

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held at 6:00pm on Tuesday, 25 October 2016, at Ashington Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Vicky Brown (Chair)	Victor Bridges
	Louis Brown	Avril Chisholm
	Glyn Davies	Lawrence Henderson
	Kris Lavery	Liam Lavery
	Ely Turnbull (<i>arr. at 6.10pm</i>)	

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Following the recent sad passing of Cllr. Keith Chambers, the Chair asked those present to observe a one minute silence in his memory.

FGP 16/647 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Marjorie Chambers, Stephen Fenwick, Mark Purvis, Pauline Thompson and Bob Walkinshaw.

FGP 16/648 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllrs. Victor Bridges and Louis Brown made disclosures of personal and prejudicial interest with regard to any discussions pertaining to allotments.

FGP 16/649 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2016, were agreed and signed as a true record.

FGP 16/650 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

FGP 16/620 Ashington Memorial Garden: The Town Clerk reported that demolition work on the former Ashington Library had not yet started. Members were reminded that Northumberland County Council

had initially given assurances that work would be completed in advance of Remembrance Sunday (13 November), but clearly this was not the case. The Town Clerk informed members that, because of the ongoing capital improvement works in the town centre, the Remembrance Day Parade would be using an alternative route. He stated that the Parade would muster on Institute Road and march up West Station Road into the Memorial Garden.

FGP 16/633 Casual Vacancies : The Town Clerk reminded members that, following the three recently announced casual vacancies, an election had been called in the Bothal Ward and that he had also received two expressions of interest for co-option in the Haydon Ward.

The Town Clerk informed members that the protocol to be followed was that anyone wishing to be co-opted onto the Town Council should formally write to the Chair of the Council setting out the reasons why they wished to be considered for co-option. All applications for co-option would be considered by Full Council on 8th November.

In relation to the second casual vacancy in the Haydon Ward following the sad passing of Cllr. Keith Chambers, the Town Clerk informed members that the Town Council would advertise the vacancy in due course but it was likely that the 6-month rule would now apply preventing a formal by-election from being called. In response to questions from members the Town Clerk reported that under such circumstances the Town Council was able to fill the vacancy by co-option should they choose to do so.

FGP16/651 5. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

It was reported that requests for financial support had been received from:-

- North Seaton Colliery Community Association
- Great North Air Ambulance

North Seaton Colliery Community Association : The Funding & Projects Officer reported that the request was for an amount of £499 to purchase a new cooker to be installed in the Centre's kitchen. It was reported that the Association had recently appointed a new Committee who were working hard to re-establish the Association.

Resolved:

That:-

- (i) A grant of £500 be made to North Seaton Colliery Community Association; and that**

(ii) A grant of £100 be made to Great North Air Ambulance

FGP 16/652 6. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Town Clerk submitted a full schedule of payments and income receipts, during the financial period 30 September to 20 October 2016.

Resolved:

That the Schedule of Payments for the period 30 September to 20 October 2016 be formally agreed and approved.

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

FGP 16/653 7. ASHINGTON 150TH ANNIVERSARY – CELEBRATION EVENTS

The Town Clerk gave an update on the progress made with regard to Celebration Events to be arranged during 2017 in recognition of Ashington's 150th Anniversary.

It was reported that a meeting with community groups had been jointly held with Ashington Town Team on 18 October 2016. The organisations in attendance at that meeting had included Woodhorn Museum, YMCA, Ashington Life Centre, Ashington Churches Together and workshop sessions had taken place to identify some initial ideas for events in the town.

Members were informed that the Town Council was working closely with the Town Team and the Camera Club to produce an "Ashington 150th Anniversary" Calendar. Members were informed that any income generated from this venture over and above the printing costs would go back into the budget in support of other 150th Anniversary events.

FGP 16/654 8. UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT: APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES

The Town Clerk reminded members that currently that five authorised signatories were needed for the Unity Trust Bank Account with cheques required to be signed by any two authorised members. Council members were informed that, following the recent sad death

of Cllr. Keith Chambers and the resignation of Cllr. Les Alderson, the Council needed to now consider the appointment of two replacement authorised signatories.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair of Finance & General Purposes be nominated and appointed as signatories to the Unity Trust Bank Account.

Resolved:

That Cllrs. Vicky Brown and Kris Lavery be added to the list of signatories for the Unity Trust Bank Account.

FGP 16/655 9. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- (i) Thank You Letters: The Senior Administration Officer reported that “thank you” letters had been received from the following organisations following grants awarded at the last meeting of the Committee:-
- Wansbeck’s Ashington Colliery Band
 - Ashington Pantomime Group
 - 7th Ashington Brownie Unit
- (ii) Cllr. Ely Turnbull reported that he had been requested by the Masonic Lodge to seek advice concerning the promotion and administration of a charitable fund which was available to local organisations. The Town Clerk offered to meet with representatives of the Masonic Lodge to offer any requested support or advice should they wish to do so.

FGP 16/656 10. 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, 29 November 2016, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ashington.

The meeting ended at 7.00pm.