

# Morpeth Town Council

Mrs T Bell ILEX, GLCA  
Clerk of the Council

Town Council Offices  
Town Hall  
Market Place  
Morpeth  
Northumberland NE61 1LZ

Please call: 01670 514314  
or e-mail:  
tracey.bell@morpeth-tc.gov.uk

**To All Councillors**

11<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Councillor,

You are requested to attend the **Morpeth Town Annual Assembly** in the Corn Exchange of the Town Hall, Morpeth, on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022**, commencing at 6pm.

## Agenda

- 1. 6:00pm**      **Welcome and introduction by the Mayor, Councillor D Bawn**  
Minutes of Annual Assembly 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
Presentation of the Annual Report 2021/22
- 2. 6:10pm**      **Questions from the public**

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor D Bawn**  
**Mayor of Morpeth**

## Morpeth Town Council Annual Assembly 2021

### Minutes of the Meeting held in the Corn Exchange of the Town Hall Morpeth Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021

#### **Present:**

**Councillors:** D Bawn - Mayor  
R Hogg - Deputy Mayor  
A Byard  
R Wearmouth

1 Member of the public was also in attendance.

**Clerks:** Mrs T Bell and Miss K Carter

**Absent Councillors:** Cllr L Cassie – Apologies Received (Personal)  
Cllr N Bawn – No Apologies Received  
Cllr N Best – No Apologies Received  
Cllr J Gebhard – No Apologies Received  
Cllr D Herne – No Apologies Received  
Cllr K Holmes – No Apologies Received  
Cllr J Parreira – No Apologies Received  
Cllr A Tebbutt – No Apologies Received  
Cllr J Tebbutt – No Apologies Received  
Cllr R Thompson – No Apologies Received  
Cllr J Wearmouth – No Apologies Received

#### **205/20 Mayor's Welcome**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Assembly of the Town.

The Mayor introduced Councillors and Town Council staff to members of the public present.

#### **206/20 To Confirm the Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

The Mayor advised that the minutes would be published on the Town Council website from Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were confirmed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

#### **207/20 Annual Report 2020/2021**

The Mayor, Councillor D Bawn, presented the Annual Report which reviewed the activities of the Town Council's year, along with his personal highlights as Mayor.

Various achievements and projects were highlighted, as well as the ongoing maintenance and management of many services in Morpeth.

The Mayor thanked Councillors, partners, contractors and staff for their work and support throughout what has been a difficult year.

There were no questions from Members of the Public regarding the Annual Report, however there was one question raised by Mrs K Bibby-Wilson.

*'When was the covenant at Carlisle Park lifted?'*

The Clerk advised that the process is ongoing. An agreement has been reached and the paperwork is now being dealt with by lawyers.

A premises license is also being sought for the Pavilion so that alcohol can be consumed on the premises.

The owner of the covenant has allowed the Town Council to release the covenant. He will make a toast with a glass of prosecco on the terrace.

The Clerk advised that there will be an opening ceremony, COVID-19 restrictions permitting.

There were no further questions from the public.

#### **208/20 Closure**

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the formal business of the meeting, which concluded at 6:35 pm.



## **Review of the Year 21/22**

The Town Council manages a wide variety of services and events which take place throughout the year, unfortunately these have been significantly reduced over the past two years due to the global pandemic. The Town Council's staff have continued to work throughout the pandemic, continuing to provide a service to the Morpeth community.

While very limited events have taken place, the workforce has continued to ensure that the buildings, assets and open spaces are maintained to the highest standards. The Government has now set out its roadmap to recovery, allowing life to return to normal it is hoped this continues on track and the public events return to normal without any further interruption.

