

# ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Finance & General Services Committee Meeting held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 26 March 2019, at Ashington Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.

## PRESENT:

**COUNCILLORS:** Lynne Grimshaw (Chair) Marjorie Chambers  
Nicola Chambers Avril Chisholm  
Matthew Cuthbert Brian Gallacher  
Jim Lang Lawrence Henderson  
Ken Parry Pauline Thompson

## IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Slaughter – Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
Stephen Humphrey – Funding & Project Officer  
Sharon Parmley – Senior Administration Officer (minutes)

## FGS 19/915 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Eleanor Armstrong, Victor Bridges, Stephen Fenwick, Kris Lavery, Liam Lavery, Mark Purvis, Bob Walkinshaw and Tom Wilson.

## FGS 19/916 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.

There were no disclosures of interest.

## FGS 19/917 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26 February 2019, were agreed and signed as a true record.

## FGS 19/918 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

**FGS 19/912 Peoples Park Play Area Project** – the Town Clerk informed members that work on the project had commenced on Monday 25 March 2019.

**FGS 19/912 New Bus Interchange** – Due to the short notice of the opening of the new road linking the A197 Parkway Roundabout to Woodhorn Road at Wetherspoons PH, several issues had arisen;

- Motorists are still unaware the route is open and continue to use Lintonville and the Grand Corner junction, thus no significant improvements to traffic congestion had been noted. As part of the update on the regeneration of the town centre, the town council will highlight the issue in the next newsletter with the aim

of encouraging motorists to use the new route whenever possible,

- The Town Clerk had contacted Advance Northumberland regarding the shortage of litter bins in this area and informed the issue is currently been addressed. However, should the need arise the town council can install ‘town council’ litter bins as a temporary measure.

## **FGS 19/919 5. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**

Applications for financial support were received from the following;

- **Ashington Girl Guiding Division**

The aim of the brownies and girl guides movement is to help children develop and make a positive contribution to their community and wider world.

The organisation requested £440 to support transport costs for an event at Alnwick Castle in May 2019. The event will give the children an opportunity to learn new skills, work together, have fun and meet young people from other parts of the country.

- **Ashington Community Craft Group**

Ashington Community Craft Group provides weekly craft activities using facilities at the Bothal Cottages Community Centre.

The group requested £129 to purchase a die cutting machine to support the activities.

- **Parkhead & Wansbeck Powersports**

The organisation provides fitness activities, for both able and disabled people, primarily at the Hirst Welfare Centre.

The group requested £500 to support the organisational costs of two events at the Hirst Welfare Centre. The first event is a Disability Sports Powerlifting Competition in May and the second event is a British Disability Junior Powerlifting Championship in October 2019.

### **Resolved:**

**That:**

- (i) Ashington Girl Guiding Division be awarded a grant of £440,**
- (ii) Ashington Community Craft Group be awarded a grant of £129,**
- (iii) Parkhead & Wansbeck Powersports be awarded a grant of £500.**

## **FGS 19/920 6. AUTOMATED NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION CAMERAS.**

The Town Clerk informed members of a request from Northumbria Police to purchase automated number plate recognition cameras (ANPR) for the town.

A feasibility study had been carried out for the cameras and three locations had been identified.

The cost of each camera is approximately £5,000 with an expected life-span of 5 years. Northumbria Police would cover all the maintenance and data costs throughout this 5 year period.

The request highlighted that Northumbria Police are regulated as to camera locations with the above locations justified in terms of crime and disorder. The application also highlighted that ANPR coverage in Ashington would make a significant contribution in tackling crime and safeguarding the public.

### **Resolved:**

**That decision to fund the ANPR Cameras be deferred and a representative from Northumbria Police be invited to give a presentation to the Finance & general Services Committee on the use and benefits of installing the Cameras in the Ashington area.**

## **FGS 19/921 7. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS.**

The Town Clerk submitted a full schedule of payments and income receipts, for the financial period 21 February 2019 – 19 March 2019.

### **Resolved:**

**That the Schedule of Payments for the financial period 21 February 2019 – 19 March 2019 be formally agreed and approved.**

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

## **FGS 19/922 8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS.**

There were no other items of urgent business.

## **FGS 19/923 9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING.**

Tuesday 30 April 2019, at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 65 Station Road, Ashington, NE63 8RX.

The Meeting ended at 7.50pm.