



Ashington Town Council
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ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Avril Chisholm (Chair)	
Victor Bridges	Louis Brown
Vicky Brown	Brian Gallacher
Marjorie Chambers	Nicola Chambers
Matthew Cuthbert	Glyn Davies
Lynne Grimshaw	Lawrence Henderson
Kris Lavery	Liam Lavery
Mark Purvis	Ely Turnbull
Pauline Thompson	Bob Walkinshaw

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

C17/677 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Stephen Fenwick.

C17/678 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest from Members present.

C17/679 3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- The unveiling of the re-sited Jackie Milburn Statue,
- A charity bowling event organised by Civic Head of Northumberland,

- Tree planting at Ashington Community Woods for the 150th Anniversary with Girl Guides, Brownies and Friends of the Community Woods,
- A formal photoshoot at Hirst Park to promote the submission of the funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund,
- A presentation evening at Ashington Sea Cadets; and
- A Northumberland Civic Head Charity Event at Linton.

The Chair informed members that she also had a very busy diary ahead with a number of events taking place in Ashington, including:

- 8 March – International Women’s Day Church Service at Morpeth St Mary’s Church,
- 17 March – Woodhorn Exhibition of Jeremy Deller’s portrayal of the Orgreave Miners Event, in the 1984 strike,
- 21 March – St Josephine Academy Junior Debate, to be held in the Council Chamber,
- 25 March – Wansbeck Music Festival opening event,
- 25 March – 150 Ashington Women’s Day Presentation; and
- 25 March – Wansbeck Music Festival Church Concert.

C17/680 4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 7 February 2017, were agreed and duly signed as a true record.

The Town Clerk stressed to members the importance of providing apologies for absence in advance as a number of recent attendance lists had been returned incomplete.

C17/681 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2017.

C17/682 6. LEADER’S REPORT

The Town Clerk reported on behalf of the Leader, that the Hirst Park Heritage Lottery Bid had now been completed and duly submitted. Members were informed that a decision on the bid from the Heritage Lottery Fund was expected in late June 2017.

7. MINING WHEEL PROJECT – ROTARY PARKWAY

The Town Clerk presented detailed designs from the appointed contractors, Brambledown Landscape Services Ltd, for the Mining Wheel Project as well as the Interpretation Panel that has been developed in association with local historian Mr Barry Mead.

The Town Clerk informed members that the Full Planning Application had been submitted with a decision expected in May 2017 and that any further requirements would come to light via the planning process including any Highways issues. The Town Clerk reminded members that Northumberland County Council were also seeking a formal lease agreement for the transfer of the land where it had been expected that an informal partnership agreement would be sufficient.

The Town Clerk and members expressed frustration that, while understandable, the requirement for formal approvals would inevitably lead to some delay in the project. It was now envisaged that work would commence in July 2017 subject to these requirements.

Members were reminded that the indicative overall cost for the project from the General Reserves was £25,000 to cover all related statutory fees and charges in addition to the contract sum.

Cllr Lynne Grimshaw informed the meeting that a total sum of £6,000 had been agreed towards the project from three Northumberland County Council (NCC) members, coming from the members own Local Improvement Schemes budget. The news was welcomed by the Chair on behalf of the Town Council.

The Town Clerk requested that, further to their approval of the project design, an article informing residents of the project be included in the next Town Council newsletter due out in April 2017.

Resolved:**That:**

- (i) The project design submitted by Brambledown Landscape Services Ltd for the Mining Wheel Project be agreed,**
- (ii) External Funding support of £6,000 in total from Northumberland County Council members Brian Gallacher, Lynne Grimshaw and Mark Purvis be welcomed and noted; and that**
- (iii) A news article outlining the project be included in the next Town Council newsletter to all residents.**

C17/684

8. PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF EXISTING WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTION AND EXTENSION OF RESIDENT PARKING ZONE IN HALDANE STREET, ASHINGTON

The Town Clerk informed members that NCC had indicated that feedback from the consultation carried out in the summer of 2015, had indicated a clear “polarization” of opinion for this scheme resulting in the original plan being split into separate schemes. Cllr.Wilson reported that subsequent information from residents had resulted in the scheme again being looked at in full incorporating the whole of Haldane Street.

Cllr.Wilson informed members that while signs would be erected indicating where residents parking permits were in operation, bays would not be provided or required for this type of restriction.

The Town Clerk informed members that he had been advised by the Highways Programme Officer that the scheme was likely to go to re-consultation based on the further revised proposals. The Town Clerk reported that a re-consultation was likely to happen in May 2017. Members agreed to await revised scheme details prior to any formal or final response.

C17/685

9. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL DECISION LETTER – RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME, NORTH VIEW, ASHINGTON

Members were reminded that in June 2016, residents and businesses of the affected area had been consulted on the above proposal. The Town Clerk advised members that Northumberland County Council (NCC), in the decision notice, had resolved that the scheme would not be implemented.

The Town Clerk reminded members that it was felt that the consultation came at a time when the main street was still undergoing significant regeneration and also NCC were currently undertaking a town centre parking study in Ashington in the light of planned infrastructure changes. Cllr.Wilson remained hopeful that the parking study would address the residents’ concerns and look to alleviate current traffic and parking problems.

C17/686

10. MEMBER REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS.

- (i) **Town Team** – Cllr.Marjorie Chambers reported on the success of the Great British Spring Clean initiative in Ashington – 3-5 March. Town Council staff had worked with the Town Team and in total 169 volunteers had taken part over the three days.

- (ii) **Station Road Steering Group** – Cllr. Gallacher reported that the highway work on Station Road was now complete and the feedback from residents had been very positive to date. Members were informed that the new dedicated street sweeping machine was due to be delivered at the end of March and that new larger capacity bins had been ordered for Station Road.

C17/687 11. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items for Any Other Urgent Business

C17/688 12. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Full Council was scheduled for Tuesday 9 May at 7.00pm, in the Council Chamber.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.