

Morpeth Town Council Annual Assembly 2022

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Corn Exchange of the Town Hall Morpeth Wednesday 16th March 2022

Present:

Councillors: D Bawn - Mayor
B Bawn (arriving at 6:12pm)
A Byard
J Crawford
M Greveson
E Miles
J Richardson
E Skinner
R Wearmouth

1 Member of the public was also in attendance.

Clerks: Mrs T Bell and Miss K Carter

Absent Councillors: J Clayton – Apologies Received (Business)
A Cochrane – Apologies Received (Personal)
S Peacock – Apologies Received (Personal)
H Hall – No apologies received
R Hogg – No apologies received
J Wearmouth – No apologies received

178/21 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.

179/21 To Confirm the Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 17th March 2021

The Mayor advised that the minutes would be published on the Town Council website from Thursday 17th March 2022.

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 17th March 2021 were confirmed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

180/21 Annual Report 2021/2022

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 the year.

There were no questions from Members of the Public regarding the Annual Report, however there were several questions raised by Mr Jack Marshall.

'How much was spent on a planning consultant to have Storey Park community centre demolished?'

Cllr D Bawn advised that there had been extensive discussions for years regarding the future of Storey Park. Various plans had been drawn up over the years but were simply unaffordable. It would cost over £1 million to rebuild the centre. The decision was made to concentrate the Town Council's resources to renovate St James community centre and the Pavilion to provide community facilities to members of the public. The land at Storey Park will be retained and the football pitches will be maintained. On site football changing facilities could be a potential option in the future.

Cllr R Wearmouth informed Mr Marshall that he is still open to using a portion of his small schemes fund to provide changing facilities. The facilities would need to be sustainable and FA compliant.

The Clerk advised that the various football clubs in Morpeth would need to work together to demonstrate sustainability to the FA committee to be granted funding.

Mr Marshall had a further question to raise:

'Will the Town Council review their decision making process?'

Cllr D Bawn advised that the consultation process had been extremely extensive. There had been many public drop in sessions, which had not been well attended by members of the public. He also advised that each event was advertised on the Town Council website, Facebook, in noticeboards and Inside Morpeth.

Mr Marshall had a final question for members:

'Can more covered cycle racks be provided in Morpeth?'

Cllr R Wearmouth advised that a consultation is currently being conducted by Northumberland County Council (NCC) regarding cycling and walking infrastructure plans. The survey can be accessed through NCC's website.

There were no further questions from the public.

181/21 Closure

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the formal business of the meeting, which concluded at 6:34pm.