

## MORPETH TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Full Council Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 6:30pm in the Corn Exchange of the Town Hall, Morpeth

**Present:**

<b>Councillors:</b>	D Bawn	- Mayor
	B Bawn	
	A Byard	
	A Cochrane	
	J Crawford	
	M Greveson	
	R Hogg	
	E Miles	
	S Peacock	
	J Richardson	
	E Skinner	
	R Wearmouth (arriving at 6:34pm)	

<b>Clerks:</b>	Mrs T Bell	- Town Clerk
	Miss K Carter	- Democratic Services Assistant

<b>Absent Councillors:</b>	J Clayton	- Business
	J Wearmouth	- Personal
	H Hall	- No apologies received

Two members of Northumbria Police, Chief Inspector Colin Lowther and Inspector Les Robson, were also in attendance.

### **Open Session**

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

#### **121/21 Committee Chairman's Announcements**

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

#### **122/21 Mayoral Announcements**

- The Mayor's Ball will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

- The Mayor has commissioned some ties and scarves 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.

#### **123/21 Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman received no declarations of interest on this occasion.

#### **124/21 Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

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

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) That the Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

Cllr R Wearmouth arrived at 6:34pm.

#### **125/21 Northumbria Police Update**

Members were provided with a report from Northumbria Police.

Inspector Les Robson advised members that Morpeth has a comparatively low crime rate. He explained that the spikes seen on the graphs in the report provided were when COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, this could be because there was a lower tolerance compared to the quiet of lockdown.

Inspector Robson also advised that the graphs in the report only displayed crime figures, rather than every incident that is reported. He explained that all incidents were investigated, but that not all were found to be crimes.

Cllr Hogg enquired what kind of action could be taken for recurring incidents.

Chief Inspector Colin Lowther advised that housing associations, such as Karbon Homes, can enact Tenancy Enforcement to be able to relocate a reoccurring offender's family.

Cllr Hogg expressed her dismay at the long wait time when calling 101.

Chief Inspector Lowther advised that staff were being redeployed to help cope with demand.

Inspector Robson advised members that in the aftermath of COVID-19 the police are looking to get back out into the community again through safeguarding meetings and surgeries. He also proposed that more positive news regarding Northumbria Police should be shared with the community and agreed to send a newsletter to the Clerk.

The Inspector also advised that an app called Northumbria Cadets Connected is being trialled with the aim of keeping communities informed.

Cllr Peacock enquired if families with a number of offences could be moved into Morpeth.

Inspector Robson advised that the decision lies with the housing association, however, Northumbria Police advice on if they would be suitable for an area is usually taken into consideration.

Cllr R Wearmouth enquired if Morpeth's CCTV has decent enough coverage and quality to be used in police investigation.

Inspector Robson informed members that the CCTV is very useful when investigating a crime and that it is excellent quality. He also expressed that ideally the CCTV coverage could be expanded to include Stobhill but understands that this may not be practical.

Cllr R Wearmouth proposed that Karbon Homes, Hepscott Parish Council and Northumberland County Council (NCC) could be approached to enquire about funding.

The Clerk advised extending the CCTV to Stobhill will be extremely expensive as every lamppost would need to be WiFi enabled. She also advised that NCC have a mobile CCTV unit which could be utilised in Stobhill.

Cllr R Wearmouth advised that Kirkhill residents had reported incidents of speeding cars with noisy exhausts.

Inspector Robson advised that the best course of action to take is to make a note of the registration plate of the car and report it online.

Cllr Hogg enquired if Ring Door Cameras could be used as evidence.

Chief Inspector Lowther advised that as long as the owner of the camera is happy it can be used as evidence.

Cllr D Bawn thanked Chief Inspector Lowther and Inspector Robson for attending the meeting.

## **RESOLVED**

(i) Information duly noted.

Chief Inspector Colin Lowther and Inspector Les Robson left the meeting at 7:06pm.

### **126/21 Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Members were provided for information with the Outside Organisation reports.

Cllr Cochrane advised members that NCC's target to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2025 has already been passed. £8 million has already been successfully allocated and a bid for a further £6 million is underway. Originally there were ten Climate Champions, an additional fifteen have now been recruited and are going through training.

## **RESOLVED**

(i) Information duly noted.

### **127/21 Strategic County Councillor Updates**

Members were provided for information with the County Councillor updates.

Cllr D Bawn advised members that on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 the Morpeth Forum are scheduled to visit Alnwick Playhouse to gain an insight into how it is run.

He also advised that the road on Dacre Street is currently closed as several diseased trees are being removed.

The new Christmas lights are now on.

Cllrs Byard and Hogg expressed their admiration of the new lights.

Cllr D Bawn also advised members that he had taken part in HMS Northumberland Affiliates Day on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

## **RESOLVED**

(i) Information duly noted.

### **128/21 Local Council Issues**

Cllr Greveson enquired about the resurfacing works on the Skinnery Bridge.

Cllr D Bawn advised that the work is scheduled to be undertaken, however no date has been confirmed, he will continue to chase Highways.

Cllr Hogg enquired if there had been an update on the planning application for Storey Park community centre.

The Clerk advised that there was no update from NCC as yet. It is still not know if the application will go to NCC Planning committee.

Cllr Byard advised members that the Conservation Area Appraisal had been approved at Cabinet.

Cllr Skinner advised that herself, and Cllrs Miles and Greveson had collected several ideas on climate change from members of the public.

The Clerk asked her to email them to her for consideration.

## **RESOLVED**

(i) Information duly noted.

There was no other business to discuss and the meeting concluded at 7:19pm with Councillors B Bawn, D Bawn, A Byard, A Cochrane, J Crawford, M Greveson, R Hogg, E Miles, S Peacock, J Richardson, E Skinner and R Wearmouth present.