

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held at 6:00pm on Tuesday, 26 April 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	Liam Lavery
	Kris Lavery	Mark Purvis
	Pauline Thompson	Ely Turnbull

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

FGP 16/597 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Les Alderson, Victor Bridges, Keith Chambers, Maggie Lang, Wyn Stewart and Bob Walkinshaw.

FGP 16/598 2. 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 16/599 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2016, were agreed and signed as a true record.

FGP 16/600 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

FGP 16/595 Workers Memorial Ceremony : Cllr. Chisholm reported that the Workers Memorial Ceremony, held in Ashington on the 23 April, had been a successful event and was well received by those who had attended. Cllr.Chisholm thanked the Town Council staff for the

additional work they had undertaken in both preparing the memorial and also widely advertising the event.

**FGP 16/601 5. APPLICATION FOR SERVICE FUNDING 2016/17
- NORTHUMBERLAND CVA (NCVA)**

Mrs Anne Lyall attended the meeting and outlined the current and planned work programme of the organisation for 2016/17.

Members were informed that the organisation was formerly known as Wansbeck CVS but the new name reflected the now county wide remit of the organisation. Members were further informed that NCVA had been commissioned by Northumberland County Council to support the voluntary & community sector across the county.

Mrs Lyall highlighted that in the past year the organisation had supported 206 voluntary & community groups across the county and assisted them in accessing £450k of funding. Members were informed that the organisation had also provided 4 volunteer recruitment events and 3 funding fairs as well as running an employability programme.

Mrs Lyall informed members that the organisation provided a weekly drop-in surgery in Ashington and over the past year 37 groups operating in the town had accessed this service as well as attending training and funding events.

Mrs Lyall informed members that the organisation has been commissioned to provide services across Northumberland until 2018 and was currently involved in a joint application for European monies for a £3m employment project.

The Town Clerk asked if Northumberland CVA had received financial support from other town and parish councils in Northumberland. Mrs Lyall informed members that support has been received for commissioned services and delivery but not to the level of previous Ashington Town Council financial support.

Mrs Lyall thanked the Town Council for previous support and left the meeting.

Related discussion took place on the proposed service funding in 2016/17 for the Credit Union for South East Northumberland and the Wansbeck Citizens Advice Bureau. Members agreed that contributions for 2016/17 be made at an early date with a request for presentations to be given at future meetings so members had wider knowledge of their planned work and challenges faced.

Resolved:

That:

- (i) That a contribution of £6,000 be made in 2016/17 towards the overall work of Northumberland CVA,**
- (ii) Northumberland CVA be asked to consider extending a formal invitation to a Council member to become an “observer” and attendee at their future Board meetings,**
- (iii) Consideration of any future funding application from Northumberland CVA would be conditional on a formal report and presentation to the Town Council,**
- (iv) That a contribution of £6,000 be made in 2016/17 towards the overall work of the Credit Union for South East Northumberland,**
- (v) That the Credit Union for South East Northumberland be asked to consider extending a formal invitation to a Council member to become an “observer” and attendee at their future Board meetings,**
- (vi) That a contribution of £6,000 be made in 2016/17 towards the overall work of the Wansbeck Citizen Advice Bureau; and that**
- (vii) Wansbeck Citizen Advice Bureau be asked to consider extending a formal invitation to a Council member to become an “observer” and attendee at their future Board meetings.**

FGP16/602 6. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

An Application for financial support was received from the Wansbeck Disability Forum and presented in detail by the Funding & Projects Officer for the consideration of the Committee members.

Further to discussion it was agreed that more information was required regarding the current reorganisation of the Disability Forum and also the outcome of related funding applications to other organisations.

Resolved:

- (i) That the applications from the Wansbeck Disability Forum be deferred, further to the arrangement of a site visit to meet the applicant and to discuss the detail of the application,**
- (ii) The Town Council be represented at the site visit by Cllrs. V Brown, L Brown, M Chambers and E Turnbull; and that**
- (iii) A Councillors' report be presented to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee with appropriate recommendations.**

FGP 16/603 7. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS.

The Town Clerk submitted a full schedule of payments and income receipts, during the financial period 25 March to 21 April 2016.

Resolved:

That the Schedule of Payments for the period 25 March to 21 April 2016 be formally agreed and approved.

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

FGP 16/604 8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS.

- (i) The Town Clerk reported that a thank you letter had been received from Ashington Town Team thanking the Town Council for its commitment to funding the organisation. The Town Clerk reminded members of the Ashington Farmers & Craft Market that was to take place on Saturday 30 April 2016, jointly organised by the Town Team and the Town Council.
- (ii) The Town Clerk informed members that Cllr. Fenwick had requested training for members in chairing meetings. The Town Clerk would liaise with the North East Regional Employers Organisation to provide this training in late June 2016, subject to a level of interest from Council members.

- (iii) The Town Clerk reported that a naming request for the street adjacent to St Aidan's Church at the rear of Station Road had been received from Northumberland County Council. Members were informed that the proposed name was 'Geps Place' in recognition of the scheme developer. Members were supportive of the request.

FGP 16/605 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, 24 May 2016, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ashington.

The meeting ended at 7.30pm.