

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Services Committee Meeting held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 26 June 2018, at Ashington Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Lynne Grimshaw (Chair) Marjorie Chambers
Avril Chisholm Matthew Cuthbert
Brian Gallacher Lawrence Henderson
Liam Lavery Ken Parry
Pauline Thompson Tom Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Slaughter – Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Stephen Humphrey – Projects & Funding Officer
Sharon Parmley – Senior Administration Officer (minutes)
Members of the Public - 1

FGS 18/849 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors, Eleanor Armstrong, Victor Bridges, Nicola Chambers, Stephen Fenwick, Jim Lang, Kris Lavery, Mark Purvis and Bob Walkinshaw.

FGS 18/850 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

FGS 18/851 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29 May 2018, were agreed and signed as a true record.

FGS 18/852 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- **FGS 18/829 PLANNING APPLICATION 18/00779/FUL – LAND SOUTH WEST OF PORTLAND TERRACE**

The Town Clerk informed members that Ascent Homes had indicated that they would be proceeding with the planning application and it was likely that a decision by the Planning Authority, Northumberland County Council (NCC) would be required in September 2018.

The Chair informed members that information and a formal response from NCC Highways to the application was awaited before the Town Council could respond in full.

- **FGS 18/838 7. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING SUPPORT**

The Town Clerk presented thank you letters from Ashington Rugby Cricket Club and Ashington Community Football Club in recognition and appreciation of the continued Town Council funding support and sponsorship for 2018/19.

- **FGS 18/841 10. ASHINGTON MARKET – OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

The Town Clerk informed members that a letter had been received from NCC Head of Neighbourhood Services informing the Town Council that, following the recent consultation, the decision had been made to introduce a temporary closure of Station Road for 90 minutes (3:00pm – 4:30pm) on Tuesday market day afternoon to allow the load out of the market.

Members were reminded that the Town Council had formally objected to the proposals in the strongest manner and had expressed further concern about the management of the market.

Members expressed dissatisfaction with the decision of NCC and undertook to monitor the situation which was expected to be introduced in August 2018, further to the introduction of a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order.

- **FGS 18/843 12. ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT – COVERT CAMERAS**

The Town Clerk confirmed that the covert cameras had been formally ordered via NCC and were due for early delivery. The Chair reminded members that the cameras were to be funded by Cllr.T.Wilson from the NCC Members Local Improvement Scheme budget.

- **FGS 18/844 13. ALLOTMENTS**

The Funding and Projects Officer informed members that the capital works for the upgrading of the water supply to Wansbeck Road and High Market Allotment Sites was due to commence Monday 16 July.

The Town Clerk reminded members that the Allotment Associations had been informed that, on completion of the work, they would become responsible for the direct settlement of all future water charges.

FGS 18/853 5. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING SUPPORT

Groundwork North East

Ms Lesley Silvera, Project Officer for Groundwork North East had requested the sum of £500 to support costs of two information boards in Ashington Community Woodland. The panels were part of a project to mark the Centenary of World War I and as part of the Miners' Memorial Meadows Project within the woodland, close to the former site of Ashington Colliery.

Resolved:

That a donation of £500 be made to Groundwork North East.

FGS 18/854 6. ANNUAL FUNDING SUPPORT 2018/19.

- **Northumberland Federation of YMCA's**
Members agreed to defer a decision, pending further information from the organisation.
- **Citizen's Advice Northumberland**
Members agreed to fund a part time admin post as well as supporting the purchase of related IT equipment. The total cost of funding was £9,630.
- **Northumberland CVA**
Members agreed to defer a decision until further requested information was provided. Cllr Chisholm agreed to arrange a visit to obtain required details.
- **Wansbeck Valley Foodbank**
Cllr Cuthbert had attended the recent opening of new premises in Morpeth. The building had been obtained at a reduced rent rate and was larger than the previous premises.

Resolved:

That;

- (i) Any funding decision be deferred until further information was received from Northumberland Federation of YMCA's,**
- (ii) The sum of £9,630 be granted to Citizen's Advice Northumberland to fund a part-time admin post in preparation for the introduction of the Universal Credit benefit system,**

(iii) Any funding decision be deferred until further information was received from Northumberland CVA

(iv) Any funding decision be deferred until further information was received from Wansbeck Valley Foodbank.

FGS 18/855 7. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Town Clerk submitted a full schedule of payments and income receipts, for the financial period 23 May – 21 June 2018.

Resolved:

That the Schedule of Payments for the financial period 23 May – 21 June 2018 be formally agreed and approved.

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

FGS 18/856 8. PROPOSED NEW ASHINGTON ENTRANCE FEATURES ON THE B1334 AND A196

The Town Clerk introduced Michele MacCallum and Sophia Andreski from Groundwork North East & Cumbria. Members received a full presentation on the design concepts and indicative costs for proposed entrance features requested by the Town Council Working Group.

Resolved:

That:

(i) The design concepts for the features be not agreed; and that

(ii) The Committee consider alternative cost effective options for entrance features in keeping with other local signage.

FGS 18/857 9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON THE A197 / LINTONVILLE TERRACE (ASDA) ROUNDABOUT

Members briefly discussed a proposal for the redesign of the environmental outlook of the A197 roundabout, including the development of better quality planting and a small central rockery feature. Members were in agreement that it would be better at this

time to await the completion of the highway work and initial regeneration work in the Portland Park area before committing to any individual projects.

FGS 18/858 10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

FGS 18/859 11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

Tuesday 31 July 2018, at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 65 Station Road, Ashington NE63 8RX.

The Meeting ended at 7.45pm.