

Morpeth Town Council
Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 6:30pm in the Corn Exchange of the Town Hall,
Morpeth

Present:

Councillors: D Bawn - Chair
B Bawn
A Byard
A Cochrane (arriving at 6:40pm)
J Crawford
R Hogg
S Peacock
J Richardson
E Skinner
R Wearmouth

Clerks: Mrs T Bell
Miss K Carter

Absent Councillors:

Cllr Hall was also in attendance.

Open Session

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

129/21 Committee Chairman's Announcements

- Members were advised of the usual rules about the recording of meetings.
- Members were reminded that mobile phones should be turned on to silent and should not be used during the meeting.

130/21 Mayoral Announcements

- The Mayor's Ball will take place on Saturday 4th December 2021.
- The Mayor has commissioned some ties and scarfs in Morpeth Town colours, including the Town Crest, in aid of his chosen charity, contact Mental Health. These are available for purchase at £30 each.
- The children's Christmas Craft event at the Pavilion Café on Sunday 12th December 2021 has now been cancelled due to lack of interest.
- There will be a Christmas Carol service on the Market Place on Saturday 18th December 2021.

131/21 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman received no declarations of interest on this occasion.

132/21 Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 3rd November 2021

The minutes of the above meetings were approved as a true record.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee be approved and signed as a correct record by the chair.

133/21 Authorisation of Payments

An amended payment list for November 2021 was circulated for consideration.

RESOLVED

- (i) That members agreed the amended payment lists for November 2021, totalling £38,942.08.

134/21 Budget 2022/23

Members were provided for consideration with the second draft budget for 2021/22.

Cllr D Bawn enquired why there was nothing under the toilet headings in the budget.

The Clerk advised that they had been amalgamated under the General Facility Management heading.

The Clerk also informed members that she had received a report from Barnabas regarding the skate park facility. Members of the public that took part in the consultation tended to be the same group of people, providing limited feedback. She suggested that the Morpeth Forum public events be utilised to gain wider public opinion.

Cllr Wearmouth enquired if the precept had been set yet.

The Clerk advised that the precept would be increased by 2% to £673,378 as per our medium financial strategy. A full precept breakdown will go to this committee on Wednesday 12th January 2022 for consideration, and then to Full Council for approval on Wednesday 19th January 2022 for approval.

Cllr Wearmouth enquired if the Pavilion takings had been included in the budget projection.

The Clerk advised that a nominal figure had been included, however, as the Pavilion Café has not been open for a year it was difficult to forecast annual takings.

RESOLVED

(i) Information duly noted.

Cllr Cochrane arrived at 6:40pm.

135/21 Allotment Charges

Members were asked to consider the allotment charges for 2023/24.

The Clerk advised that allotment tenants need 1 years notice of any increase on their rent and proposed that the rent be increased by £1 to account for inflation on water bills and any repairs and maintenance that may need to be carried out.

Cllr Hogg enquired if it was necessary to increase the rent for such a small gain.

Cllr Byard advised that the rent would need to be increased eventually and that it would be better to increase by small amounts each year, rather than a larger amount all at once in the future.

Cllr Hogg proposed that the allotment rent for 2023/24 be frozen.

A vote was taken: 2 For, 8 Against and 0 Abstention

Cllr Cochrane proposed that the rent be increased by £1 for 2023/24.

A vote was taken: 9 For, 1 Against and 0 Abstention

The Clerk informed members that during the high wind on Friday 26th to Saturday 27th November 2021 a large oak tree had fallen down at Middle Greens allotment site. The tree has been removed from the adjacent gardens, however, a JCB is needed to resite the large root ball that was ripped out of the soil.

RESOLVED

(i) Information duly noted.

(ii) To increase the allotment rent by £1 per annum.

136/21 Local Council Issues

Cllr D Bawn advised members that a response to the letter regarding the traffic lights at the St George's estate has been received. This will be discussed at the next Planning and Transport committee meeting.

Cllr Wearmouth advised members that there had been progress on the proposal to increase access to the Northern Bypass and that a planning application would be submitted in the first quarter of next year.

Cllr Hogg enquired if there had been any progress on the Storey Park community centre planning application.

The Clerk advised that the application was due to be determined by Thursday 2nd December 2021.

Cllr Byard praised Northumberland County Council (NCC) workers and the NEAT Team for working hard to clear up the damage from Storm Arwen.

Cllr Peacock informed members that Hunter Memorial Homes had reported to her that they had been experiencing an issue with river rats and that there are several dead trees that they would like to report.

The Clerk advised that they should report their concerns to NCC Environmental Health and the Tree Officer.

RESOLVED

(i) Information duly noted.

There was no other business to discuss and the meeting concluded at 7:01pm with Councillors B Bawn, D Bawn, A Byard, A Cochrane, J Crawford, R Hogg, S Peacock, J Richardson, E Skinner and R Wearmouth present.

**Morpeth Town Council
Authorisation of Payments - November 2021**

Date Processed	Supplier	Cheque No.	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount
11/03/2021	Jewson	BACS	Street Furniture	24.44	4.89	29.33
11/03/2021	Jewson	BACS	General	20.22	4.04	24.26
11/03/2021	Jewson	BACS	Play Areas	48.08	9.62	57.70
11/03/2021	Jewson	BACS	General	12.82	2.56	15.38
11/03/2021	S Finneran	BACS	SJCC Boiler Maintenance	85.00	17.00	102.00
11/03/2021	Aubergine	BACS	Website	598.00	119.60	717.60
11/10/2021	Falon Nameplates	BACS	Dedicated Seat Plaque	100.27	20.05	120.32
11/10/2021	Clear Channel	BACS	Bus Shelter	90.89	18.18	109.07
11/10/2021	Clear Channel	BACS	Bus Shelter	128.89	25.78	154.67
11/10/2021	Morpeth Cleaning Services	BACS	SJCC & Pavilion Window Cleaning	60.00	0.00	60.00
11/10/2021	Sanders Plant & Waste Management	BACS	Christmas Lights	240.00	48.00	288.00
11/12/2021	NCC	BACS	Salaries	25,224.67	69.70	25,263.46
15/11/2021	Spotty Dog Signs	BACS	Cafe Signage	47.00	9.40	56.40
15/11/2021	Eclipse Digital Media	BACS	Annual License	185.50	37.10	222.60
15/11/2021	Timber at Meldon Park	BACS	Christmas Tree	583.33	116.67	700.00
15/11/2021	Rialtas	BACS	Annual Subscription	240.00	48.00	288.00
25/11/2021	Tyne & Wear Pension Fund	BACS	Recharge element Oct 21	26.33	0.00	26.33
25/11/2021	Tyne & Wear Pension Fund	BACS	Recharge element Nov 21	26.33	0.00	26.33
25/11/2021	Lloyds British	BACS	Chrismas Lights	480.00	96.00	576.00
25/11/2021	Jewson	BACS	Street Furniture	26.64	5.33	31.97
25/11/2021	Jewson	BACS	Pavilion Signage	62.31	12.46	74.77
25/11/2021	Jewson	BACS	General	15.78	3.16	18.94
25/11/2021	Jewson	BACS	Remembrance Street Figures	20.08	4.02	24.10
25/11/2021	Jewson	BACS	Pavilion Maintenance	31.46	6.29	37.75
25/11/2021	F H Hardy	BACS	Collingwood Wreath	25.00	0.00	25.00
25/11/2021	Morpeth Cleaning Services	BACS	SJCC Window Cleaning	30.00	0.00	30.00
25/11/2021	LTL Security	BACS	Pavilion	90.00	18.00	108.00
25/11/2021	The Flagman Morpeth	BACS	Union Jack Bunting	2,920.00	584.00	3,504.00
25/11/2021	Wicksteed	BACS	Play Equipment Repairs	258.56	51.71	310.27
25/11/2021	Nisbets	BACS	Pavilion Cleaning	50.71	10.14	60.85
				31,752.31	1,341.70	33,063.10
Petty Cash November 2021						
29.10.2021	Home Bargains	4814	Caretaker Supplies	3.30	0.66	3.96
	Iceland	"	Corporate Refreshments	3.75	0.75	4.50
	Home Bargains	"	Cafe Cleaning	5.59	1.12	6.71
	ASDA	"	Cafe Food Supplies	2.88	0.00	2.88
	Morrisons	"	Cafe Food Supplies	12.35	0.00	12.35
	Shoecare	"	Replacement Key	8.33	1.67	10.00
	Home Bargains	"	SJCC Cleaning	5.79	1.16	6.95
	Home Bargains	"	Cafe Supplies	4.14	0.51	4.65
	Iceland	"	Cafe Food Supplies	5.00	1.00	6.00
	Lidl	"	Cafe Food Supplies	4.87	0.53	5.40
	Yorkshire Trading Co	"	Cafe Cleaning	4.17	0.83	5.00
	Lidl	"	Cafe Food Supplies	6.65	0.00	6.65
	Iceland	"	Civic Events Refreshments	6.25	1.25	7.50
	Penfolds	"	Civic Events Refreshments	1.00	0.00	1.00
	Iceland	"	MTC Claening Supplies	4.58	0.92	5.50
	Yorkshire Trading Co	"	Equipment	16.22	3.24	19.46
	Home Bargains	"	Cafe Supplies	9.13	1.23	10.36
	Lidl	"	Cafe Food Supplies	2.82	0.39	3.21
	Sainsburys	"	Cafe Food Supplies	2.25	0.45	2.70
	Yorkshire Trading Co	"	Equipment	2.48	0.50	2.98
	Lidl	"	Cafe Food Supplies	6.45	0.00	6.45
	Home Bargains	"	Cafe Food Supplies	5.70	0.00	5.70
	Yorkshire Trading Co	"	Caretaker Supplies	4.23	0.85	5.08
				127.93	17.06	144.99

