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# ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Annual Meeting held at 7:00pm on Tuesday 4 July 2017, at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.

## PRESENT:

### Councillors:

Victor Bridges	Marjorie Chambers
Nicola Chambers	Avril Chisholm
Matthew Cuthbert	Stephen Fenwick
Brian Gallacher	Lynne Grimshaw
Lawrence Henderson	Kris Lavery
Liam Lavery	Ken Parry
Mark Purvis (Chair)	Pauline Thompson
Ely Turnbull	Bob Walkinshaw
Tom Wilson	

## IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Slaughter – Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer  
Stephen Humphrey – Funding & Projects Officer  
Members of the Public – 1

Following the sad recent passing of former Wansbeck District Council Councillor Mabel Wallace the Chair asked those present to observe a one minute silence in her memory.

### C17/712 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Jim Lang.

### C17/713 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllrs. Kris Lavery and Liam Lavery made disclosures of personal and prejudicial interest with regard to the Closed Agenda Item.

### C17/714 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13 June 2017, were agreed and signed as a true record.

**C17/715 4. MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on the 13 June 2017.

**C17/716 5. LEADERS REPORT**

The Leader reported that the new administration at Northumberland County Council had commenced the reorganisation of the Council with the establishment of 5 new 'Area Councils' with the first meeting of the Ashington & Blyth area taking place in June. The Leader encouraged members to attend future meetings and raise all issues of concern.

The Leader expressed concern that building work on the North East Quarter Regeneration project had now ceased and clarification is urgently required from the new administration on the future development of this site.

The Leader reported that a review of new housing needs has been commenced by the new administration and again expressed concern that this may impact on Ashington which he believed required affordable, quality housing to support the local economy as well as increasing the local tax base.

The Leader also reported that work was on-going with plans to install speed monitoring cameras at a number of locations across the town.

The Leader reported that members were continuing to review the Neighbourhood Services Partnership agreement but that there had been some improvement in performance in recent weeks following the recent meetings with senior County Council staff.

**C17/717 6. CIVIC HEAD'S REPORT**

The Civic Head informed members that he has attended the following events:-

- The Northumberland Miners' Picnic, at Woodhorn Museum, on Saturday 10 June,
- The Armed Forces Day service, at the Ashington Memorial Garden, on Sunday 18 June,
- A community event organised by Heart of the Hirst Resident's Group, at Hirst Park, on Sunday 18 June.

**C17/718 7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

**C17/719 8. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Full Council was scheduled for 7:00pm, Tuesday 5 September 2017, in the Council Chamber, Ashington Town Hall.