



Morpeth Town Council

Mrs T Bell ILEX, CILCA
Clerk of the Council

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

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To All Councillors

10th March 2023

Dear Councillor,

You are requested to attend the **Morpeth Town Annual Assembly** in the Corn Exchange of the Town Hall, Morpeth, on **Wednesday 15th March 2023**, commencing at 6pm.

Agenda

- 1. 6:00pm** **Welcome and introduction by the Mayor, Councillor A Byard**
Minutes of Annual Assembly 16th March 2022
Presentation of the Annual Report 2022/23
- 2. 6:10pm** **Questions from the public**

Yours sincerely,

Councillor A Byard
Mayor of Morpeth

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.



Review of the Year 22/23

The Town Council manages a wide variety of services and events which take place throughout the year. The Town Council's staff have continued to work to provide a service to the Morpeth community.

The workforce has continued to ensure that the buildings, assets, and open spaces are maintained to the highest standards.

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. 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 centre;
- Installation of seats;
- General maintenance/repairs to Council assets;
- Graffiti removal;
- Cleaning all street furniture;
- Planting, weeding, removal of rubbish etc.
- Maintenance of the bowling greens and surrounding areas at the Pavilion;
- Regular river inspections including monitoring the wildlife any river and other river issues, working closely with the Environment Agency and other relevant organisations.

The Pavilion Café

The Pavilion Café continues to thrive, and it now has a loyal customer base. There have been some periods of upheaval as staff come and go but there is now a great compliment of staff and the menu we offer is being well received by the customers.

Working in conjunction with a local company, the café was able to offer crafting events on the run up to Christmas which included wreath making and a chance to meet Santa. Following on from the success of these events it is hoped that there will be more planned to mark key events during the year.

Environment

In association with NCC's Woodlands Officer and The Great Northumberland Forest, the Town Council assisted in the planting of 100 trees on St Mary's Field in January 2023. The trees were planted around the borders at the top of the hill, ensuring there is no disruption to users of the field.

Play Areas

The Town Council replaced some of the play equipment in Carlisle Park. A climbing frame, which was beyond repair, was removed and replaced with a play train and carriage, a play panel railway station and a new swing. The old carpet surfacing was replaced with hardwearing rubberised mulch.

Public Toilets

The toilets in Carlisle Park have been fitted with new security doors, which will unlock and lock themselves via a timer during the open season, running from April to September. The installation of the new doors came following a break in at the toilets in 2022.

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 6th May 2021 all fifteen seats were contested. 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
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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
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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
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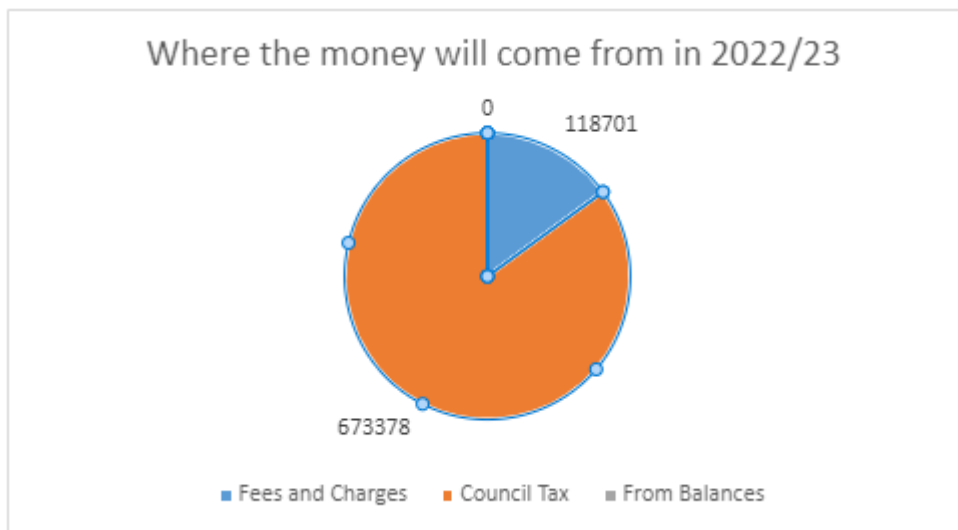
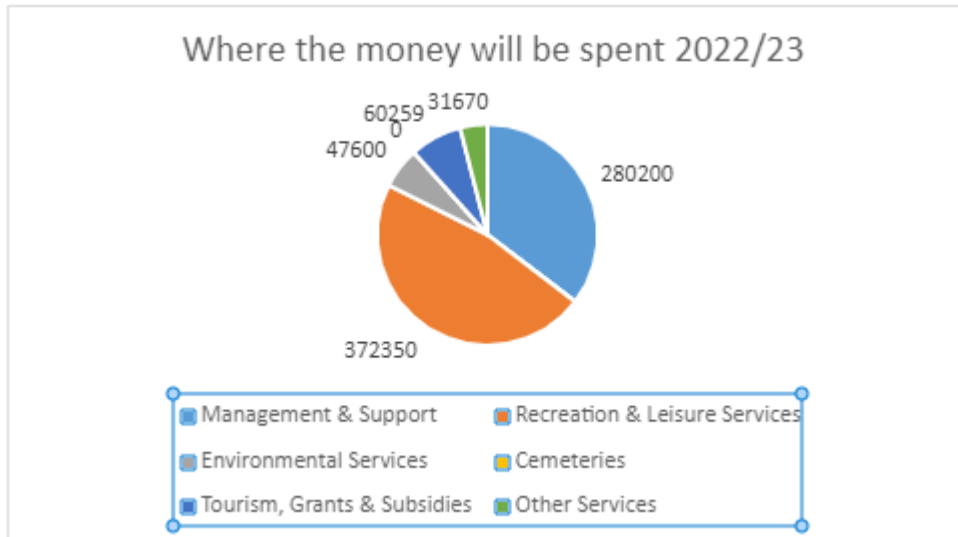


Johnny Wearmouth—Conservative
Rose Cottage, Barmoor, Morpeth, NE61 6LB
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Finance

Accounts 2021/22

The Government appointed auditors PKF Littlejohn, carried out the Audit of Accounts, for the year ending 31st March 2022 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 £673,378 for 2022/23 equating to £125.18 per year or £2.41 per week for a band D property. The Council precept for 2023/24 will increase to £675,909 which equates to a zero increase per year for each household.