

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted

193/18 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman received no declarations of interest on this occasion.

194/18 Public Participation Time

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

Members unanimously agreed to bring forward item 11 – **Strategic County Councillor Updates.**

County Cllr Beynon was in attendance to give an update regarding car parking, he advised of the following –

- Parking in Morpeth Town centre will remain free of charge;
- There will be 30 new spaces provided at Morpeth Railway Station at a charge of £3 per day. Parking permits will be available at £220 per annum, with a view to allow 3 months and 6 month permits to be purchased;
- There are talks with land owners to provide more spaces at the station;
- County Councillor Glen Sanderson and SENRUG are in favour of the charges and understand the reasoning behind it;
- Aside from more parking at the station, with the relocation of Morpeth First School, it's hoped that there will be up to 150 space on the redundant site.

County Cllr Beynon also advised that to alleviate inconsiderate parking as a result of charging at the station, he will be doing a leaflet drop to residents in the area to see what the best solution would be to suit most residents.

One member of the public arrived at 6.35pm.

Cllr D Bawn advised members that following consultation, the Local Transport Priorities (LTP) are now being finalised and Northumberland County Council (NCC) support the recommendations from Morpeth Town Council(MTC).

Cllr R Wearmouth advised members that £7.7 million from central government has been given to the County Council to be used by the end of March for road repairs in the county. This amount should cover all request received for repairs to be carried out.

Cllr Beynon left the meeting at 6.50pm.

195/18 Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 26th September 2018

The minutes of the above meeting was approved as a true record.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Minutes of 26th September 2018, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

196/18 Matters Arising from Full Council Committee Meeting on 26th September 2018

There were no matters arising on this occasion.

Cllr J Tebbutt enquired if there was an update regarding the proposed changes to Morpeth Boundaries. The Clerk advised that the Boundary Working Group report to Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) committee and as discussions are still taking place an update will be brought to Full Council when the consultation process has been completed.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted

197/18 Interim Internal Audit 2018/19

Members were provided with the interim internal auditors' report for information.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted

198/18 Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members were provided for information with the Outside Organisation reports.

Cllr A Tebbutt advised members that he had only just received the minutes from the last NALC meeting which was held on Saturday 17th November. He advised that there is a vacancy on the County Council Standards Committee and two applications have been received for which interviews will follow.

Cllr Gebhard advised members that the Chamber of Trade will make a decision at their meeting in January 2019 as to whether they will make a contribution to CCTV in the town centre.

Cllr J Tebbutt asked for an update from Cllr Byard regarding her update from the Morpeth Heritage Network, particularly in relation to the review of the Conservation Area. Cllr Byard advised members that a meeting had taken place today with the conservation officer from NCC. A brief will be written by NCC. This will be taken to F&GP for consideration and approval.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted

199/18 Strategic County Councillor Updates

See min 194/18.

Cllr Holmes asked for an update regarding the proposed electronic speed sign near to Abbeyfields First School. The Clerk advised that the maintenance of such a sign needs to be considered through F&GP as once installed it becomes the responsibility of MTC. Cllr A Tebbutt raised the possibility of installing more signs, particularly as posts are in place from historic speed signs.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) Cllr R Wearmouth to investigate the costs associated with using the old posts

200/18 Councillor Motion

Cllr Best read out the following motion –

That this Council supports the principle of a Real Living Wage and encourages learning about the likely economic and social benefits that it could bring to the community of Morpeth.

Cllr Best advised members that he hopes the Council would agree to support this in principle, and agree how this could be put in to practice and what the impacts would be on MTC.

The Clerk advised members that the Town Council are governed by the NJC terms and conditions. These are arrived following negotiations with the Joint Trade Union on behalf of the employees and NALC who represent the employer. She also advised that 2017 saw the end of a four year pay freeze and a subsequent pay deal over two years which has seen the lower scale increased significantly. Due to this, from April 2019 all Council's will be paying its employees a minimum of £9 per hour. Councillors had a lengthy debate on the pros and cons of the motion.

A proposal was made to approve the motion in principle.

A vote was taken: 9 For, 1 Against, 1 Abstention

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) Motion was approved in principle

201/18 Local Council Issues

There were no issues for Local Council raised on this occasion.

The meeting concluded at 7:28pm with Councillors' N Best, D Bawn, N Bawn, A Byard, L Cassie, J Gebhard, K Holmes, J Parreira, A Tebbutt, J Tebbutt and R Wearmouth