

# ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held at 6:00pm on Tuesday, 28 February 2017, at Ashington Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.**

## **PRESENT:**

Councillors:	Vicky Brown (Chair)	Louis Brown
	Victor Bridges	Marjorie Chambers
	Nicola Chambers	Matthew Cuthbert
	Glyn Davies	Stephen Fenwick
	Lawrence Henderson	Mark Purvis
	Pauline Thompson	

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mike Slaughter – Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
Stephen Humphrey – Funding & Projects Officer  
Sharon Parmley – Senior Administration Officer  
Members of the Public - 0

## **FGP 17/679 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors, Kris Lavery, Brian Gallacher, Liam Lavery, Bob Walkinshaw, Lynne Grimshaw, Avril Chisholm and Ely Turnbull

## **FGP 17/680 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of personal and prejudicial interest.

## **FGP 17/681 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 January 2017, were agreed and signed as a true record.

## **FGP 17/682 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

## **FGP 17/683 5. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

- (i) Ashington Girl Guiding Division had requested the sum of £250. Members were informed that the Rainbow Division of the Guides

were celebrating their 30 Birthday with an event to be held at Chantry Middle School, in Morpeth, on Saturday 10 June 2017. Members were informed that the funding request was to meet the cost of transport for approximately 60 girls and 13 Leaders to attend the event.

It was reported that Ashington Town Council had previously supported individual Brownie Groups in the past, as well as a donation of £500 to the Girl Guiding Division in November 2013, also for transport costs.

- (ii) Ashington Folk Club had requested a donation of £500 towards the general running costs of the club and in particular hosting events with national touring artists. Members were informed that the the Club has been funded twice in the past for similar requests. The Town Clerk reported that the Folk Club had been operating in the town for over 50 years and in recent times had worked and assisted with events hosted by the Town Council.
- (iii) A funding request had been received for sponsorship towards the 'Ashington Rocks' Event, organised as part of the first 'Northumberland Day' to be held on 28 May 2017. The event had been arranged and organised by a local resident Mr John Emery and was intended to capture the current live music scene and celebrate the quality of live music in Ashington.

The Town Clerk advised that the financial risk was being carried by Mr Emery in an individual capacity. Members were informed that, while the Town Council was unable to financially support the individual, sponsorship if supported could be take the form of underwriting the cost of the PA system hire costs.

**Resolved:**

**That :**

- (i) A grant of £250 be awarded to Ashington Girl Guiding Division,**
- (ii) A grant of £500 be awarded to Ashington Folk Club; and that**
- (iii) Sponsorship of £500 be agreed for the 'Ashington Rocks' Event, specifically to cover the cost of a full day hire of a PA system for the event.**

## **FGP 17/684 6. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS.**

The Town Clerk submitted a full schedule of payments and income receipts, for the financial period 20 January to 23 February 2017.

**Resolved:**

**That the Schedule of Payments for the period 20 January to 23 February 2017 be formally agreed and approved.**

*The full schedule of payments is attached to the minutes as schedule 1.*

## **FGP 17/685 7. BUDGET REPORT 2016/17.**

The Town Clerk presented the current budget report for the period 1 April 2016 to 23 February 2017 for consideration and discussion. Members particularly noted and welcomed the fact that the planned work on the bin replacement programme had commenced and thanked the Town Clerk for sourcing a replacement external contractor at short notice.

The Town Clerk informed members that the final instalment of the agreed Neighbourhood Services Partnership contribution was now due and requested that members gave particular consideration as to how they wished the payment structure to operate in 2017/18.

Members noted the ££5,978 cost of the recent Town Council By-election in the Bothal Ward and noted that the Town Council had made adequate future provision.

**Resolved:**

**That the Budget Report be formally received and agreed.**

## **FGP 17/686 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr.L.Brown reported that, together with other Town Council members, he had attended the recent Annual General Meeting of the Wansbeck Valley Food Bank (WVFB). Cllr.Brown informed members of the current situation regarding the distribution of food in South East Northumberland and the increasing growth in demand and referrals, particularly in Ashington.

Cllr.Brown reported that he had made approaches to other Town and Parish Councils and requested that they consider making an annual

financial contribution to the WVFB in future years. Cllr.Brown reminded members that Ashington Town Council continued to be the largest financial supporter of the Food Bank and requested that the “new Town Council” once elected in May 2017, look very favourably at future funding support.

**FGP 17/687 9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING.**

The next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was arranged for Tuesday 28 March 2017, at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ashington.

**The Meeting ended at 6.55pm**