

Morpeth Town Council
Minutes of the Full Council Committee Meeting
Wednesday 22nd January 2020
at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber of Morpeth Town Council

<u>Present:</u>	Councillors: A Byard D Bawn N Bawn N Best L Cassie J Gebhard D Herne K Holmes R Hogg A Tebbutt J Tebbutt J Wearmouth R Wearmouth	- Mayor
	Clerks: Mrs T Bell Miss K Carter Miss C Rowell	- Town Clerk - Democratic Services Assistant - Administrative Assistant
Absent Councillors:	Councillor J Parreira Councillor R Thompson	- Personal - Business

Open Session

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

223/19 **Mayoral Announcements**

- There will be a Chinese New Year Banquet at Mulan on the 27th January 2020 in aid of the Mayor's Charity. Tickets are £20 each, available from Morpeth Town Hall reception.
- Cllr D Bawn is organising a Burns Night Supper at the Sun Inn on Monday 3rd February 2020 at 7pm in aid of the Mayor's charity. Tickets are £25 each and include a dram of whisky.
- Cllr Tebbutt is organising a Royal Fusiliers concert at Kind Edwards VI High School on Saturday 14th March 2020 at 6pm. The TA band and KEVI Steal Pan band will be performing. Ticket price to be confirmed.

224/19 **Mayoral Diary**

Members were provided with the schedule of events to be attended by the Mayor/Deputy Mayor from January to May 2020.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

225/19 **Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman received no declarations of interest on this occasion:

226/19 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 27th November 2019**

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

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) That the Minutes of 27th November 2019, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

227/19 **Matters Arising from Full Council Committee Meeting on 25th September 2019**

There were no matters arising on this occasion.

228/19 **Items Referred from Other Committees and Working Groups**

Finance & General Purposes

i. Budget 2020/21

Cllr D Bawn read out the following resolutions:

- (a) To Approve the enclosed third version of the Draft Budget for 2020/21 as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- (b) Formulate a Resolution to levy a Precept to Northumberland County Council, for the Financial Year 2020/21, representing a 2% increase for council tax payers.

Cllr D Bawn, Chairman of the F&GP Committee, presented the 2020/21 Budget for consideration.

He advised that the only major amendment was a heading to include the Conservation Area Appraisal, which will cost £12,652.

A vote was taken: 13 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

Cllr Hogg queried how the increase of 2% to council tax had been arrived at.

The Clerk advised that a 2% increase is the council's medium term financial strategy. The budget was prepared to incorporate a 2% increase.

A vote was taken: 11 For, 0 Against and 2 Abstention

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Draft Budget 2020/21 and the medium term financial plan be adopted by Full Council.
- (ii) That a Precept be levied on NCC representing a 2% increase.

Planning & Transport

i. Morpeth Conservation Area Character Appraisal

Members were asked to approve and adopt the final draft of the above appraisal.

Cllr Best informed members that there has been a Conservation Area in Morpeth since 1970, but that it had not been formalised. If approved, this Appraisal will be forwarded to Northumberland County Council (NCC) for adoption. This will ensure that the character of the town is protected when planning applications are being considered.

He also advised that the Conservation Area Boundary is to be reviewed next year to ensure that the town's heritage is protected.

A vote was taken: 12 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstention

RESOLVED

- (i) To approve and adopt the final draft of the Conservation Area Character Appraisal.
- (ii) To forward the Appraisal to NCC for adoption.

229/19 Committee Meetings

Members were asked to approve the following changes to meeting dates in February:

Finance & General Purposes to be moved to 12th February 2020, and Planning and Transport to be moved to 5th February 2020.

The Clerk advised that this change is necessary so that tender applications for refurbishments at St James Community Centre and the Pavilion can be considered at Finance and General Purposes committee. Tenders had been delayed due to Christmas.

A vote was taken: 13 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

Cllr Best advised that as the gap between Planning & Transport committee meetings will be longer, deadlines for comments may be effected and this should be considered when seeking extensions for planning comments.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) Finance & General Purposes to take place on 12th February 2020 and Planning & Transport to take place on 5th February 2020.

230/19 Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members were provided for information with the Outside Organisation reports.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

231/19 Strategic County Councillor Updates

Members were provided for information with the County Councillor updates.

Cllr R Wearmouth informed members that:

- Works at Kingdom Hall has begun.
- 20mph zones will soon be deployed outside all schools throughout the county.
- Resurfacing of the footpaths in Kirkhill will commence starting with those in the worst condition being prioritised.
- The Boundary Review has formally begun.

Cllr D Bawn advised members that:

- The path at Ladies Walk has now reopened.
- Designs have been received for parking at All Saints school, this is now being discussed with residents.
- The parking permits scheme has been approved for residents of Bullers Green and Kings Avenue, this is progressing, however no date has been agreed for its implementation.
- Resurfacing of Cottingwood Lane was approved at Local Area Council on the 20th January 2020. Works will be completed before the end of the financial year with the work likely to be programmed during half term in February.

- A parking questionnaire for residents of Mitford Road is being developed to determine if a parking permit scheme would be beneficial.
- No progress has been made regarding the roundabout at St George's, an update has been requested.
- A public consultation has taken place regarding the proposed development on Cottingwood Lane. Feedback had been positive.

Cllr A Tebbutt enquired whether s106 has been considered as part of the development at Cottingwood Lane. Cllr Best suggested that this issue be raised at the next Planning & Transport meeting on the 5th February 2020.

Cllr Cassie advised that the footpath at Beggars Lane will need to be resurfaced soon. This could be considered within s106.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) To raise the issue of s106 at the next Planning & Transport meeting.

Cllr Holmes left the meeting at 6:56pm.

232/19

Local Council Issues

Cllr Herne informed members that he had received complaints from residents of Stobhill that people who use the train station had been parking their cars on Stobhill Grange to avoid parking charges at the station.

The Clerk advised that County Cllr Beynon had highlighted this issue in his written report and is currently working on this problem.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

The meeting concluded at 6:57pm with Councillors A Byard, D Bawn, N Bawn, N Best, L Cassie, J Gerbhard, D Herne, R Hogg, A Tebbutt, J Tebbutt, J Wearmouth and R Wearmouth.