

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Services Committee Meeting held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 30 October 2018, at Ashington Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Lynne Grimshaw (Chair) Eleanor Armstrong
Marjorie Chambers Nicola Chambers
Matthew Cuthbert Brian Gallacher
Lawrence Henderson Jim Lang
Liam Lavery Ken Parry
Pauline Thompson Tom Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

FGS 18/890 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillors, Victor Bridges, Avril Chisholm, Stephen Fenwick, Kris Lavery, Mark Purvis and Bob Walkinshaw.

FGS 18/891 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.

There were no disclosures of interest.

FGS 18/892 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25 September 2018, were agreed and signed as a true record.

FGS 18/893 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

FGS 18/884 9. REPAIR AND RENEWAL OF PLAY AREA EQUIPMENT.

The Projects and Funding Officer informed members that the new play equipment for the North Seaton Colliery and Bywell Road Play Areas was due to be delivered in mid-November 2018.

FGS18/886 11. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL DEMOCRACY WEEK 16-19 OCTOBER 2018.

Cllr Cuthbert reported that he had attended and represented the Town Council at the young person's 'Question Time Democracy Panel' event

held as part of Northumberland County Council's Democracy Week. Cllr Cuthbert informed members that it had been a very interesting debate in which the youngsters had taken an active part with a range of interesting and searching questions for panel members. Cllr Cuthbert highly recommended the experience to other council members.

Cllr Grimshaw thanked Cllr Cuthbert for attending on behalf of Ashington Town Council.

FGS 18/894 5. APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING SUPPORT.

An application for funding support was received from Ashington Pantomime Group to help support the purchase costs of costumes and backcloths for the annual pantomime performance. Members were informed that the group always aimed to keep ticket prices as low as possible in order to make the event affordable for all.

Resolved:

That: Ashington Pantomime Group be awarded a grant of £200.

FGS 18/895 6. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS.

The Town Clerk submitted a full schedule of payments and income receipts, for the financial period 21 September – 26 October 2018.

Resolved:

That the Schedule of Payments for the financial period 21 September to 26 October 2018 be formally agreed and approved.

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

FGS 18/896 7. BUDGET REPORT 2018-19

The Clerk presented a Budget Report for the financial period 1 April to 26 October 2018 and invited members to consider and discuss the report.

The Town Clerk highlighted a number of mid-year decisions taken by the Town Council and in particular reminded members that the Service Level Agreement for the Environmental Enforcement Post had been extended to March 2020, with the additional required sum of £19,570 having been agreed from the general financial reserves of the Council.

Members were also informed that the People's Park Play Area scheme would be undertaken in the 2019/20 financial year with the resultant carry forward of the Town Council provision earmarked for 2018/19.

Resolved:

That the Budget Report for the financial period 1 April to 26 October 2018 be formally agreed and approved.

FGS 18/897 8. NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES PARTNERSHIP.

Cllr Gallacher gave a detailed report and highlighted the following matters for members:

- Following on from the Town Wide Survey litter and fly tipping had become a priority as Chair of the Partnership he had attended various meetings and was now waiting to find out details of the new litter schedules for 2019,
- Core service details have been requested for litter picking and grass cutting,
- There was a need to clarify what staff were doing during bad weather periods and a request that town council members be contacted sooner rather than later regarding work that could be done in possible hot spots,
- A option of a “Rapid Response” team had been discussed to address fly tipping and identified areas needing attention,
- Discussions had commenced in relation to the form and content of any new partnership Agreement to be effective form April 2019.

Resolved:

That:

- (i) The Neighbourhood Services Partnership Board be delegated to continue discussions regarding the content and format of a new Partnership Agreement to be effective from 1 April 2019,**
- (ii) In keeping with the findings of the Town Wide Survey, the new Partnership Agreement focus primarily on improvement to street cleansing and litter collection services,**
- (iii) All recommendations regarding the form and content of a new Partnership Agreement be made to a future meeting of Finance & General Services Committee; and that**
- (iv) The Neighbourhood Services Partnership Board be delegated to look at the development of appropriates town entrance features**

FGS 18/898 9. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS.

There were no other items of urgent business.

FGS 18/899 10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

Tuesday 22 January 2019, at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 65 Station Road, Ashington NE63 8RX.

The Meeting ended at 7:30pm.