



Ashington Town Council
Town Hall, 65 Station Road
Ashington, Northumberland
NE63 8RU

7th May 2024

To All members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **FINANCE & GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING**, in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 65 STATION ROAD, NE63 8RU**, on **Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 6:00pm**.

The agenda for the meeting is set out below, along with associated papers. If you have any questions about any of the items on the agenda, please contact the office.

The meeting is open to the press and public. As per the agenda and our standing orders, any resident wishing to speak should contact us prior to the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Eden".

Sarah Eden
Executive Office/RFO

AGENDA

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

The Chair will open the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

Members are also reminded that they need to regularly review their declarations of interest forms and ensure they remain up to date.

4. DISPENSATIONS

To receive and consider any dispensations.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair to receive any items put forward by members of the public and to put questions to or draw relevant matters to the attention of the Council. This is for a period of 15 minutes overall and is limited to 3 minutes per person.

Please email/telephone the Clerk with questions on items on the agenda no later than 5.00pm on Monday 13th May 2024.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

To receive and sign as a true record, the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th April 2024 (enc)ⁱ

7. CLERK AND OFFICER UPDATES

To receive an update on items actioned since the previous meeting (to be tabled)ⁱⁱ

8. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE 2024/25

a) Updated Budget Report

To receive updated budget report, and direct any questions to the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) (enc)ⁱⁱⁱ

b) Accounts Paid and to be Paid (including Bank Reconciliation)

To receive a schedule of accounts paid and to be paid; to endorse those accounts paid, and agree those to be paid, since 29th March 2024 (enc)^{iv}

9. SMALL GRANT FUNDING – MAY 2024 (enc)^v

a) Ashington RVS

To receive an application from Ashington RVS, and agree to consider the application and any award (enc)^{vi}

b) Ashington Veterans and Elders Institute

To receive an application from Ashington Veterans and Elders Institute, and agree to consider the application and any award (enc)^{vii}

c) Ashington Sea Cadets

To receive an application from Ashington Sea Cadets, and agree to consider the application and any award (enc)^{viii}

d) Bedlington and District Red Squirrel Group

To receive an application from Bedlington and District Red Squirrel Group, and agree to consider the application and any award (enc)^{ix}

e) Cygnus, Wansbeck Community Links

To receive an application from Wansbeck Community Links, and agree to consider the application and any award (enc)^x

f) 5th Ashington Brownies

To receive an application from 5th Ashington Brownies, and agree to consider the application and any award (enc)^{xi}

10. NURSERY PARK ALLOTMENT SITE

a) Site Security and Parking

To receive short report of issues relating to site security and parking (enc)^{xii}

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b) Secure Vehicle and Pedestrian Entrance Gates

To receive quotations for the supply and installation of secure entrance gates at Nursery Park Allotment site, and agree to delegate to the Allotment Officer to progress any further action (*quotations included in report above*)

11. HIRST EAST END ALLOTMENT SITE

a) Former Hirst East End Allotment Association Outbuilding, and Plot Shed

To receive update on damaged outbuilding belonging to former Hirst East End Allotment Association, and shed on now vacant plot (enc)^{xiii}

b) Removal and Disposal

To receive quotations for demolition, removal, and disposal of outbuilding and shed (which includes asbestos), and agree action to be taken (*quotations included in report above*)

12. PLAY AREAS - Alexandra Road, People's Park, North Seaton Colliery, Paddock Wood

To receive 25-year 'Draft Heads of Terms' Lease from Northumberland County Council, and agree to approve that the Executive Officer signs on behalf of the Council, noting that the lease will be registered with Land Registry (enc)^{xiv}

13. ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS

To receive a proposal from Hirst Ward Cllrs for works to entrance of Ashington Association FC, off Woodhorn Lane, from their £9,000 Environmental Enhancement budget heading (£5k c/f from 23/24) for the following work (*noting that future maintenance is not included, and will be carried out by NCC*):

- Cut back existing vegetation on site.
- Address low lying utility hole entrances to utilities.
- Level area adjoining path to access road to Ashington Football club and aesthetically place existing boulders and grass seed area (this will enable NCC grass cutting machinery to access and maintain this area).
- Level 2m stretch on adjoining path from electric substation to junction of road to Wansbeck General Hospital, approximately 200m (this will enable NCC grass cutting machinery to access and maintain this area).
- Level of rest of site (consider wildflower planting for 2025).
- Trim and tidy several existing trees on the site.

To receive a quote, and agree to delegate to the Assets & Development Manager that an order be placed, and work scheduled in consultation with NCC, and Ashington AFC (to follow)^{xv}

14. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11th June 2024, 6:00pm, Council Chamber.

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ENCLOSURES

- i Draft Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee, 16th April 2024
- ii Clerk and Officer Update, May 2024 (*to be tabled*)
- iii Updated Budget Report 2024/25
- iv Schedule of Accounts paid/to be paid (April/May)
- v Summary of Small Grant applications
- vi Ashington RVS Small Grant Application (redacted)
- vii Ashington Veterans & Elders Small Grant Application (redacted)
- viii Ashington Sea Cadets Small Grant Application (redacted)
- ix Bedlington & District Red Squirrel Small Grant Application (redacted)
- x Cygnus, Wansbeck Community Links Small Grant Application (redacted)
- xi 5th Ashington Brownies Small Grant Application (redacted)
- xii Nursery Park site security and parking issues
- xiii Update on damage at Hirst East End Allotment site
- xiv Draft Lease for NCC Play Areas
- xv Quotation for works to Ashington AFC entrance off Woodhorn Lane (*to follow*)

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