

MORPETH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 16th March 2022 immediately following the close of the Annual Assembly in the Corn Exchange of the Town Hall, Morpeth

Present:

Councillors: D Bawn - Mayor
B Bawn
A Byard
J Crawford
M Greveson
E Miles
J Richardson
E Skinner
R Wearmouth

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

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

The meeting commenced at 6:34pm.

Open Session

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

182/21 Committee Chairman's Announcements

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

183/21 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 St Patrick's Day dinner at the Sun Inn in aid of the Mayor's charity will take place on Thursday 17th March 2022 7pm. Tickets are £23 per person.

184/21 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman received no declarations of interest on this occasion.

185/21 Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on Wednesday 19th January 2022

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

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) That the Minutes of 19th January 2022, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

186/21 Items Referred from Other Committees and Working Groups

Finance & General Purposes

i. Final Accounts –Year End Procedures

Members were asked to approve the following documents as adopted by the Finance and General Purposes Committee:

a) Internal Audit Policy and Risk Assessments

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

b) Annual Treasury Management Policy –2022/23

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

RESOLVED

- (i) To approve the Internal Audit Policy and Risk Assessment.
- (ii) To approve the Annual Treasury Management Policy –2022/23.

187/21 Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members were provided for information with the Outside Organisation reports.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

188/21 Strategic County Councillor Updates

Members were provided for information with the County Councillor updates.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.

189/21 General Power of Competence

Members were asked to approve the ongoing eligibility to use of the General Power of Competence as per the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 and Localism Act 2011, on the basis that both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk hold the mandatory Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualification and that more than 2/3 of the Council has stood for election in May 2021.

The Clerk advised that this was to ensure the continued running of the Pavilion Café as it allows the Town Council to make decisions.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
(ii) Members approved the ongoing eligibility to use the General Power of Competence.

190/21 Strategic Objective

Members were provided with the above document for approval.

The Clerk advised the document is the result of the meeting to discuss strategic projects in Morpeth, which took place on the 27th October 2021. The Clerk advised that work is currently going on in the following areas:

- Liaising with NCC to be a pilot on the Community Climate Champion project
- Working in partnership with NCC to identify potential additional wildflower sites
- Investigating the possibilities of reinstating the Community Orchard at Allery Bank via a feasibility study
- Continuing to improve the green space surrounding the Pavilion

The Clerk also advised that quotes are being sought to resurface the small childrens' play area in Carlisle Park. Jubilee party boxes have had an excellent uptake and will be distributed shortly.

Cllr D Bawn informed members that options to refurbish the disused basketball court next to the Skate Park are being investigated. Potential options are to provide more skate equipment, outdoor gym equipment or crazy golf.

RESOLVED

(i) Information duly noted.

191/21 Morpeth Bus Station Toilets

Cllr D Bawn advised that Sanderson Arcade have now decided to make the newly refurbished toilet staff only and not provide a public toilet within the bus station.

A discussion took place regarding the issues surrounding having no access to a toilet in the bus station area.

Cllr D Bawn expressed his extreme disappointment in this decision and suggested that either a public toilet should be provided within the bus station or very clear signage indicating where the nearest public toilets are located should be installed.

The Clerk advised that she has a meeting with Sanderson Arcade on Wednesday 23rd March 2022 where she would raise these concerns.

RESOLVED

(i) Information duly noted.

There was no other business to discuss and the meeting concluded at 7:17pm with Councillors B Bawn, D Bawn, A Byard, J Crawford, M Greveson, E Miles, J Richardson, E Skinner and R Wearmouth present.