



Ashington Town Council
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ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7:00pm on Monday 13 June 2017, at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mark Purvis (Chair)	Victor Bridges
Marjorie Chambers	Nicola Chambers
Avril Chisholm	Matthew Cuthbert
Brian Gallacher	Lynne Grimshaw
Lawrence Henderson	Jim Lang
Kris Lavery	Ken Parry
Pauline Thompson	Tom Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Slaughter – Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Stephen Humphrey – Funding & Project Officer
Sharon Parmley – Senior Administrative Officer
Members of the Public – 0

C17/703 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Stephen Fenwick, Liam Lavery, Ely Turnbull and Bob Walkinshaw

C17/704 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest from Members present.

C17/705 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

The minutes from the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 22 May 2017, were agreed and duly signed as a true record.

C17/706 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES

C17/689 13. Northumberland Miners' Picnic – Members agreed that, despite the inclement weather, the Miner's Picnic had been a successful day with a good turnout. The Town Clerk

reported that the performance by the group Lindisfarne, sponsored by the Town Council, had proven particularly popular and had also attracted local media coverage. The Leader reported that the future ongoing funding support of the Miners' Picnic by Northumberland County Council was not certain at this time and requested that the Town Council as part of the 2018/19 budget process give due consideration to its own level of financial and administrative support in the core budget.

Members unanimously agreed that the Miners' Picnic was a key annual event in Ashington's calendar and it was important that the event was safeguarded in future years. The Town Clerk reported that he was to be invited to a Working Group review of the 2017 Miners' Picnic Event at which time he hoped to get a better understanding of the overall event organisation, costs and funding support on behalf of the Town Council.

C17/694 5. – CIVIC REGALIA – The Town Clerk personally thanked Cllr.Avril Chisholm for greatly assisting with the early procurement of the specialist work to amend the Civic Regalia further to the recent introduction of the position of Civic Head of Ashington. The Town Clerk reported that the former Mayoral and Deputy Mayor Pendants had now been professionally amended to Civic Head and Deputy Civic Head and were now available for use at Civic events.

Cllr.Grimshaw requested that a formal handover be arranged at a future meeting to recognise the appointment of Cllr.V.Bridges as the Civic Head of Ashington for the year 2017/18.

The Town Clerk proposed that the handover be held prior to the next meeting of the Full Council scheduled for Tuesday 4 July 2017.

C17/707 5. LEADERS REPORT

Cllr Kris Lavery, Deputy Leader of the Council, gave a verbal report on behalf of the Leader;

- **Neighbourhood Services Partnership** – Members were informed that a meeting had been held on 8 June 2017, with Senior staff of Northumberland County Council to directly address and raise issues and concerns regarding performance and unsatisfactory standards in the neighbourhood services work. Members were informed that a number of issues had been raised on behalf of the Town Council including overflowing litter bins, lack of Town Centre street cleansing cover over the weekends, the lack

of effective weed spraying and killing and the delays in the programme of grass cutting.

Members were informed that the NCC Management had accepted the criticisms and given an undertaking to both address the reasons for under performance and seek to achieve the standards and outcomes expected and outlined in the agreement.

C17/708 6. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Town Clerk referred members to the full 2016/17 report of the Internal Auditor previously circulated.

Members welcomed the detail and coverage of the report, carried out in accordance with the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission and noted the Internal Auditor was satisfied that a robust system of financial and administrative management continued to operate effectively and efficiently and provided a sound audit trail.

Members noted that the Internal Auditor had also completed the 2016/17 audit of the annual accounts and associated notes prepared by the Town Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer. Members formally noted the opinion of the Internal Auditor that further to examination of the evidence and working documents, in his view the summary accounts and notes were free from material misstatement.

Resolved:

That:

- (i) The Internal Audit Report for the Financial Year 2016/17 be formally accepted and approved; and that**
- (ii) The services of Mr Peter Basnett as the Town Council's Internal Auditor be retained for the financial year 2017/18.**

C17/709 7. ANNUAL RETURN & FINAL ACCOUNTS 2016/17

The Town Clerk presented the detailed Final Accounts and Annual Governance Statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2017.

Resolved:

That:

- (i) The Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17 (Section 1 of the Annual Return) be formally approved,
- (ii) The Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 (Section 2 of the Annual Return) be formally Approved; and that
- (iii) The use of the Town Council's General Reserve Balance as at 31 March 2017, be agreed as:

	£
Main Election Costs	12,000
Provision for Christmas Features	10,000
IT Replacement Programme	20,000
Play Area Refurbishment	30,000
Town Hall – Service Charge	22,000
Replacement Bus Shelters	20,000
Litter Bins – Replacement	2,860
Ashington 150 th Celebrations	17,700
Mining Wheel Project	20,000
General Reserve Provision	190,228

C17/710 8. PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF EXISTING WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTION AND EXTENSION OF RESIDENT PARKING ZONE IN HALDANE STREET, ASHINGTON.

Members noted that, further to the feedback from the residents consultation in February/March 2017, the proposed amendment was now a re-consultation on the original submitted plans.

The Chair reminded members that the Town Council had previously agreed not to formally comment on any Town Centre proposed highways or parking amendments until the full results and proposals from the Ashington Town Centre Parking Survey undertaken by Northumberland County Council (NCC) had been considered and agreed.

Members noted and recognised that the decision in relation to the Haldane Street proposal under consideration would be based on responses received from residents responding to the consultation.

C17/711 9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

7:00pm, Tuesday 4 July 2017 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall,
65 Station Road, Ashington NE63 8RX.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.