## **Services**

The Town Council provides and maintains:

- 23 bus shelters throughout the Town
- Over 200 bins
- 130 dedicated seats
- Noticeboards
- 6 play areas at Stobhill, Montrose Garden, Stobhill Manor, Church Walk, Boundary Drive and Carlisle Park
- Paddling pool
- Public toilets
- 5 allotment sites at Middle Greens, Duncan Gardens, Abbots Way, Wellwood Gardens, St Mary's Field. Tommy's Field is owned by the Council but managed by Tommy's Field Allotment Association.
- Flower beds
- St James Community Centre
- The Pavilion Café
- Skatepark

## **Morpeth NEAT Team**

The Council employ a dedicated team who are responsible for carrying out a grounds maintenance service to Council owned land at regular intervals throughout the year. The team have continued to work throughout the pandemic ensuring that all of the Council's responsibilities have been met. This includes mowing grass within boundaries of the play areas during the growing season; maintaining and strimming verges, cutting hedges, applying herbicide to remove weeds and moss from all play areas as well as maintaining fencing and pathways.

The Morpeth NEAT team also carry out any other additional maintenance/repairs as and when required. Below is some of the work carried out this year.

- Plays areas maintenance/repairs highlighted from Insurance and ROSPA reports;
- Clearing vacant allotment sites;
- Installation of litter bins;
- Maintenance at the Cenotaph;
- General maintenance/repairs at Community centres;
- Installation of seats;
- General maintenance/repairs to Council assets;
- Graffiti removal;
- Cleaning all street furniture;
- Planting, weeding, removal of rubbish etc.
- Regular river inspections including monitoring the wildlife any river and other river issues, working closely with the Environment Agency and other relevant organisations.

The team have also taken over the maintenance of the bowling greens and surrounding areas as Carlisle Pavilion became the property of the Town Council on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 following a Community Asset transfer from NCC.

### **The Pavilion Cafe**

Work began on the Pavilion in September 2020 and was completed in Spring 2021. The café opened its doors for a takeaway service on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 in line with the Government restrictions.

Customer feedback has been extremely positive, and the footfall has continued to grow despite the various challenges due to the ever changing Government guidance. The Council have been successful in having the covenant restricting the sale of alcohol in the pavilion removed by the descendants of the Countess of Carlisle who generously gifted the park in 1916 to the Borough of Morpeth. A licence to sell alcohol was granted by NCC and it is hoped that the café will commence with the sale of alcohol in the near future.

As life continues to return to normal it is hoped that the number of events taking place at the Pavilion Café and surrounding outdoor space will increase over the coming months.

## MORPETH TOWN COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Morpeth Town Council comprises of fifteen elected members who cover North, Kirkhill and Stobhill wards. The Council Elections took place on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 all fifteen seats were contested. elected. All information on the election process can be found at

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/elections.aspx>

### North Ward



**David Bawn**—Conservative  
31 The Villas, St Mary's, Morpeth,  
NE61 6AT  
M: 07947 248220  
E: david.bawn@morpeth-tc.gov.uk



**Mike Greveson**—Labour  
Wansbeck House, Dogger Bank, Mor-  
peth, NE61 1RE  
M: 07989 036909  
E:  
mike.greveson@morpeth-tc.gov.uk



**Harry Hall**—Conservative  
20 Newgate Street, Morpeth, NE61  
1BA  
M: 07792 427020  
E: harry.hall@morpeth-tc.gov.uk



**Rachael Hogg**—Conservative  
4 Cordwainers, Morpeth, NE61 2ZN  
M: 07738 001173  
E: rachael.hogg@morpeth-tc.gov.uk



**Elaine Skinner**—Green  
3 Triumph Green, Morpeth, NE61 2FE  
T: 01670 512751  
E: elaine.skinner@morpeth-tc.gov.uk

## Kirkhill Ward



**Justin Clayton**—Conservative  
10 Fontburn Gardens, Morpeth,  
NE61 2JR  
M: 07525 746781  
E: justin.clayton@morpeth-tc.gov.uk



**Andy Cochrane**—Liberal Democrat  
11 Castle Meadows, Kirkhill, Morpeth, NE61 2JY  
M: 07976 666869  
E: andy.cochrane@morpeth-tc.gov.uk



