

# ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held at 6:00pm on Tuesday, 29 March 2016, at Ashington Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.

## PRESENT:

Councillors:	Vicky Brown (Chair)	Louis Brown
	Marjorie Chambers	Avril Chisholm
	Glyn Davies	Stephen Fenwick
	Lawrence Henderson	Kris Lavery
	Pauline Thompson	Ely Turnbull
	Bob Walkinshaw	

## IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Slaughter – Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
Stephen Humphrey – Funding & Projects Officer  
Members of the Public - 1

## FGP 16/587 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Les Alderson, Victor Bridges, Keith Chambers, Maggie Lang, Liam Lavery, Mark Purvis and Wyn Stewart.

## FGP 16/588 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllrs L.Brown, V.Brown and K.Lavery disclosed personal and prejudicial interests should any discussion take place regarding Ashington Juniors Football Club. Members were reminded that any disclosures could also be made during the meeting should matters arise during discussion or debate.

## FGP 16/589 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2016, were agreed and signed as a true record.

## FGP 16/590 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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*ATC – Finance & General Purposes Committee – Minutes 29 March 2016*

**FGP 16/591 5. APPLICATION FOR SERVICE FUNDING 2016/17**  
**- REAL DEAL PLUS**

Mrs Kath Falcus and Mrs Kathy Urwin attended the meeting and outlined the current and planned work programme of the organisation for 2016/17.

Members were informed that the organisation commenced in 2011 and that Real Deal Plus is a registered charity, based at the Ashington Life Centre (Old Police Station) on Station Road. Members were informed that in developing the organisation support had been received from Green Pastures with a focus on homeless people as well as drug and alcohol rehabilitation. It was reported that work has now expanded to include activities for young people and the unemployed, a Community Café and Shop as well as art and craft therapy activities. The building is also used by the Ashington Family Church as well as a number of community based and service organisations such as the Wansbeck Disability Forum and Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service. The organisation works in partnership with a number of other organisations including the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank, Northumberland YMCA & Northumberland Youth Service.

Mrs Falcus provided information on the recently commenced Furniture Scheme which provides low cost furniture, for those in need, from an industrial unit in the town provided by Arch. Mrs Falcus reported that in April 2016, the organisation will also commence a laundry & shower facility and day time quiet area for homeless people and 'sofa surfers' in the town. Mrs Falcus highlighted the Growing for Gold allotment project which uses an allotment garden, on the High Market Allotment Site, to produce healthy and nutritious food for the Community Café. Volunteers at the Café have all completed a food hygiene course which has also improved their employment prospects.

Mrs Falcus informed members that the building is regularly used by over 500 people from Ashington on a monthly basis and users are often signposted to other local support organisations. Mrs Falcus confirmed that her managerial position is the only salaried post with the organisation relying largely volunteers to function on a day-to-day basis. Members were advised that the core running costs of the organisation are approximately £24k per annum. Mrs Urwin reported that, while the organisation is always looking at funding options and opportunities, it is always challenging and becoming increasingly difficult to meet running costs from donations and monies raised from activities, particularly as demand on services is significantly increasing.

Mrs Falcus took the opportunity to thank the Town Council for its previous financial support in 2015 to purchase a cooker and for

assisting the Growing for Gold allotment project. A number of Committee Members who had visited the building over recent months were complimentary of the work undertaken by the organisation. Further to a question and answer session Mrs Falcus and Mrs Urwin left the meeting.

The Town Clerk informed members that the organisation were requesting that the Town Council consider funding the organisation by way of a general annual subsidy to the overall work and not for a specific project.

**Resolved:**

**That:**

- (i) That a contribution of £6,000 be made in 2016/17 towards the overall work of Real Deal Plus,**
- (ii) The organisation be asked to consider extending a formal invitation to a Council member to become an “observer” and attendee at their future Board meetings; and that**
- (iii) Consideration of any future funding applications would be conditional on a formal report and presentation to the Town Council.**

**FGP16/592 6. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Applications for financial support were received from the following organisations:

- Parkhead & Wansbeck Powersports
- Butokokan Judo Club
- Ashington Junior Football Club – Remscheid Football Tournament – May 2016

Mr & Mrs Bell attended the meeting on behalf of Ashington Junior Football Club (Under 14 team) and outlined a request for financial support for the team to take part in the Remscheid Junior Football Tournament, in Germany, during May 2016.

