

AGENDA 6, Enc i) ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL, DRAFT Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 30th July 2024, at Ashington Town Hall, Council Chamber, 65 Station Road, Ashington, NE63 8RX

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Cllrs. Mark Purvis (Chair), Eleanor Armstrong, Caroline Ball, Louis Brown, Marjorie Chambers, Matthew Cuthbert, Glyn Davis, Lynne Grimshaw, Gemma Hemsley, Jim Lang, Pauline Thompson, John Tully, Graeme Wright, Paul Wright.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Eden – Executive Officer/RFO, Stephen Humphrey – Assets & Development Manager, Sharon Parmley – Communications & Engagement Officer (minute taking)

FC24/040 WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

Welcome by Cllr Mark Purvis.

FC24/041 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Victor Bridges, Liam Lavery, Sophie Robinson, and Bob Walkinshaw.

FC24/042 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

FC24/043 DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

FC24/044 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public.

FC24/045 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was **AGREED to RECEIVE and SIGN** as a true record, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 25th June 2024.

FC24/046 REPORT FROM THE CIVIC HEAD OF ASHINGTON (CLLR CAROLINE BALL)

It was **AGREED to RECEIVE** a verbal report from the Civic Head of Ashington.

1st Hirst Scout Group – Thursday 18th July to present a small grant cheque for their summer camp trip.

Ashington Camera Club – Thursday 25th July to present a small grant cheque to support future activities at the club.

Ashington Hirst Running Club – Thursday 1st August to present an annual grant cheque.

Upcoming event, Hirst Welfare Family Fun Day and Walking Festival on Saturday 3rd August.

FC24/047 REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (CLLR JOHN TULLY)

It was **AGREED to RECEIVE** a verbal report from the Leader of the Town Council.

Cllr Tully said it was with regret that he had to inform the council of his resignation from the position of leader of the Council.

In the two years of holding the position he reflected with positivity that the council achieved some major milestones. Cllr Tully described key achievements and initiatives over the past year,

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identifying four main priorities: litter management, funding, climate change, and implementing CCTV for town safety and security. Additionally that the Council enhanced community engagement through local events and implemented prudent financial management during austerity, advising early preparation for future budget cuts. In governance, revising the partnership agreement, establishing a Climate Change Committee, progress on allotment management, and the start of developing a Council Strategy Statement.

The grant allocation process was reviewed, receiving both positive feedback and constructive criticism. Cllr Tully noted that allotment management remained "very challenging" and expressed anticipation of severe budget cuts in the coming year.

Cllr Tully expressed gratitude to council members, especially Executive Officer, Sarah Eden, and Cllr Louis Brown.

The Chair, Cllr Mark Purvis thanked Cllr Tully for his time and dedication.

FC24/048 YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

a) Report of Meeting held on 11th July 2024

It was **AGREED** to **RECEIVE** a report of the meeting held on 11th July 2024.

b) Revised Terms of Reference (TOR)

It was **AGREED** to **RECEIVE** the updated Terms of Reference of the Youth Advisory Committee.

Councillor Ball reported to the members that the meeting was highly productive. The discussions focused on positive initiatives for the future. Additionally, some immediate successes were identified, particularly regarding summer activities.

c) Youth Forum

It was **AGREED** to commence set-up of a Cllr-Led Youth Forum.

It was **FURTHER AGREED** to engage with the Northumberland VCS Young Peoples Network to seek interest from the young people they engage with.

Cllr. Tully emphasised that the engagement with young people should be led by councillors. Cllr Tully urged for maximum councillor attendance at these events, stressing the importance of listening attentively to the town's youth. He also highlighted the need for strong support for these initiatives.

d) Summer Tuesday Market Activities

It was **AGREED** to delegate spending of £2,000 to the Communication and Engagement Officer, to commission children's entertainers or activities at Tuesday market days throughout the summer holidays, from the Events and Engagements budget.

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e) Holiday Activities

It was AGREED to delegate spending of £6,000 to the Youth Advisory Committee, for spending on activities for young people during the October half-term, Christmas Holidays and February Half Term from the Youth Funding Budget.

FC24/049 TOWN TWINNING VISIT

It was AGREED to receive proposed plans for visit to Ashington and Newbiggin by Remscheid between Monday 21st October and Saturday 26th October.

It was FURTHER AGREED to set aside £400 from the Events and Engagement budget to support plans for the visit.

The Assets and Development Manager informed members that a meeting of the Town Twinning group was to take place to finalise the arrangements for the visit which included Ashington Male Voice Choir singing, a slide show from Newbiggin Town Council and a meal booked at Lolo Rosso in Morpeth.

FC24/50 POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE STRATEGIC REVIEW

It was AGREED to RECEIVE the review which sets out the consultation timetable and how representation and comments can be made.

It was AGREED to RECEIVE the link to the interactive map of existing and proposed polling districts and polling places.

It was AGREED to formally receive a copy of the Acting Returning Officer comments on the current and proposed arrangements (online version only).

Cllr Ball agreed that not all venues used for polling stations were suitable, which was indicated in the last election by the numbers who turned out to vote.

It was AGREED to delegate the Executive Officer to compose an email response to NCC with alternative venues that could be used around the town.

Cllrs were asked to send ideas to the Executive Officer as soon as possible.

FC24/51 DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 24th September 2024, 6:00pm at the Town Hall

The meeting ended at 6:30pm.