

**Morpeth Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 6:30pm**  
**in the Corn Exchange at the Town Hall, Morpeth**

**Present:**      **Councillors:**      D Bawn          -          Chairman  
   J Gebhard      -          Mayor, *ex-officio*  
   N Best  
   L Cassie  
   R Hogg          -          arriving at 6.35pm  
   R Thompson  
   J Wearmouth  
   R Wearmouth

**Clerks:**                         Mrs T Bell  
   Mrs J Wilson  
   Ms A Cole

**Absent Councillors:**      Cllr A Tebbutt - Holiday  
   Cllr J Parreira - Business

**13/18**                         **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.

**14/18**                         **Mayoral Announcements**

- The ‘Stobhill Big Lunch’ will be on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018. There will be a stall for a Raffle and Tombola and volunteers to help on the day are requested. All proceeds going towards the Mayors charity.
- Picnic in the Park is on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018. There will be a stall for a Raffle and Tombola, and all proceeds going to the Mayors charity.

**15/18**                         **Declarations of Interest**

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

*Cllr Rachael Hogg – Small Grants application for Stobhill Community Forum (Personal Interest- assisted in completion of the application form)*

*Cllr Nic Best – Authorisation of Payments – (Personal Interest – recipient of expenses)*

**16/18**      **Public Participation Time**

There were no members of the public present on this occasion

**17/18**      **Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 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.

**18/18**      **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising on this occasion.

**19/18**      **Authorisation of Payments**

The payments list for June 2018 was circulated for consideration. Members were advised of a minor amendment.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That members agreed the amended payment list for June 2018, totalling £70,035.02.

*Cllr Best declared a personal interest in this matter, see Min 15/18.*

**20/18**      **Electronic Delivery of Committee Papers**

The Clerk advised members that two electronic devices have been purchased for the use in committee meetings. Further devices can be purchased if necessary. Members were asked to provide feedback as to how they are finding the electronic delivery of papers.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted

**Updates from Working Groups****a. Parish Boundary Working Group**

The Clerk informed members that no response has been forthcoming from Hebron Parish with dates for a meeting with Morpeth Town Council regarding the parish boundaries.

Hepscott and Mitford Parish Councils agreed dates to meet with the Town Council to discuss the proposals.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) The Clerk will continue to chase a response from the Clerk of Hebron Parish Council, copying in the chairman Cllr Watson

**b. In Bloom Working Group**

The Clerk informed members that the regional judging for In Bloom is 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018. National judging will be on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018. The Britain in Bloom results will be announced on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Belfast. The Clerk, Cllr Gebhard and Cllr Best will be attending this event. Northumberland County Council (NCC) and Heighley Gate Garden Centre representatives will also be attending as our joint partners.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted.

**a. Town Team Working Group**

Members were provided for information with the breakdown of the Business Improvement District (BID) spend as requested. The remaining balance has now been returned to Morpeth Town Council. The Clerk advised members that following a meeting with the partnership a number of suggestions were made with regards to big economic events in the town. These included the Town Council sponsoring the live music stage at the Food and Drink Festival and hosting a joint Christmas Lights switch on event with Sanderson Arcade.

A proposal was made to provide the £2,000 sponsorship for the Food and Drink Festival, and contribute £3,000 towards the joint Christmas Lights switch on event.

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

## RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) To sponsor the music stage at the Food and Drink Festival
- (iii) To work in partnership with Sanderson Arcade to hold a joint Christmas light switch on.

22/18

### Document Retention Policy

Members were provided with a draft Document Retention Policy for consideration. A discussion followed and several minor typographic amendments were suggested.

## RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) To recommend the amended policy to Full Council on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018 for approval.

23/18

### CCTV

The Clerk advised members that following the BID failure, the Council would need to consider the potential installation of CCTV in Morpeth. Following initial contact with three suppliers, the cost to cover the Town Centre and Carlisle Park could be in the region of £20-£25,000. The monitoring equipment would be held in Morpeth Police Station and used to combat crime in the town.

Cllr J Wearmouth suggested approaching the Chamber of Trade for a contribution.

Cllr Best asked if a commitment to support the CCTV can be sought from the Police to ensure we don't fall into the same situation as that when the old Police Station closed.

The Clerk advised that street level Wi-Fi will also be installed imminently in the Town Centre.

## RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) The Clerk to seek formal quotes
- (iii) The Clerk to ask the Police for a commitment to CCTV installation in the town
- (iv) The Clerk to ask the Chamber of Trade if they wish to contribute towards the cost of CCTV

24/18

**Property and Assets Update**

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

The Clerk advised members that:

- The refurbishment of Church Walk play area has begun.
- NCC are in the process of having a more detailed plan of costings for rebuilding Storey Park Community Centre.
- Tommy's Field Allotment Ltd. have agreed to the terms of the new lease. It is hoped that the new roundabout will go ahead in due course once the new allotments have been created.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted.

25/18

**Small Grant Application**

Members were provided with a Small Grant application form from Stobhill Community Forum for consideration. The Clerk advised members that, in support of the application, they only provided costings for the previous year, so quotes for 2018 would be needed to fully consider the application.

It was proposed to approve the application in principle on receipt of valid quotes.

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

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) To request a quote for the bouncy castle before paying over the Small Grant of £500

*Cllr Rachael Hogg declared a personal interest in this matter see Min no. 15/18*

26/18

**Local Council Issues**

There were no issues raised on this occasion.

There was no other business to discuss and the meeting concluded at 7:35pm with Councillors D Bawn, Best, Cassie, Hogg, Gebhard, Thompson, J Wearmouth and R Wearmouth present.