



Ashington Town Council
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ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 6:00pm on Tuesday, 7 February 2017, at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Avril Chisholm (Chair)	Louis Brown
Vicky Brown	Marjorie Chambers
Nicola Chambers	Matthew Cuthbert
Glyn Davies	Stephen Fenwick
Brian Gallacher	Lynne Grimshaw
Lawrence Henderson	Kris Lavery
Liam Lavery	Mark Purvis
Ely Turnbull	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Slaughter – Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Stephen Humphrey – Funding & Projects Officer
Sharon Parmley – Senior Admin. Officer
Members of the Public – 1 (Cllr Tom Wilson)

C17/665 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Bob Walkinshaw, Victor Bridges, and Pauline Thompson

C17/666 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest from Members present.

C17/667 3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair informed members that in her capacity as Mayor of Ashington she had attended the following events since the last meeting of Full Council:-

- 9 November 2016, CofE Academy Awards Evening
- 11 November 2016, Woodhorn Park Remembrance Service
- 13 November 2016, Remembrance Sunday Services, Ashington & Bothal
- 19 November 2016, Woodhorn Museum, Preview Exhibition
- 5 December 2016, Opening of Ashington Station Road & Christmas Light Switch On
- 10 December 2016, St John's Church, Male Voice Choir
- 13 December 2016, Bothal School, Christmas Lunch
- 15 December 2016, NCC Civic Carol Service, Bothal Church
- 17 December 2016, Sue Coulthard's Retirement Event.
- 19 January 2017, Combined Cadets Presentation
- 7 February 2017, The Chair stated that Victor Bridges would be attending an event at the Sea Cadets tonight in her place

C17/668 4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 8 November were agreed and duly signed as a true record.

C17/669 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

C16/645 Leader's Report – Wansbeck Riverside Park: Members asked if The Town Clerk asked if there had been any further developments regarding the Riverside Park Caravan Site as it appeared that there had been site clearance activity taking place in recent days. Councillor Lynne Grimshaw confirmed that both she and Cllr. B. Gallacher, in their role as Northumberland County Council members, had attended the site and work was underway to reinstate the campsite, including the shop and park. Members were informed that a long- term lease of ten years had been agreed between Northumberland County Council and Sanders Plant and Waste Management Ltd, the new site operators.

C17/670 6. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader reported that, due to family health circumstances, he had been unable to attend several recent meetings. The Leader informed members that nominated representatives had attended in his place and would be updating the Council with any progress reports and updates.

C17/671 7. TOWN COUNCIL CO-OPTION – HAYDON WARD.

The Town Clerk informed Members of the procedure to be followed in considering applications for co-option to the Town Council.

The Town Clerk reported that two applications had been received for the vacancy in the Haydon Ward; the applicants were notified as

- Mr Brian Gallacher
- Mr Andrew McGregor

The letter received from Mr McGregor was read out by the Town Clerk in support of his application, Mr McGregor having presented apologies for non-attendance as his work had prevented him being able to attend in person.

Mr Brian Gallacher was present at the meeting and was invited to make representation to Full Council giving reasons as to why he wished to be considered for co-option as a member of the Council for the Haydon Ward.

The Chair asked members for a formal vote on their preferred applicant.

Mr Gallacher received the unanimous support of the Full Council as the preferred applicant. Mr Gallacher thanked the Town Council for members for their support and duly signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Resolved:

That Brian Gallacher be duly co-opted as a Town Council Member for the Haydon Ward.

C17/672 8. BUDGET & PRECEPT 2017/18 (Appendix 1)

The Leader presented the Final Budget and Precept report for 2017/18 and highlighted the final changes that had been requested following discussions at the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 24 January 2017. The Town Clerk outlined the budget in detail and referred members to the changes in the 2017/18 Council Tax Base and the impact and affect on resource availability. The Town Clerk outlined the prudent provision of £13,800 made in the

amended core budget for a revenue contribution to the Hirst Park Revival Project.

The Leader of the Council commended the 2017/18 budget to the Town Council and formally presented the full recommendations for consideration and support. The Leader informed members that, if so agreed, the 2017/18 budget would see an increase in the Council Tax level of 1.99% and an annual Band D increase of £2.00 per annum..

Resolved:

That:-

- (i) The 2017/18 budgeted gross expenditure of £708,500 was agreed, and**
- (ii) Ashington Town Council's precept requirement from Northumberland County Council in respect of the Financial Year Ending 31 March 2018 be agreed at £708,500, and**
- (iii) The planned use of the General Reserves balance of the Town Council be further considered at the first meeting of the new Council scheduled for 9 May 2017 and that**
- (iv) While recognising that the Town Council is not currently subject to "capping or referendum" criteria, the Council formally recognise and approve the 2017/18 Council Tax increase of 1.99%, within the Government capping limit specified for County and Unitary Councils and equivalent to a £2-00 annual increase for 2017/18 on a Band D property in Ashington.**

C17/673 9. RISK MANAGMENT AND EFFECTIVE CONTROLS

The Town Clerk presented the Register of Risk Management and Effective Controls for consideration.

Members were informed that there were no new plans for further transfer of assets and/or services in the coming year. The Town Clerk reminded members that the review of risks was a corporate Council responsibility and should be regularly reviewed for reassurance purposes.

The Chair stated that, while the Town Council was satisfied that all risks were adequately assessed and managed and that appropriate insurance cover was in place, there was a need for all members to have a full awareness of the Council's responsibilities and duties. It was agreed that a comprehensive review of the register be undertaken and the document reported back to the Full Council for approval.

Resolved:

That:-

- (i) The Register of Risk Management and Effective Controls be formally accepted and approved as presented; and that**
- (ii) A mid-term comprehensive review of the Risk Register be undertaken prior to 30 September 2017.**

C17/674

10. MEMBER REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- (i) Arch – Stakeholder Group for Town Centre Regeneration (Cllrs B Gallacher and M Chambers):** Cllr. Gallacher reported that generally it was understood that traders and the public were pleased with the look and activity on Station Road. Members were concerned however that there is a problem with the food vans on market days, stationed in the parking bays.
- (ii) Akzo Nobel Programme of Works (Cllr B Gallacher):** Cllr Gallacher reported that he had attended a meeting with Akzo Nobel to discuss a number of works for community projects within the town, which would see them provide the labour and paint.
- (iii) Hirst Park Revival Project (Heritage Lottery Fund) (Cllr Chambers):** Cllr Chambers reported that the Heritage Lottery Fund bid was to be submitted by the end of February 2017 with a decision due by the end of June 2017.

C17/675 11. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- (i) The Town Clerk informed members that the Wansbeck Valley Food Bank annual general meeting was scheduled for 7:00pm, Monday 27 February at New Life Centre, Manchester Street, Morpeth.
- (ii) Members were informed that the unveiling of Jackie Milburn Statue was scheduled for Thursday 9 February, at 10.30am at Ashington Leisure Centre.

C17/676 12. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Full Council was scheduled for Tuesday 7 March at 7.00pm, in the Council Chamber.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.