

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment and Amenities Committee held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 12 April 2016, at Ashington Town Hall, 65 Station Road, Ashington, NE63 8RX.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Marjorie Chambers (Vice-Chair) Louis Brown
Vicky Brown Avril Chisholm
Glyn Davies Kris Lavery,
Liam Lavery Mark Purvis
Pauline Thompson Ely Turnbull

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

On behalf of the Council, the Chair took the opportunity to pay tribute to former Ashington Town Councillor Mike Kirkup who had sadly passed away earlier in the day.

E&A16/306 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Les Alderson, Victor Bridges, Keith Chambers, Stephen Fenwick, Lawrence Henderson, Maggie Lang, Wyn Stewart, and Bob Walkinshaw.

E&A16/307 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.

E&A16/308 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2016 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

E&A16/309 4. MATTERS ARISING

E&A16/300 Ashington Memorial Garden: The Town Clerk reported that the two new interpretation panels for the entrance to the Garden were to be installed during the week commencing 18 April 2016. Members were informed that the new panels gave a general background to the project with a list of contributing funders and also general information on the history of Ashington's War Memorials.

E&A16/303 Bus Shelter Capital Programme: The Town Clerk reported that the two proposed bus shelters at Morpeth Road (High Farm Close) and High Market (Opposite Bothal Cottages) had been ordered and work would be carried out at the earliest opportunity.

E&A16/310 5. NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES GROUP

Cllr. M.Chambers reported that the Neighbourhood Services Group (Cllrs. L.Brown, M.Chambers, K.Lavery and the Town Clerk) had met with Ray Weallans the recently appointed Area Manager for Neighbourhood Services at Northumberland County Council. (NCC).

Cllr. K.Lavery reported that a positive meeting had taken place and new work schedules for the Ashington Neighbourhood Services Team would be developed in coming weeks in an attempt to improve the service and communication.

The Town Clerk reported that the lack of street cleansing cover for Ashington town centre over the Easter Holiday and the subsequent poor state of Station Road had prompted an apology from Ms Louise Hayward, the Divisional Manager of Neighbourhood Services. The Town Clerk added that the Divisional Manager and Area Manager have now implemented new systems to ensure the situation did not arise again. The Town Clerk reminded members that weekend street cleansing cover for the town centre was identified as a priority for members and was an important part of the Neighbourhood Services Agreement.

E&A16/311 6. ASHINGTON GARDENS COMPETITION

The Town Clerk invited the Committee to consider the arrangements for the Annual Gardens Competition, approve the

suggested timetable and nominate members to act as a panel of judges for the Competition.

Resolved:

That:-

- (i) The closing date for entries to the 2016 Gardens Competition be Friday, 17 June 2016,**
- (ii) The judging take place in July 2016,**
- (iii) A Presentation Evening for all entrants be held in September 2016; and that**
- (iv) The make-up of the Town Council judging panel be deferred and confirmed at the next Committee meeting scheduled for 7 June 2016.**

E&A16/312 7. COMMUNITY ACTION ON LITTER

The Town Clerk informed members of the Big Tidy Up campaign organised by Keep Britain Tidy. Members were informed that the campaign is England's biggest litter pick with the aim of encouraging local people to help play their part in cleaning up their community.

The Town Clerk proposed that at an appropriate future point the Town Council consider a campaign in the town and encourage other community based and resident groups to take part.

Resolved:

That the Town Clerk be duly authorised to liaise with NCC's Neighbourhood Services Team and Community & Resident groups to develop a Big Tidy Up Campaign in Ashington.

E&A16/313 8. ASHINGTON FAYRE DAY – SUNDAY 26 JUNE 2016

The Town Clerk informed members that it was unlikely that Ashington Fayre Day could take place on Station Road this year as

work on the redevelopment of the street was expected to start in late April/early May 2016.

Members were informed by the Town Clerk that a number of alternative locations had been considered with the preferred option being to host the Fayre on the car park to the rear of Wilkinson's on Wansbeck Square. The Town Clerk advised members that he had worked to identify a location as near as possible to the Town centre but that the options were very limited.

Members were informed that this location had been considered as it was also close to proposed activities at Ashington Cricket Club, (which were always included in the promotion of the Fayre). Members were further informed that the location was not unduly close to residential housing, although the intention would still be to inform local residents in writing of the plans and to deal properly with any genuine concerns or comments that were raised. The Town Clerk reported that he would also be meeting with NCC noise control and environment officers to assess the site for suitably and identified risks.

The Town Clerk informed members that this was an exceptional year with the commencement of redevelopment work and associated disruption on Station Road. Members were informed that it was hoped that the Fayre would be able to return to Station Road in 2017, but that it would largely depend on the practical suitability of the new street structure, layout and environment including and location of street furniture, tree placement, parking bays and traffic requirements and movements.

Resolved:

That the Town Clerk be authorised enter into discussion with Northumberland County Council for the use of the car park to the rear of Wansbeck Square for Ashington Fayre Day 2016.

E&A16/314 8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- (i) The Town Clerk reported that remedial work had taken place at the Workers Memorial Garden, at North Seaton Cemetery, in preparation of the Workers Memorial Day event to be held on Saturday 23 April 2016.

- (ii) The Town Clerk informed members of the Farmers & Crafts Market that was planned to take place on Saturday 30 April 2016 on Station Road. Members were informed that Town Council staff had assisted Ashington Town Team in the organisation and planning of the event.
- (iii) Cllr. M.Chambers commented on the high quality, presentation and very positive nature of the recent Town Council Newsletter that captured the work and events happening in Ashington over the coming months. On behalf of the Committee, Cllr.Chambers thanked the staff for the work.

E&A16/315 9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environment and Amenities Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, 7 June 2016, at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ashington.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.