

MORPETH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 6pm in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, Morpeth

Present:

Councillors:	A Byard	- Mayor
	D Bawn	
	J Crawford	
	M Greveson	
	H Hall	
	R Hogg	
	S Peacock	
	J Richardson	
	J Wearmouth	
	R Wearmouth (arriving 6:05pm)	

Clerks:	Mrs T Bell	- Town Clerk
	Mrs J Wilson	- Deputy Clerk
	Miss K Carter	- Committees and Communications Officer

Absent Councillors:	E Skinner	- Holiday
	E Miles	- Business
	B Bawn	- Personal
	J Clayton	- Business
	A Cochrane	- No apologies received

Open Session

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

43/22 Committee Chairman's Announcements

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

44/22 Mayoral Announcements

- The St Patrick's Day themed Mayor's Ball will take place on Saturday 18th March 2023 at Pleased to Meet You. Tickets will be £45 each.
- The Food and Drink Festival takes place on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd October 2022 on Bridge Street. The Town Council have sponsored the Demonstration Kitchen which will be outside of the Town Hall.

- The Mayor is taking part in a sleep out on the Market Place on Saturday 8th October 2022 to raise money for Wansbeck Valley Food Bank.
- There will be an Ageing Well Information Fair on Wednesday 12th October 2022 10am-2pm.
- The Mayor took part in the Great North Run on Sunday 11th September 2022, she has raised £1,800 for Wansbeck Valley Food Bank.

45/22 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman received no declarations of interest on this occasion.

46/22 Minutes of the Annual Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony held on Wednesday 11th May 2022

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

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Minutes of 11th May 2022, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

47/22 External Audit

Members were advised that the external audit for 2021/22 has been completed and were provided for consideration and approval the external auditor's report.

RESOLVED

- (i) Members unanimously approved the external audit.

48/22 Strategic Objectives Update

Members were provided for information with the strategic objectives update.

The Clerk gave a brief outline of the update and added that there will be additional trees planted at Deuchar Park next month.

Cllr Peacock enquired about the progress of the Community Orchard project.

The Clerk advised that the consultation is ongoing until the middle of October. The results of the consultation will be fed back into the Finance and General Purposes committee meeting.

Cllr Greveson enquired if the Town Council were relaunching their Local Loo Scheme.

Cllr Byard advised that she had visited local businesses to deliver a letter and enquire if they would like to take part in the Local Loo Scheme, which allows members of the public to use the business' toilets without having to buy anything. This is ongoing and to date one response has been received.

Cllr Byard enquired if there will be any Christmas events at the Pavilion Café.

The Clerk advised that preparations are underway and enquiries are currently being made with a variety of entertainment, art and craft providers.

RESOLVED

(i) Information duly noted.

49/22 Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members were provided for information with the Outside Organisation reports.

Cllr R Wearmouth advised that the Greater Morpeth Development Trust (GMDT) are still investigating the possibility of a theatre in the town. Preliminary designs have been drawn for the space above Wetherspoons to include 3D simulations. The next step is to develop a business plan to ascertain the feasibility of the project.

GMDT have now moved from their office in the Carlisle Park Lodge to the newly refurbished train station.

RESOLVED

(i) Information duly noted.

50/22 Strategic County Councillor Updates

Members were provided for information with the County Councillor updates.

Cllr D Bawn advised that the traffic diversion on Cottingwood Lane to allow access to the St Georges estate is being monitored as residents of Cottingwood Lane have raised several concerns.

Cllr R Wearmouth advised that the new leisure centre is due to open in seventeen weeks. The pool will be filled shortly.

RESOLVED

(i) Information duly noted.

There was no other business to discuss and the meeting concluded at 6:17pm with Councillors, D Bawn, A Byard, J Crawford, M Greveson, H Hall, R Hogg, S Peacock, J Richardson, J Wearmouth and R Wearmouth present.