



Morpeth  
Town  
Council

Mrs T Bell ILEX, CILCA  
Clerk of the Council

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**To: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

You are summoned to attend the **Full Council** meeting to be held at **6:30pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 in the Corn Exchange of the Town Hall, Morpeth**

The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

Mrs Tracey Bell  
Clerk to Morpeth Town Council

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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**OPEN SESSION**

The Chair to invite members of the public present to put questions to or draw relevant matters to the attention of the Council, prior to commencement of business. This is for a period of 20 minutes overall and is limited to 3 minutes per person.

**AGENDA**

**1. Committee Chairman's Announcements**

- Usual rules about recordings apply.
- Usual rules regarding the use of mobile phones apply.

**2. Mayoral Announcements**

- The Mayor is in the process of organising more fundraisers.
- A Mayor's Quiz Night will take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 at 7pm, at Harry's Coffee Bar. Proceeds to go to the Mayor's charity. Tickets available from Harry's Coffee Bar, £10 per head.

**3. Apologies for Absence**

**4. Declarations of Interest**

Members to inform the Chairman of Committee of any Declarations of Interest for matters set out within this agenda.

**5. Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

To approve the minutes of the above meeting, see appendix A.

**6. Matters Arising from previous committee meetings**

There are no matters arising on this occasion.

**7. Items Referred from Other Committees and Working Groups**

There are no items on this occasion.

**8. Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Reports are attached, see appendix B.

**9. Strategic County Councillor Updates**

Members are provided for information with the County Councillor updates, see appendix C.

**10. Local Council Issues**

Members are asked to consider any issues to be brought to the attention of the next Local Council meeting.

**MORPETH TOWN COUNCIL****Minutes of the Annual Meeting & Mayor Making Ceremony of the Town Council held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 in the Corn Exchange of the Town Hall, Morpeth****Present:**

**Councillors:** D Bawn - Mayor  
 B Bawn  
 A Byard  
 A Cochrane  
 J Crawford  
 M Greveson  
 H Hall  
 R Hogg  
 E Lawson  
 S Peacock  
 J Richardson  
 E Skinner  
 J Wearmouth  
 R Wearmouth

**Clerks:**

Mrs T Bell  
 Mrs J Wilson  
 Miss K Carter

**Absent Councillors:** Councillor J Clayton - Business

Two members of the public were also in attendance.

**Welcome**

The Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and expressing how much he had enjoyed his Year in Office. Thanks were given to Morpeth Town Council (MTC) Councillors, staff, his consort, Betty Bawn and his Chaplain, Rev. Simon White, and to the Deputy Mayor, Rachael Hogg, for the support throughout this difficult and unusual year.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that he has raised £12,644 for Contact Morpeth Mental Health.

**01/21 Election of Mayor of Morpeth Town for the Year 2021/2022**

Proposals for Mayor for the forthcoming year were invited.

Councillor D Bawn was proposed by Councillor A Byard and seconded by Councillor R Hogg.

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.

**02/21 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 D Bawn and seconded by Councillor R Wearmouth.

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

The Deputy Mayor's escort for this year will be Mr Andrew Guy.

Congratulations were extended to Councillor Hogg.

**03/21 Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman received no declarations of interest on this occasion.

**04/21 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.

It was agreed that Cllr Hogg be added to the NCC Area Committee outside body.

**RESOLVED**

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

**05/21 Financial Signatories**

Members were requested to appoint Councillors D Bawn, Hogg and Byard as authorised signatories along with the Clerk for banking and financial matters.

A vote was taken: 14 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Councillors D Bawn, Hogg and Byard were approved as authorised signatories.

**06/21 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

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.

### **07/21 Meeting Timetable**

Members were asked to approve the 2021/22 Meeting Timetable.

The Clerk advised that Planning and Transport meetings will only take place if there is an issue to discuss. Councillors will be emailed weekly with a planning list for consideration.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) Meeting schedule was unanimously approved.

### **08/21 Internal Audit**

Members were provided for information with a letter from the internal auditor following completion of the internal audit.

The Clerk gave an overview of the role of the Internal Auditor who is Peter Stonell at Pegswood Accountancy Services.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) The Internal Audit was unanimously approved.

### **09/21 Annual Governance and Accountability Return – 2020/21**

The Clerk introduced the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/21 for approval.

The Clerk advised that there is a reserve of £300,000 to be used in emergency circumstances only.

She also explained that there had been a significant increase in both income and expenditure this year due to the Community Asset Transfer of the St James and Storey Park community centres, and the Pavilion and the subsequent refurbishments of the buildings.

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

A vote was taken: 14 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

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

A vote was taken: 14 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

**RESOLVED**

- (i) To approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section1).
- (ii) To approve the Annual Accounting Statement (Section2).

**10/21 Pavilion, Carlisle Park Covenant**

Members were asked to approve the signing and sealing of the agreement to remove the covenant at the Pavilion, Carlisle Park preventing the sale of alcohol.

The Clerk advised that the café will open for takeaway on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The Pavilion has successfully applied for a license to sell alcohol, however the covenant must be lifted in order for this to happen.

A vote was taken: 14 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

**RESOLVED**

- (i) To sign and seal the agreement to remove the covenant at the Pavilion, Carlisle Park.

