

MORPETH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18th January 2023 at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, Morpeth

Present:

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

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

Absent Councillors:	J Clayton	- Business
	A Cochrane	- Business
	M Greveson	- Personal
	S Peacock	- Holiday
	R Wearmouth	- Business
	H Hall	- No apologies received

Open Session

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

110/22 Committee Chairman's Announcements

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

111/22 Mayoral Announcements

- A quiz will be held at Riverside Care Home on Thursday 19th January 2023. Councillors are encouraged to join.
- The Burns Night Supper will be held at The Pavilion on Monday 23rd January 2023.
- A Chinese New Year Banquet will be held at Mulan Restaurant on Monday 30th January 2023 to raise funds to support the Floral Clock.

- The St Patrick's Day themed Mayor's Ball will take place on Saturday 18th March 2023 at Pleased to Meet You.

112/22 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman received no declarations of interest on this occasion.

113/22 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th November 2022

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

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Minutes of 16th November 2022, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

114/22 Items Referred from Other Committees and Working Groups

Finance and General Purposes

i. Budget 2023/24

Cllr D Bawn advised members that the Finance and general Purposes committee had resolved not to increase the precept this year, due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Cllr D Bawn read out the following resolutions:

- a) To Approve the Draft Budget for 2023/24 as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, and levy the precept to Northumberland County Council for 2023/24.

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

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Draft Budget 2023/24 be approved and adopted by Full Council and that a precept be levied on NCC representing a 0% increase.

115/22 Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members were provided for information with the Outside Organisation reports.

RESOLVED

(i) Information duly noted.

116/22 Strategic County Councillor Updates

Members were provided for information with the County Councillor updates.

Cllr D Bawn informed members that works to the access at St George estate have been significantly delayed due to complications such as unmapped utilities under road surfaces. This has led to residents and staff at St Georges hospital raising concerns regarding safety.

The developer has addressed concerns by resurfacing Cottingwood Lane, installing temporary traffic lights, which were vandalised, and making a £1,000 donation to Stobhill Link.

Cllr Hogg advised that she had received an email from staff who work at St Georges who walk past the Mount regarding the lack of street lighting and safety concerns on this road.

Cllr D Bawn advised that he will investigate these concerns.

Cllr D Bawn also advised members that several cars have been damaged at Bullers Green due to a hit and run road traffic accident. A consultation had previously taken place to gain residents views on installing bollards to avoid such incidents, residents had unanimously objected the proposal.

Cllr D Bawn gave several other updates:

- The new leisure centre is on target and budget and is due to open in March 2023.
- The car park at Goose Hill has been a great success and is used by many residents/commuters. The EV chargers are also up and running.
- The old leisure centre has been marketed, however, no suitable development proposals have been received to date.
- The owner of the Benfield site is working with Northumberland County Council to bring forward amended proposals for the area.

RESOLVED

(i) Information duly noted.

There was no other business to discuss and the meeting concluded at 6:50pm with Councillors B Bawn, D Bawn, A Byard, J Crawford, R Hogg, E Miles, J Richardson, E Skinner and J Wearmouth present.