, Chief Executive of Active Northumberland and local developers. Discussions will include the next step for key local development issues including the Chantry, Library, Leisure Centre, Court House, Queens Head Hotel and the old Benfield site on Castle Square.

All Councillors are encouraged to attend and take part in the event.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted

Members were asked to consider both the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders draft policies.

The Clerk advised that amendments were due to current changes in the law and guidance from NALC.

A proposal was made to recommend the policies to Full Council for approval.

A vote was taken: 7 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) To recommend both policies to Full Council on 18th July 2018 for approval

53/18

CCTV

The Clerk advised members that she has had a very productive meeting with Inspector Hall from Morpeth police station and their Estates department. It was agreed that the main CCTV hardware would be based in the Town Hall CCTV room to ensure future service provision. The Police would have a PC to monitor footage.

The Police will work with their analysts to identify the most effective places to install CCTV across the town. The Chamber of Trade (COT) would like to be involved in the project and have agreed in principle to provide financial support. A discussion took place about how to move the project forward.

The Clerk advised that the installation of the new play equipment at Church Walk had increased the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour and vandalism. Discussions have taken place with the police and Winns Electricals on how this can be monitored. This can be done by installing face recognition CCTV which will cost approximately £1000 and is fully supported by the police.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) The Clerk to work with the Police to ascertain the best position for the installation of cameras
- (iii) The Clerk to bring detailed quotes including maintenance costs for the CCTV for consideration once the CCTV positions have been agreed.
- (iv) The Clerk to request that the COT be an equal partner and contribute 50% towards the project.
- (v) That the CCTV equipment be purchased for Church Walk subject to all the necessary policies and procedures being in place.

Cllr Thompson declared a personal interest in this matter – see min 46/18

54/18 Property and Assets Update

Members were provided with a report regarding the councils Property and Assets.

Cllr Hogg advised that the COT had been approached by a member of the Greater Morpeth Development Trust (GMDT) Litter Picking group to purchase a bin for the Market Place which incorporated an ashtray on the top to alleviate littering. The Clerk advised she is currently working in partnership with the Director of Environment at GMDT on the environmental issues across the town.

GMDT are to produce a report in the autumn which will form the basis of a strategy which is feasible and can be implemented by all partners. A discussion took place on the merits of installing a new bin. The Clerk advised that any decisions on the purchase of the bin should wait until after the report had been produced so a long term strategy can be produced and agreed.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) That the Clerk investigate the new style of bin and ensure that NCC are able to empty the bin.
- (ii) That the decision be deferred until after the production of the report.

55/18 Local Council Issues

There were no issues raised on this occasion.

Members of the public left at 6.30pm

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 6:38pm with Councillors D Bawn, A Tebbutt, Hogg, Thompson, Parreira, J Wearmouth and R Wearmouth present.