

MORPETH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting & Mayor Making Ceremony of the Town Council held on Wednesday 10th June 2020 via Zoom

Present:

Councillors: A Byard - Mayor
D Bawn
N Bawn
N Best
L Cassie
J Gebhard
D Herne
R Hogg
A Tebbutt
J Tebbutt
R Thompson
J Wearmouth
R Wearmouth

Clerks: Mrs T Bell
Mrs J Wilson
Miss K Carter

Absent Councillors: Councillor J Parreira - Personal
Councillor K Holmes - No apologies received

Nine members of the public were also in attendance.

Welcome

The Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and expressing how much she had enjoyed her Year in Office. Thanks were given to Morpeth Town Council (MTC) Councillors, staff, her consort, Steve Byard and her Chaplain, Marian Bell, and to the Deputy Mayor, David Bawn, for the support throughout the year. Thanks were given to William Leech Trust who donated £10,000 and Northumberland Masons who donated £3,000.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that she has raised £35,000 for Northumbria Blood Bikes. A ceremony to present the cheque to the charity will take place in due course.

01/20 Election of Mayor of Morpeth Town for the Year 2020/2021

Proposals for Mayor for the forthcoming year were invited.

Councillor D Bawn was proposed by Councillor R Wearmouth and seconded by Councillor J Wearmouth.

A vote was taken, 13 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention. Congratulations was extended to Councillor D Bawn.

The Mayor announced that his Escort for the year will be Mrs Betty Bawn and the Mayor's Chaplain will be the Rev. Simon White.

The Mayor announced his chosen charity for the year is Contact Mental Health.

02/20 Election of Deputy Mayor of Morpeth Town for the Year 2020/2021

The Mayor invited proposals for Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Hogg was proposed by Councillor Gebhard and seconded by Councillor Byard.

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

The Deputy Mayor's escort for this year will be Cllr Jack Gebhard.

Congratulations were extended to Councillor Hogg.

03/20 Declarations of Interest

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

Cllr D Bawn – County Councillor Updates – (Personal Interest – currently a County Councillor).

04/20 Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies

Members were requested to approve the membership of the Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies and the Chair and Vice-Chair of each committee.

RESOLVED

- (i) The membership of all committees, and Chairs and Vice-Chairs were unanimously agreed.

05/20 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th March 2020

Members were asked to approve the above minutes.

RESOLVED

- (i) The above minutes of Full Council be approved, and signed as a correct record by the chair.

06/20 Meeting Timetable

Members were asked to approve the 2020/21 Meeting Timetable. Due to the current situation this is subject to change.

RESOLVED

- (i) Meeting schedule was unanimously approved.

07/20 Items Referred from Other Committees and Working Groups

i. Annual Governance and Accountability Return – 2019/20

The Clerk introduced the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20 for approval.

- (a) Members were asked to approve the Annual Audit Internal Report.

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

- (b) Members were asked to approve the Annual Governance Statement.

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

- (c) Members were asked to approve the Annual Accounting Statements.

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

RESOLVED

- (i) To approve the Annual Audit Internal Report
- (ii) To approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section1)
- (iii) To approve the Annual Accounting Statement (Section2)

ii. Subsidies 2019/20

Members were provided for information with documents from the following organisations in relation to their 2019/20 subsidy:

- Barnabas Safe and Sound
- GMDT & Cinema
- Voicemale Choir
- Morpeth Antiquarian Society

Members were also provided for information with documents received and approved during isolation from the following organisations in relation to their 2019/20 subsidy for retrospective approval:

- Citizens' Advice Bureau
- Northumberland Community Enterprise
- Northumberland Credit Union (NEFirst Credit Union)
- Wansbeck Valley Food Bank

Members agreed that the reports were an accurate reflection of how the subsidies are used.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) All subsidies were unanimously approved.

08/20 County Councillor Updates

Members were provided with County Councillor updates.

Cllr A Tebbutt enquired if the Town Council will have an opportunity to respond to proposed safety measures for the reopening of Morpeth Town Centre.

Cllr R Wearmouth advised that Northumberland County Council (NCC) will release more information Thursday 11th June 2020. He also advised that the approach must be flexible due to current circumstances.

The Clerk informed members that she has been in contact with David Laux to feed comments in. Once NCC have agreed what they will publish they will let the Town Council know. If any members have any comments they should report them to Cllrs D Bawn, R Wearmouth, or the Clerk.

Cllr Byard advised that Cllr Best will be compiling a weekly newsletter to update the public on what is available. This will be available via the More in Morpeth website, this is being organised through the Morpeth Stakeholder Group. She also expressed gratitude that dementia friendly measures had been taken into consideration for the new leisure centre project.

Cllr R Wearmouth advised that works on the leisure centre should commence towards the end of the year. He also informed members that the Queens Head has been granted planning permission and work on the foundations has begun.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

09/20 CCLA Signatories

The Clerk advised members that the signatories need to be updated on the Council investment account. She suggested that Cllrs D Bawn and A Tebbutt be added, alongside the Clerk as the Proper Officer, Cllr Cassie will also remain as a signatory.

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

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) Cllrs D Bawn and A Tebbutt be added as CCLA Signatories.

The meeting concluded at 6:30pm with Councillors D Bawn, N Bawn, N Best, A Byard, L Cassie, J Gebhard, D Herne, R Hogg, A Tebbutt, J Tebbutt, R Thompson, J Wearmouth, R Wearmouth.