

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7:00pm on Tuesday, 8 March 2016, at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Ely Turnbull (Chair)	Les Alderson
	Victor Bridges	Louis Brown
	Vicky Brown	Marjorie Chambers
	Avril Chisholm	Glyn Davies
	Stephen Fenwick	Lawrence Henderson
	Maggie Lang	Kris Lavery
	Liam Lavery	Mark Purvis
	Wyn Stewart	Pauline Thompson
	Bob Walkinshaw	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Slaughter – Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Stephen Humphrey – Funding & Projects Officer
Members of the Public – 0

C16/604 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Keith Chambers.

C16/605 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures made of personal and prejudicial interest with regard to any item on the agenda.

C16/606 3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair informed members that he had attended a charity evening at Mitford Hall in a Mayoral capacity since the last meeting and would be attending the official opening of the extension to Ashington High School on the 11 March 2016.

C16/607 4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the meeting held on 2 February 2016 were agreed and duly signed as a true record.

C16/608 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

C16/596 Ashington Workers' Memorial Garden: The Town Clerk reported that, further to a site visit by town council staff, remedial environmental work to improve the Garden would take place in preparation of the Workers Memorial Event planned for Saturday 23 April 2016.

C16/609 6. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader reported on the following issues:-

- **Arch Stakeholder Group for Town Centre Regeneration:** The Leader reported that, together with Cllr.M.Chambers and the Town Clerk, he was continuing to attend and play an active role in the Arch Stakeholder Group for town centre regeneration. Members were informed that it was likely that work to Station Road would commence in mid May 2016 and that Northumberland County Council was currently considering the allocation of funding for a Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme.
- **Neighbourhood Services Partnership:** The Leader reported that Cllrs. L.Brown, M.Chambers, K.Chambers and K.Lavery would be meeting with Northumberland County Council staff to take forward all matters relating to the Partnership as well as developing a new revised Neighbourhood Services Agreement.

C16/610 7. PROPOSED NEW COUNTY HALL HQ SITE – LINTONVILLE ROAD, ASHINGTON (PLANNING APPLICATION 15/04301/FULES)

The Town Clerk reminded members of Northumberland County Council's decision to re-locate County Hall HQ to a new building on Lintonville following the Council's budget meeting on the 24 February 2016.

Members were informed that NCC would consider the planning application for the scheme at a meeting of its Planning Committee in April 2016, when it was expected that full approval would be forthcoming.

The Town Clerk reported that the next Ashington Town Council Newsletter “Life in Ashington” was currently being compiled and suggested to members that the opportunity be taken via the newsletter to inform all residents of the Town Council’s full support for the proposed re-location of NCC Corporate Headquarters to Ashington.

Resolved:

That:

- (i) The Town Council newsletter “*Life in Ashington*” be Specifically focused on regeneration issues and positive news stories affecting the town; and that**
- (ii) That decision of Northumberland County Council to relocate its corporate headquarters to Ashington be fully welcomed and supported.**

C16/611 8. WORLD CUP 1966 – 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENT

The Town Clerk reported that initial consideration has been given to how the Town Council could commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the England football team winning the World Cup and the contribution made by Ashington’s ‘Charlton Brothers’ to the famous day.

The Town Clerk reported that at the Hirst Park Project Steering Group Meeting on the 25 February 2016, he had suggested a live screening of the final between England and West Germany in the Park on Saturday 30 July – 50 years to the day of the actual event. Members were informed that the proposed event would be family friendly and could be incorporated into a wider ‘60’s themed day’.

The Town Clerk stated that, in his view, the event would also support the Stage 2 Heritage Lottery Fund (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.

Members were informed that attendees at the meeting were overwhelmingly in favour of such an event taking place and believed it would further increase publicity of the HLF bid particularly as,

in earlier media reporting, there has been a focus on the role of the Park played in the football development of the 'Charlton brothers'.

The Town Clerk reported that the organisation of the event would largely fall to the Town Council and initial enquiries had been made in terms of hiring a quality large screen and obtaining permissions to screen the final.

Resolved:

That The Town Clerk be authorised to draw up event plans and early costings for consideration at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee on the 29 March 2016.

C16/612 9. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Hirst Park Steering Group: Cllr. M. Chambers reported that a positive meeting of the group had taken place on the 25 February 2016 with a number of organisations represented. Members were informed that the group would meet monthly to oversee the development of the Heritage Lottery Round 2 bid, expected to be ready for submission in Autumn 2016.

Cllr.Chambers informed members that a number of Working Groups had also been set up to support the work as well as a fact finding visit to a similar project in Richardson Dees Park, Wallsend to look at options for capital development.

The Town Clerk reported that he had highlighted the need to look at longer-term sustainability and maintenance issues at the meeting as it was envisaged that the Town Council could potentially be asked to provide a significant on-going financial contribution to maintain the Park in coming years.

Arch Stakeholder Group for Town Centre Regeneration: Cllr. S. Fenwick reported on the latest meetings of the group which he has attended with Cllr. M. Chambers and the Town Clerk.

Cllr. Fenwick reported that three options were considered for Station Road traffic management at the public consultation event in January 2016, enhancing the existing pedestrianised scheme; opening Station Road to two-way traffic, and a one way traffic system (running from East to West). Cllr.Fenwick reported that from the responses of over 200 attendees at the consultation event, 95%

preferred the one way traffic system which had now been adopted as the preferred scheme

Cllr. Fenwick informed members that wider discussion around the development work was ongoing and included improved access to shops for deliveries, providing CCTV, the location and improvement of the Tuesday market and the quality of the proposed street furniture. Members were informed that when the work commenced Arch were looking to provide a site office on Station Road.

C16/613 12. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Full Council was scheduled for Tuesday, 3 May 2016, at 7:00pm, in the Council Chamber at Ashington Town Hall. Members were reminded that this would be the Annual meeting of the Town Council.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm.