

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7:00pm on Tuesday, 3 March 2015, at the Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Maggie Lang (Chair)	Louis Brown
Vicky Brown	Keith Chambers
Marjorie Chambers	Avril Chisholm
Glyn Davies	Stephen Fenwick
Lawrence Henderson	Kris Lavery
Liam Lavery	Mark Purvis
Wyn Stewart	Pauline Thompson
Ely Turnbull	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Slaughter – Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Stephen Humphrey – Funding & Projects Officer
Sue Coulthard – Snr. Admin Officer
Members of the Public – 1

OPEN SESSION

There were no issues raised by members of the public.

C15/532 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Les Alderson, Victor Bridges and Bob Walkinshaw.

C15/533 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Disclosures of personal and prejudicial interest were received from Cllrs. Kris Lavery, Liam Lavery, Louis Brown and Vicky Brown regarding a “Closed Session” item.

C15/534 3. CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair stated she had been invited to an event at the Ashington Community Development Trust which had been arranged to celebrate the Chinese New Year on 19 February 2015. The event had been well attended and enjoyed by local residents.

C15/535 4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

The minutes from the meeting held on 27 January 2015 were agreed as a true record.

C15/536 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

C14/515 Wansbeck Valley Food Bank – Annual General Meeting:

Cllr. Chisholm reported that the meeting had been very interesting and informative, raising awareness of the work of the Food Bank in Ashington. Cllr. M Chambers stated that figures indicated that Ashington and Morpeth had the highest number of residents regularly using the Food Bank facilities with 47% of those using the Food Bank being Ashington residents.

C14/529 Update Reports from Committee Chairs: Cllr.K.Chambers reported that the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Partnership Board was arranged for 10 March 2015 and a progress report would be made to the meeting of the Environment & Amenities Committee that evening.

C14/529 Update Reports from Committee Chairs: Cllr.M.Purvis reported that following the withdrawal of the former A2 bus service, the Planning & Regeneration Committee had agreed that a community transport pilot scheme would operate for three months from April 2015. Members were informed that a mid-term review of the scheme would be carried out to assess the usage and success of the scheme.

C15/537 6. LEADER'S REPORT

Former A2 Bus Service - Community Transport Pilot Scheme :

The Leader reported that Councillors were invited to attend a public meeting at North Seaton Community Centre on 10 March 2015 regarding the proposals to operate a pilot scheme on the former A2 bus route.

C15/538 7. UPDATES REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Verbal reports were received from Committee Chairs for information only:-

Finance & General Purposes Committee (Cllr. S Fenwick): The Chair reported that at the meeting held on 24 February 2015, three applications for financial support had been considered and approved.

Environment & Amenities Committee (Cllr. K Chambers): The Chair reported that he had asked for further clarification regarding the 2014/15 projected £25k saving from the Town Council contribution. Members were informed that the issue would be fully discussed at the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Partnership Board.

C15/539 8. RISK MANAGEMENT AND EFFECTIVE CONTROLS

The Town Clerk presented the Register of Risk Management and Effective Controls for consideration and approval. Members were informed that there were no new plans for further transfer of assets and/or services in the coming year.

The Town Clerk added that the fidelity guarantee and insurance cover had been increased to reflect the increased operating budget for the coming financial year.

Resolved:

That the Register of Risk Management and Effective Controls be formally accepted and approved as presented.

C15/540 9. NORTH SEATON ROUNDABOUT

Cllr. Davies reminded members that it had been suggested some time ago that there should be an entrance feature to the town at the North Seaton Roundabout (A189). Members were asked to consider this matter. A number of members felt that of the four entrances into the town, North Seaton Roundabout and Stakeford Bank were in need of an appropriate entrance feature.

It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Environment and Amenities Committee for full discussion and consideration of available options, locations, and full costing. The Chair reminded members that Northumberland County Council would need to be a fully partner in any such project and fully consulted regarding appropriate locations and highways implications.

C15/541 10. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- (i) **Potland Burn Liaison Group:** Cllr. L Brown reported that funding was still available from this group and added that several Ashington organisations had benefitted to date. Members were informed that a final decision had not yet been made about how future monies resulting from the Section 106 Agreement would be allocated between the beneficiary areas.

C15/542 11. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other urgent business.

C15/543 12. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Full Council was scheduled for Tuesday, 5th May 2015, at 7:00pm, in the Council Chamber. The Town Clerk reminded members that this would be the Annual Meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm