

## **MORPETH TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Full Council Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 6:30pm in the Corn Exchange of the Town Hall, Morpeth**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** D Bawn - Mayor  
B Bawn  
A Byard  
J Clayton  
A Cochrane  
J Crawford  
M Greveson  
H Hall  
R Hogg  
S Peacock  
J Richardson  
E Skinner  
J Wearmouth  
R Wearmouth

**Clerks:** Mrs T Bell - Town Clerk  
Miss K Carter - Democratic Services Assistant

**Absent Councillors:** E Miles - Illness

#### **Open Session**

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

#### **144/21 Committee Chairman's Announcements**

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

#### **145/21 Mayoral Announcements**

- 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.
- A Chinese New Year Banquet at Mulan in aid of the Mayor's charity will take place on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 7pm. Tickets are £23 per person.

**146/21 Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman received no declarations of interest on this occasion.

**147/21 Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

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

Cllr Greveson enquired if there had been an update on the repair works to the nonslip surface on the Skinnery Bridge.

Cllr D Bawn advised that the works have now been programmed in and will begin imminently.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) That the Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**148/21 Items Referred from Other Committees and Working Groups**

**Finance & General Purposes**

**i. Budget 2022/23**

Cllr D Bawn, Chairman of the F&GP Committee, presented the 2022/23 Budget for consideration.

Cllr Greveson asked for clarification on the administration income heading.

The Clerk advised that any income made from selling badges etc. It also contains funds received for the asset transfer of St James community centre and the Pavilion.

Cllr Greveson also enquired what earmarked reserves were used for.

The Clerk advised that they are a variety of categories such as play area maintenance, elections, allotments maintenance and bowling green maintenance.

Cllr Greveson enquired why the precept is being increased by 2%.

Cllr Hogg advised that the increase would offset inflation and the proposed increase was much less than nearby towns.

Cllr R Wearmouth also advised that reserves had been run down due to larger projects such as the Pavilion and St James community centre.

Cllr D Bawn read out the following resolutions:

- a) To Approve the Draft Budget for 2022/23 as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- b) Formulate a Resolution to levy a Precept to Northumberland County Council, for the Financial Year 2022/23.

A vote was taken: 14 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Draft Budget 2022/23 and the medium term financial plan be adopted by Full Council.
- (ii) That a Precept be levied on NCC representing a 2% increase.

#### **149/21 Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Members were provided for information with the Outside Organisation reports.

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted.

#### **150/21 Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Members were asked to consider a potential commemorative event.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding potential events.

Cllr D Bawn suggested that Councillors from each ward identify an appropriate area for a tree to be planted and a plaque installed to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

The Clerk suggested that community groups should be encouraged to apply for a grant to host an event. She also suggested that a pack could be assembled containing party supplies such as bunting, paper plates etc. to give to groups to help with their celebrations.

Cllr D Bawn proposed that a working group consisting of Cllrs Byard, Cochrane, Crawford, Peacock, Skinner and himself organise a meeting next week to discuss a potential event.

## **RESOLVED**

(i) Information duly noted.

There was no other business to discuss and the meeting concluded at 7:13pm with Councillors B Bawn, D Bawn, A Byard, A Cochrane, J Clayton, J Crawford, M Greveson, H Hall, R Hogg, S Peacock, J Richardson, E Skinner J Wearmouth and R Wearmouth present.