**Elisa Miles**—Green  
43 Spelvit Lane, Morpeth, NE61 2AA  
M: 07849 522005  
E: elisa.lawson@morpeth-tc.gov.uk



**Jonathan Richardson**—Conservative  
3 Springhill Walk, Morpeth, NE61 2JT  
M: 07522 784390  
E: jonathan.richardson@morpeth-tc.gov.uk



**Richard Wearmouth**—Conservative  
Barmoor Farmhouse, Barmoor, Morpeth, NE61 6LB  
M: 07808 804345  
E: richard.wearmouth@morpeth-tc.gov.uk

## Stobhill Ward



**Betty Bawn**—Conservative  
Courtyard Cottage, Espley Hall, Morpeth, NE61 3DJ  
T: 01670 511101  
E: betty.bawn@morpeth-tc.gov.uk



**Alison Byard**—Liberal Democrats  
42 Crookham Grove, Stobhill Manor, Morpeth, NE61 2XF  
T: 01670 515391  
M: 07963 306549  
E: alison.byard@morpeth-tc.gov.uk



**Jade Crawford**—Conservative  
40 Crookham Grove, Stobhill Manor, Morpeth, NE61 2XF  
M: 07754 042455  
E: jade.crawford@morpeth-tc.gov.uk



**Shirley Peacock**—Conservative  
Longridge, Barmoor, Morpeth, NE61 6LB  
M: 07545 934945  
E: shirley.peacock@morpeth-tc.gov.uk

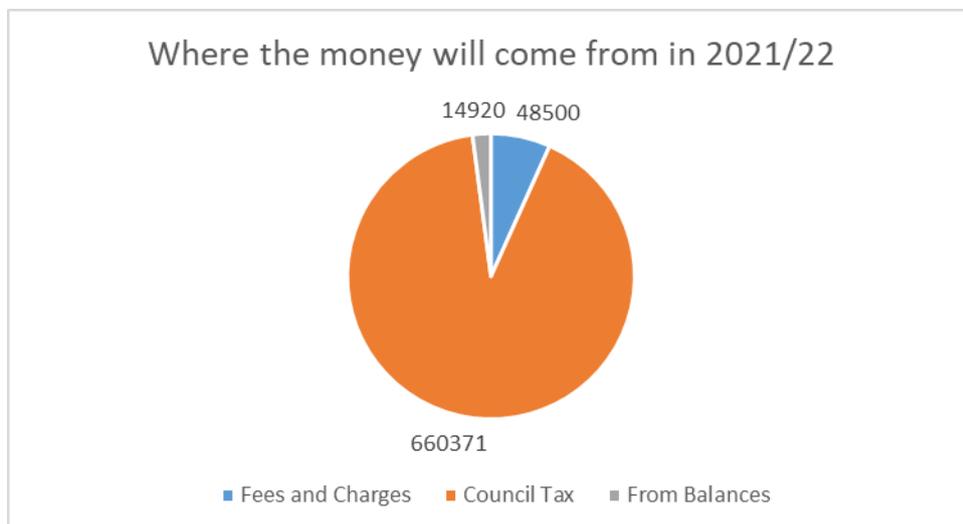


**Johnny Wearmouth**—Conservative  
Rose Cottage, Barmoor, Morpeth, NE61 6LB  
M: 07956 429942  
E: johnny.wearmouth@morpeth-tc.gov.uk

## Finance

Accounts 2020/21

The Government appointed auditors PKF Littlejohn, carried out the Audit of Accounts, for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and issued the Town Council with the Notice of Conclusion of Audit under the Audit Commission Act. This can be found at <https://www.morpeth-tc.gov.uk/town-council-finances/>



The Town Council Precept which is collected by Northumberland County Council via the Council Tax was £660,371 for 2021/22 equating to £ 122.73 per year or £2.36 per week for a band D property. The Council precept for 2022/23 will increase to £673,378 which equates to £125.18 per year for a band D property.