

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held at 6:00pm on Tuesday, 30 June 2015, at Ashington Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Victor Bridges	Louis Brown
Vicky Brown	Marjorie Chambers
Avril Chisholm	Glyn Davies
Stephen Fenwick	Mark Purvis
Pauline Thompson	Ely Turnbull

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Slaughter – Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Stephen Humphrey – Funding & Projects Officer
Sue Coulthard – Snr. Admin. Officer

FGP 15/538 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Nominations were formally invited for the position of Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Resolved:

That Cllr. Vicky Brown be duly elected as Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

FGP 15/539 2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Nominations were formally invited for the position of Vice-Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Resolved:

That Cllr. Kris Lavery be duly elected as Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

FGP 15/540 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors L Alderson, K Chambers, L Henderson, M Lang, K Lavery, L Lavery, W Stewart and R Walkinshaw.

FGP 15/541 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests. Members were reminded that any disclosures could also be made during the meeting should matters arise during discussion or debate.

FGP 15/542 5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2015, were agreed and signed as a true record.

FGP 15/541 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

FGP 15/510 Budget Report 2014/15 (Re Ashington Neighbourhood Partnership Agreement): In response to a Member's request for an update on the Ashington Neighbourhood Partnership Agreement, the Leader of the Council reported that a meeting with Northumberland County Council (NCC) Officers had been held the previous week. At that meeting, the Town Council representatives had expressed their concern about the way in which services were being delivered in Ashington. The Leader reported that NCC had requested several weeks in order to try and "bring their house in order" and report back to the Neighbourhood Partnership Board.

The Town Clerk stated that, following an earlier meeting of the Town Council, it had been suggested that NCC be requested to attend a meeting with Full Council to discuss the problems experienced with the Partnership Agreement. A meeting had been provisionally arranged for 6th July, but had been subsequently cancelled.

The Town Clerk added that the meeting held on 26 June 2015 had been particularly confrontational, with Town Council representatives expressing their fundamental belief that the Partnership was not working as it should.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the operation of the Neighbourhood Services Partnership. It was agreed that the NCC Officers be requested to attend a meeting with the Full Council at the

earliest possible opportunity to discuss the concerns expressed by Ashington Town Councillors.

FGP15/533 Town Twinning: The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Twinning Charter between Remscheid, Ashington and Newbiggin by the Sea had now been finalised and that the charter would be officially. Three documents would be taken to Remscheid and signed during the Civic Visit arranged for August 2015.

FGP15/534 Ashington Memorial Garden: The Town Clerk informed members that work had now started on the Memorial Garden project and that it would be completed by Mid-October 2015 in readiness for Remembrance Sunday (8th November).

FGP 15/542 7. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Applications for financial support were considered by the Committee from the following organisations:-

- Headway – Central Northumberland
- Ashington Camera Club.

The Town Clerk suggested that members give consideration to retaining Ashington Camera Club on an annual fee in return for the Club providing photography services.

Resolved:

That:

- (i) A grant of £600 be made to Headway – Central Northumberland**
- (ii) A grant of £1000 be made to Ashington Camera Club.**
- (iii) An annual retainer fee of £300 be made to Ashington Camera Club for photography services to the Council as and when required.**

FGP15/543 8. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Town Clerk submitted a full schedule of payments, made in accordance with Council and Committee resolutions, for the period 24th April – 25th June 2015.

Resolved:	
That the full schedule of payments for the period 24th April to 25th June, be agreed as set out below:-	£
Northumberland County Council (Festive Lighting Repairs)	244.19
Viking Payments (Printing & Stationery)	308.84
Viking Payments (Printing & Stationery)	248.76
Hepscott Water Systems (Bottle Water Supplies)	16.80
Woodhorn Enterprises Ltd (Archived Digital Images & Royalty Fees - Remscheid Twinning)	379.25
Flowers by Dawn (Floral Wreath - Workers Memorial Event - St.John's Church)	30.00
Altodigital Networks Ltd (Photocopying Charges)	489.62
Citroen Contract Monitoring (Lease Charge - Town Council Vehicle)	305.92
Cookswell Garage Ltd (Vehicle Maintenance)	225.90
Hugh Massey Architects (Memorial Garden Project)	3,410.16
Bad Apples North East CIC (Fayre Day 2015/16 Entertainment)	1,870.00
Phillips Design Ltd (Fayre Day Banners)	679.20
CNC Property Fund Management Ltd (Lease Rental - Hirst East End Allotment Site)	550.00
The Welbeck Estates Company Ltd (Lease - Green Lane Allotment Site)	87.00
Northumberland County Council (Room Booking Fees - Town Hall)	45.00
Northumberland County Council (Room Booking Fees - Town Hall)	105.00
Northumberland County Council (Pay Costs - May 2015)	10,235.82
W.L.Straughan & Son Ltd (Fencing Works to High Market Allotment Site)	2,520.00
S.M.Coulthard (Postages)	96.24
Northumberland Association of Local Councils (2015/16 Subscription)	2,843.49
Northumbrian Water (Allotments - Sixth Avenue)	285.80
Northumbrian Water (Allotments - Nursery Park)	134.95
Northumbrian Water (High Market/Wansbeck Road)	1,983.42
Northumbrian Water (Woodhorn Road Allotments Site)	807.85
Azure Charitable Enterprises (Town Council Newsletter)	420.40
P.B.Basnett (Internal Audit Services & 2014/15 Year End Work)	233.00
W.L.Straughan & Son Ltd (Hedge Cutting Works to High Market Allotment Site)	528.00
Wansbeck Road Allotment Association (Hire of Skip - Clearance of Garden Waste)	200.00
CNC Property Fund Management Ltd (Lease Rental 1st Qtr - Sixth Avenue Allotment Site)	600.00
National Association of Councillors (Membership Fees 2015/16)	78.00
Woodhorn Enterprises Ltd (Contribution to 2015 Northumberland Miner's Picnic)	1,500.00
M.Slaughter (Exps. - Office Email line rentals/War Memorial Prints/Event Tickets/Postages)	289.24
Martin Stephenson (Performance Fee - Ashington Music Event)	600.00
Northumberland County Council (Room Booking Fees - Town Hall)	75.00
Northumberland County Council (Room Booking Fees - Town Hall)	60.00
Azure Charitable Enterprises (Town Twinning Charter - Artwork & Design)	78.38
Azure Charitable Enterprises (Town Twinning Charter - Artwork & Reproduction)	44.86
Viking Payments (Printing & Stationery)	190.12

