

MORPETH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting & Mayor Making Ceremony of the Town Council held on Wednesday 19th 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 24th 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 24th 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.