The meeting concluded at 6:22pm with Councillors B Bawn, D Bawn, A Byard, A Cochrane, J Crawford, M Greveson, H Hall, R Hogg, E Lawson, S Peacock, J Richardson, E Skinner, J Wearmouth and R Wearmouth.

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**Reports re Outside Organisations**

<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Report</b>
Morpeth and District Chamber of Trade	Harry Hall	Nil report received.
Hunter Memorial Homes	Shirley Peacock	Details of the latest audit were approved by all present. Simon Foley chairman holding the next meeting at his home on 23 <sup>rd</sup> September so will get to meet everyone personally.
Millennium Green	Mike Greveson	The annual entry for the Green Flag award has been delayed until the autumn due to Covid but the trustees are confident that the Millennium Green will be up to the required standard, thanks partly to the gardener (who is paid for by the Town Council) who comes in every fortnight from spring to autumn. The trustees have postponed the annual garden fete until August due to Covid restrictions, but the Green has been very well used this year as the public have been allowed to meet in small numbers outdoors. Voluntary groups such as choirs and the scouts and cubs have also used the Green for outdoor events. Many visitors both local and from further afield have kindly told the trustees and the gardener what a beautiful, peaceful wildlife haven it is.
Morpeth Heritage Network	Alison Byard	Zoom meeting on 2nd June 2021. Sadly, Morpeth Civic Society asked to be removed from membership as moribund. Discussed Town and County Council properties and others under development, including St George's, Queen's Head, Benfields and former Police Station. Also, news from member groups including: Boys' Brigade Hall Scaffolding currently installed to repair pipes and stained glass. New toilet now installed on ground floor and the hall is in use by Scouts and pipe band. Work has started on the new accessible entrance on the ground floor at the back. Volunteers clearing out the rubbish and looking out for the original records of the oldest BB group in England. 2021 On-line Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering Consisted of 20 events, held over one day, on the Saturday following Easter on own YouTube channel. Tried to time events as per usual programme.

Organisations	Councillor	Report
		<p>Had over 4000 viewers, with comments from Canada, USA, France, Germany and Japan. Each strand was represented: crafts, dialect, dance, live zoom singalong archive material, special live presentations, art gallery.</p> <p>Competition results were announced on the Gathering Facebook page.</p> <p>There was filming at some of the usual venues with the professional films still available to watch. Donations were requested on PayPal and met half of the costs of £4500. Next Gathering tbc.</p> <p>GMDT have two new Administration Officers, Linda Wilson and Julie Hawthorne (Heritage).</p> <p>They are looking at possibilities for replacement of the glass Collingwood Poopdeck sign recently vandalised.</p> <p>Cinema Club successfully started at St James on 11th June.</p> <p>Picnic in the Park sadly cancelled re Covid restrictions.</p> <p>The Chantry - part of Northumberland Museums 'Northumberland Folk' exhibition by artist Jonny Hanna with colourful, Morpeth themed artwork.</p> <p>Planning first Morpeth Book Festival 9-10 April 2022.</p>
Greater Morpeth Development Trust	Justin Clayton	Nil report received.
Hollon Trust	Alison Byard (Trustee until Sept 2021)	<p>For info. of new councillors - Morpeth's oldest charity, supports people in need (elderly, ill, benefits, women's refuge, Contact members etc) who live in Morpeth and who are referred by trusted referees such as social services, with essential items such as a washing machine, carpet, Food Bank referral etc.</p> <p>We also have approx. 80 'annuitants' who are long term Morpeth residents, aged over 75, who receive a small annual gift of approx £30 and invitation to Hollon Tea. This is always held on Hollon's wedding anniversary on 5th November, as stipulated by founder Richard Hollon, and includes a meal and entertainment.</p> <p>Report as follows:</p> <p>Have contacted annuitants regularly throughout lockdown and supported referrals in need.</p>

Organisations	Councillor	Report
		Currently awaiting meeting to discuss the annual Hollon Tea on 5th November. May not be accepting new annuitants this year to avoid crowding attendees. Recently wrote to annuitants to warn them about various phone scams.
Markets Advisory Group	Justin Clayton	Nil report received.
Town and Parish Liaison	Andy Cochrane	Nil report received.
NCC Local Area Council	Alison Byard	Local Area Committee - met 12 <sup>th</sup> July. MTC rep will be invited when Morpeth issues to be discussed. Nil report.

## **County Councillor Updates**

### Cllr R Wearmouth

I have been asked for my priorities for the Local Transport Plan which is the list of projects for road and pavement repairs etc. I have highlighted the condition of Abbey Meadows between the shops and the top of Curley Kew's as being very bad but would welcome other suggestions from ward councillors for Kirkhill.

### Cllr J Beynon

No major development in Stobhill, suggestions on the LTP, I agree with all of the ones requested by residents, and to add, the main road through Allery Banks Est has been resurfaced, but the side streets are in desperate need of attention, I was hoping it should have been done by now, also the Avenues need major work, and as things get back to normal, we must keep a check on people parking illegally in estates around the rail station. Later this month Calmer Therapy will be opening at the old boys club, this will be an excellent new facility for the residents in Stobhill, it's been a long haul due to Covid since I, with Karbon homes, first met up with Dawn, but it will be well worth the wait, they will be working with both Collingwood School and the first school, Cllr Byard and myself were shown around a couple of weeks ago, and there have been big changes, its looking very good.