The Town Clerk informed members that following the signing of the new town twinning partnership agreement with the City of Remscheid, in August 2015, an invitation had been received for representative junior football teams from Ashington to take part in the tournament.

The Funding and Project Officer reported that eleven teams would be taking part in the tournament including teams from France, India, Poland and Slovakia.

Mr Bell informed members that travel and accommodation costs for the team, coaches and families, approximately forty people in total, would be in the region of £8,400 with parents of the children looking to self-fund their own costs. Mr Bell informed members that fundraising for the trip is on-going and to date £1,000 had been raised with a number of events still to take place.

Mr Bell respectfully requested that the Town Council consider supporting some of the costs as the tournament would provide an opportunity for the team to meet similar young people from other countries as well as supporting existing and longstanding town twinning sporting links.

Mr and Mrs Bell left the meeting. The Town Clerk requested that any financial support for the Remscheid Visit be considered initially as a “one-off” Town Twinning application rather than a request for organisational funding from the and not as a request for a small grant and donations budget.

The applications from the Parkhead & Wansbeck Powersports and Butokokan Judo Club were presented in detail by the Funding & Projects Officer for the consideration of the Committee members.

**Resolved:**

**That the following grant awards be made:**

<b>(i) Parkhead &amp; Wansbeck Powersports</b>	<b>£600.00</b>
<b>(ii) Butokokan Judo Club</b>	<b>£457.60</b>
<b>(iii) Ashington Junior Football Club</b>	<b>£1,500.00</b>
<b>(Remscheid Town Twinning Visit)</b>	

**FGP16/593 7. WORLD CUP 1966 – ‘50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT’**

The Town Clerk reported that at the Hirst Park Project Steering Group Meeting on the 25 February 2016, he had proposed that the group consider a “celebration event” in the park to both commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World Cup and also to assist in profiling the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid and plans for the park.

The Town Clerk had proposed a “1960’s themed event” including a live outdoor screening of the 1966 World Cup Football Final between England and West Germany in the Park on Saturday 30 July – 50 years to the day of the actual event.

It was proposed that the event would be family friendly and would support the HLF bid by demonstrating the park could be a positive centre of activity for all ages as well as supporting any further consultation work that may need to take place before the submission of the bid later in the year. The Town Clerk reported that attendees at the meeting had been overwhelmingly in favour.

The Funding and Project Officer reported that following discussion at the Full Council Meeting on the 8 March 2016, detailed information and costings have been obtained for the hire of a professional outdoor screen. Members were informed that this was a specialist area and that detailed enquiries has identified ADI TV as a reputable, recommended and professional organisation in the hire of large LED screens. Members were further informed that the company had supported outdoor events in the North East and that the cost of hiring a 5m x 3m screen with technical support for the day was to £3,250.

The Town Clerk reported that discussion had taken place with staff leading the HLF bid at Northumberland County Council and there was a possibility that some of the HLF development funding could be used to support the overall costs of the event.

**Resolved:**

**That:**

- (i) Town Clerk be authorised to procure the services of ADI TV to provide an outdoor screen and technical support for the “1966 World Cup Celebration Event,**
- (ii) That the cost of £3,250 be agreed; and that**
- (iii) The overall net cost of the event be met from the General Reserves of the Town Council.**

**FGP 16/594 8. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS.**

The Town Clerk submitted a full schedule of payments and income receipts, during the financial period 19 February to 24 March 2016.

**Resolved:**

**That the Schedule of Payments for the period 19 February to 24 March 2016 be formally agreed and approved.**

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

**FGP 16/595 9. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS.**

Cllr. Chisholm reminded members of the Workers Memorial Event planned for Saturday 23 April 2016 and requested a good turnout from fellow members if they were able to attend. The Town Clerk reported that, further to a recent site visit, it was clear that remedial work to the Workers Memorial Garden, at St. John's Churchyard, was required. Members were informed that this would be carried out by Town Council staff prior to the event.

**FGP 16/596 11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was arranged for 6:00pm on Tuesday, 26 April 2016, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ashington.

**The meeting ended at 8.00pm.**