Viking Payments (Printing & Stationery)	205.13
Citroen Contract Monitoring (Lease Charge - Town Council Vehicle)	305.92
Marmax Products Ltd (Memorial Seat & Plaque)	486.00
Northumberland County Council (Pay Costs - June 2015)	10,235.82
Northumberland Fed. of YMCA's (PA/Tech Hire - Music Event 11 June 2015 - M.Stephenson)	150.00
Northumberland County Council (Youth Service - Remscheid Visit - August 2015)	450.00
Trade UK Account (Screwfix -NSO Materials)	91.65
Trade UK Account (B & Q -NSO Materials)	499.88
M.Allan (Fayre Day - Music Booking "We Steal Flyers")	275.00
A.Lee (Fayre Day - Music Booking "KSVT")	275.00
P.Leithard (Fayre Day - Music Booking "LoGOz")	275.00
N.Stawart (Fayre Day - Music Booking "The Hookahs")	275.00
G.Chambers (Fayre Day - Music Booking "The Cadillacs)	275.00
J.Vare (Fayre Day - Music Booking "Growing Robots")	100.00
D.Turner (Fayre Day - Music Booking "Growing Robots")	100.00
A.Savage (Fayre Day - Music Booking "Growing Robots")	100.00
G.Wright (Fayre Day - PA/Sound Technicians)	350.00
T.Eastlake (Fayre Day - Hire of Main Stage/Awning & Steel Decking/Generator)	980.00
Northumberland County Council (Fuel Costs - ATC Van)	67.06
M.Slaughter (Expenses - Music Event Accom./ Remscheid Visit - Air Fares - to be recharged)	2,220.53
Northumberland Federation of YMCA's (Fayre Day - Room Hire & use of building)	160.00
Ashington Town Team (Annual Contribution/Grant)	10,000.00
Ticket Monies (Music Event - Martin Stephenson 11 June 2015)	-485.00
	60,192.20
<u>INCOME RECEIPTS</u>	
Northumberland County Council (1st Half 2015/16 Precept)	-325,045.00
Seaton Hirst Allotment Association (Management Fees 14/15)	-472.50
Royal British Legion Veterans Fund (War Memorial Funding - R.W.Mann)	-500.00
Royal British Legion Veterans Fund (War Memorial Funding - Sir James Knott Trust)	-4,500.00
Royal British Legion Veterans Fund (War Memorial Funding - Catherine Cookson)	-500.00
	-331,017.50

FGP 15/544 9. BUDGET REPORT 2015/2016

The Town Clerk presented details of the Quarterly Report from 1st April to 30th June 2015, circulated copies to those present and requested members to study this information at their leisure.

FGP 15/545 10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

(i) **Ashington Fayre Day:** The Town Clerk informed members that the Fayre Day had been held on Sunday, 28 June 2015. Members were informed that while the event had been subject to the usual stringent risk management assessments, three incidents had occurred on the day and were recorded as follows:-

- One individual had needed treatment from the St John Ambulance first aiders,
- Two children had been lost, but were found within 10 minutes by the Police,
- One market trader had suffered damage to stock and been forced to leave early after her market stall had been lifted and moved by a severe gust of wind.

The Town Clerk stated that, although the Town Council was insured against any accidents or damage suffered during the event, should the market trader submit a claim for damage to stock and/or loss of earnings as a result of the incident, it was possible that this would affect future insurance premiums. The Town Clerk requested that the Town Council consider making a one-off compensation payment to the trader concerned. It was agreed that a payment of £250 be made to the market trader (Holistic Harmony).

(ii) **Street Naming Consultation (Former Hospital Site):** The Town Clerk informed members that he had received consultation correspondence from NCC regarding the street naming of the "Cheviot" development proposed on the former Ashington Hospital site. The streets were to be named Breamish Court (1-15); Featherwood Drive (1-35) and Hatchmeadow (1-40). The Town Clerk was asked to respond to the consultation and indicate that Ashington Town Council had considered the matter and had no comments to make.

(iii) **NCC Strategic Planning (Potland Burn Surface Mine):** The Town Clerk reported that he had received notification that a new planning application was being prepared regarding the Potland Burn Surface Mine. Members were informed that the Town Council had been invited to send two representatives on a site visit at 2.30pm on Monday, 6 July 2015. Cllrs. V Brown and A Chisholm agreed to attend the site visit and report back as appropriate.

FGP 15/546 11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee would be held on Tuesday, 28 July 2015 at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ashington, NE63 8RX.

The meeting ended at 7.45pm.