



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

17th June 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 25th June 2024 at 6:20pm**.

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. ELECTION OF CHAIR

In accordance with Standing Orders, to receive nominations for Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of Ashington Town Council, and in the event of more than one Councillor being proposed and seconded, to take a vote and elect the Councillor with the majority.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

In accordance with Standing Orders, to receive nominations for Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of Ashington Town Council, and in the event of more than one Councillor being proposed and seconded, to take a vote and elect the Councillor with the majority.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. 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.

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

5. DISPENSATIONS

To receive and consider any dispensations.

6. 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 10th June 2024.

7. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

To receive and sign as a true record, the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 (enc)ⁱ

8. CLERK AND OFFICER UPDATES

To receive an update on items actioned since the previous meeting (enc)ⁱⁱ

9. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE 2024/25

a) Updated Budget Report

To receive updated budget report and address 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 6th May 2024 (enc)^{iv}

10. ANNUAL GRANTS 2024/25

To receive a summary of Annual Grant Aid applications received between 13th March – 10th May 2024, including feedback on presentations and videos from those members present, and agree any awards (enc)^v

11. EVENTS

To receive further event proposals for summer 2024 (enc)^{vi}

a) Family Fun Day in Partnership with NCC Get Onside

To agree to work in partnership with NCC Get Onside team to deliver a family fun day at Hirst Welfare Centre, on Saturday 3rd August, to include a walking football tournament, family attractions, and community groups.

To agree to allocate £2,000 from the Events, Community, and Engagement budget, and to delegate spending to the Communications and Engagement Officer.

b) Pride Picnic in the Park

To agree to work in partnership with Pride Action North to deliver a Pride Picnic in Hirst Park, on Saturday 7th September, with stalls and attractions that raise awareness, offer support, and promote inclusivity, to include refreshments.

To agree to allocate £3,000 from the Events, Community and Engagement budget, and delegate spending to the Communications and Engagement Officer.

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12. 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 (to follow)^{vii}

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*)

13. CCTV MEETING

a) Report of Meeting

To receive a report of the meeting held on 22nd May 2024 (enc)^{viii}

b) Members

To agree those members to be included in future quarterly monitoring and evaluation meetings with Asset Watch and Police.

14. CIVIC REGALIA

To receive quotations to add additional links to the Civic Head Regalia, and to complete engraving dating back to 2018, and to agree to place order for works (enc)^{ix}

15. 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)^x

16. ASHINGTON MEMORIAL GARDEN

To receive and consider draft sketch of an emerging proposal for a new access and footway to create public realm links between the newly developed Wansbeck Square and Ashington Memorial Garden area, with a view to seeking agreement from NECA to a change to the project (enc)^{xi}

17. DEFIBRILLATOR

a) Central Ward

To receive a request from County Cllr Caroline Ball to take ownership of, install and upkeep an additional defibrillator, to be located on the outside wall of The Baldy Butcher, Hawthorn Road, that she will fund via NCC Member's Local Improvement Scheme (MLIS), and store

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proprietor will be the guardian of. *Please note, maintenance costs are negligible, and this will become an asset of the Town Council.*

b) Ashington Hirst Running Club

To receive a request from the running club for a defibrillator in the vicinity of the woods, and/or business park for use during runs in woods, and training sessions in the business park. To agree to delegate to officers to seek appropriate guardian, and funding from County or Ward Cllrs. If feasible, to delegate that order is placed and work carried out.

18. PLANTERS ON ELEVENTH ROW

To receive a proposal from Bothal Ward Cllrs to replace the steel planters on Eleventh Row with Octagonal 'self-watering' Planters which will reduce the watering required by ATC NSO's during the warmer months due to having reservoir (enc)^{xii} (*please note this work will not be undertaken until the end of the season for planting*)

19. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9th July 2024, 6:00pm, Council Chamber.

ENCLOSURES

ⁱ Draft Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee, 14th May 2024

ⁱⁱ Clerk and Officer Update, June 2024

ⁱⁱⁱ Updated Budget Report 2024/25

^{iv} Schedule of Accounts paid/to be paid

^v Summary of Annual Grant Aid applications for 2024/25

^{vi} Events Proposals

^{vii} Update on damage at Hirst East End Allotment site

^{viii} CCTV Monitoring & Evaluation Meeting, 22nd May 2024

^{ix} Civic Regalia Quotations for required work

^x Quotation for works to Ashington AFC entrance off Woodhorn Lane (*to follow*)

^{xi} Draft sketch of emerging plans from memorial garden

^{xii} Amberol Self-watering Hexagonal Planter

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