Direct Debits October 2021						
10/01/2021	Gaffey Technical Services Ltd	DD	Hyprolyser Rental Fee	306.92	61.38	368.30
10/06/2021	Wave	"	25/6/21-14/9/21 California Gardens	29.44	0.00	29.44
10/11/2021	EE	"	MTC Office Mobile	84.83	16.97	101.80
13/10/2021	TalkTalk	"	SJCC Wifi	29.95	5.99	35.94
15/10/2021	Bankline	"	Online Banking Charges	30.10	0.00	30.10
15/10/2021	Bookers	"	Cafe Food Supplies	2,141.58	101.63	2,243.21
15/10/2021	NCC	"	SPCC Rates	85.00	0.00	85.00
15/10/2021	Pitney Bowes	"	Postage Charges	208.00	0.00	208.00
15/10/2021	EDF Energy	"	SPCC Charge	12.38	0.62	13.00
18/10/2021	Crown Gas & Power	"	SJCC 31/8/21-30/9/21	65.77	3.29	69.06
19/10/2021	Worldpay	"	Transaction Charges Sep 21	29.55	2.91	32.46
20/10/2021	Worldpay	"	Subscription Fees Oct 2021	9.95	1.99	11.94
20/10/2021	Tower Leasing Ltd	"	Coffee Machine Rental	176.29	35.26	211.55
25/10/2021	Worldpay	"	Refund - Halloween Tour	-30.00	0.00	-30.00
27/10/2021	Worldpay	"	Refund - Sports Camp	-10.00	0.00	-10.00
28/10/2021	Siemens	"	Photocopier Lease Sep 21	52.50	10.50	63.00
29/10/2021	NCS	"	MTC Office Telephone	42.81	8.56	51.37
	Total			3,265.07	249.10	3,514.17

Credit Card October 2021						
30/9/2021	Adobe	CC	Acrobat Pro Subscription	42.96	0.00	42.96
10/04/2021	Indeed	"	Advertising	87.52	0.00	87.52
10/05/2021	Costco	"	Membership	26.40	0.00	26.40
10/05/2021	RBLI	"	Lamp Post Signs	337.50	67.50	405.00
13/10/21	Dynamics	"	Cafe Equipment	151.34	30.27	181.61
15/10/21	Amazon	"	Cafe Supplies	16.66	3.33	19.99
15/10/21	Amazon	"	Cafe Supplies	11.36	2.27	13.63
15/10/21	Yorkshire Products Ltd	"	Cafe Supplies	33.91	2.39	36.30
15/10/2021	Costco	"	Cafe Supplies	172.26	30.48	202.74
18/10/2021	Amazon	"	Cafe Supplies	19.13	3.84	22.97
18/10/2021	Amazon	"	Cafe Supplies	11.62	2.33	13.95
18/10/2021	Amazon	"	Cafe Equipment	13.32	2.67	15.99
18/10/2021	Amazon	"	Cafe Supplies	14.99	3.00	17.99
18/10/2021	Amazon	"	Cafe Supplies	17.92	3.58	21.50
18/10/2021	Amazon	"	Cafe Supplies	22.50	4.50	27.00
18/10/2021	Amazon	"	Cafe Supplies	4.99	1.00	5.99
18/10/2021	Amazon	"	Cafe Supplies	7.74	1.55	9.29
18/10/2021	Costco	"	Equipment	183.31	36.68	219.99
18/10/2021	Amazon	"	Cafe Supplies	14.88	2.97	17.85
18/10/2021	Amazon	"	Cafe Supplies	10.74	2.15	12.89
20/10/2021	Costco	"	Equipment	153.30	30.66	183.96
21/10/2021	Argos	"	Cafe Maintenance	169.99	0.00	169.99
25/10/2021	Costco	"	Equipment	212.50	42.49	254.99
25/10/2021	Cater-Kwik	"	Cafe Cleaning	33.69	6.74	40.43
28/10/2021	Amazon	"	Office Supplies	12.49	2.50	14.99
28/10/2021	The Poppy Shop	"	Street Poppy	83.25	16.65	99.90
28/10/2021	Amazon	"	Office Supplies	45.00	9.00	54.00
	Total			1,911.27	308.55	2,219.82

Total Payments	37,056.58	1,916.41	38,942.08
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