

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Services Committee Meeting held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 31 July 2018, at Ashington Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Lynne Grimshaw (Chair) Eleanor Armstrong
Marjorie Chambers Avril Chisholm
Matthew Cuthbert Stephen Fenwick
Mark Purvis Jim Lang
Ken Parry Pauline Thompson
Bob Walkinshaw Tom Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Slaughter – Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Stephen Humphrey – Projects & Funding Officer
Sharon Parmley – Senior Administration Officer (minutes)
Members of the Public - 0

FGS 18/861 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillors, Victor Bridges, Nicola Chambers, Brian Gallacher, Lawrence Henderson, Kris Lavery and Liam Lavery.

FGS 18/862 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.

There were no disclosures of interest.

FGS 18/863 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26 June 2018, were agreed and signed as a true record.

FGS 18/864 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FGS 18/865 5. ANNUAL FUNDING SUPPORT TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS 2018/19.

- **Northumberland Community Bank**
Ms. Lauren Langton of Northumberland Community Bank gave members an update on the newly appointed Apprentice roles with the organisation.

Ms.Langton reminded members that two of the main aims of the Bank were to become self sustainable and create employment opportunities whenever and wherever possible. Members were informed that during a rigorous recruitment process, 22 applicants were considered and given a full opportunity to see the role and function of the Community bank via an open day. Six candidates were subsequently interviewed with two appointments made; members were informed that the second appointment had come as a result of part-funding from Northumberland County Council who had commended the appointment process.

Ms Langton thanked the Town Council for their continued support and stated that she would continue to update members via regular progress reports. The Chair thanked Ms Langton on behalf of the Town Council, commented positively on the progress to date and wished the Community Bank every success for the future.

- **Wansbeck Valley Foodbank**

Cllr Cuthbert presented a comprehensive report from Wansbeck Valley Food Bank highlighting recent developments including the recent move to new premises.

The Town Clerk reported that reports had also been received from Northumberland CVA and Real Deal Plus that had been previously circulated to all members for full consideration.

Resolved:

That annual subsidies for 2018/19 be agreed as follows:

- (i) The sum of £8,000 be awarded to Northumberland Community Bank**
- (ii) The sum of £8,000 be awarded Wansbeck Valley Food Bank,**
- (iii)The sum of £5,000 be awarded to Northumberland Federation of YMCA's,**
- (iv)The sum of £2,700 be awarded to Northumberland CVA; and that,**
- (v) The sum of £2,700 be awarded to Real Deal Plus.**

FGS 18/866 6. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS.

The Town Clerk submitted a full schedule of payments and income receipts, for the financial period 22 June to 25 July 2018.

Resolved:

That the Schedule of Payments for the financial period 22 June to 25 July 2018 be formally agreed and approved.

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

FGS 18/867 7. BUDGET REPORT.

The Town Clerk presented a full budget report for the financial period 1 April to 31 July 2018. Members were informed that there were no exceptional items required to be brought to the attention of members.

Resolved:

That the budget for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 July 2018 be formally agreed and approved.

FGS 18/868 8. ASHINGTON MEMORIAL GARDEN – NEW COMMEMORATIVE STONES.

The Town Clerk reminded members that the Town Council were due to receive a commemorative paving stone marking the centenary of the award of the Victoria Cross to Sgt. Hugh Cairns and that in addition a memorial paving stone had been received from the British Airfields Trust in recognition of the role of the Ashington Airfield in World War I.

The Town Clerk informed members that the works to site the stones needed to be carried out sensitively and in keeping with the overall outline and design of the Memorial Garden. The Town Clerk presented a quote for works from Brambledown Landscape Services Ltd who had undertaken the original capital works to the garden. Members were informed that the work see two bespoke angled face brick plinths built along with additional planting. The total cost of the work was estimated at £4,462

Resolved:

That Brambledown Landscape Services Ltd be authorised to carry out the installation works for the commemorative stones in the Ashington Memorial Garden, at the agreed cost of £4,462.

FGS 18/869 9. PROPOSED NEW ASHINGTON ENTRANCE FEATURES.

It was agreed that this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Finance & General Services Committee.

FGS 18/870 10. ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – SERVICE PROVISION.

Resolved:

That;

- (i) The Town Council agreed to extend the Environmental Enforcement Officers Service Level Agreement for a further 6 month period to 31 March 2019,**
- (ii) The Service Level agreement and role of the Environmental Services Officer be reviewed as part of the 2019/20 budget and precept process; and that**
- (iii) The agreed £9,885 cost of the 6-month extension be met from the 2018/19 Environmental Enhancement budget.**

FGS 18/871 11. TOWN CLERK’S REPORT.

The Town Clerk presented a detailed report on the current work programme of the Town Council. Members were updated on the current position in relation to:

- Allotments Capital Programme.
- Hirst Park – Revival Project.
- People’s Park Play Area Project
- “Life in Ashington” Town-wide Survey 2018
- Ashington Memorial Garden - Lighting
- Neighbourhood Services Partnership – New Agreement
- Local Transport Plan
- Draft Northumberland Local Plan

Members were requested to retain copies of the Town Clerk’s report as an “aide memoire” for reference and to be able to respond to any enquiries from the public in relation to schemes and work currently being undertaken.

FGS 18/872 12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS.

There were no other items of urgent business.

FGS 18/873 13. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

Tuesday 25 September 2018, at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, 65 Station Road, Ashington NE63 8RX.

The Meeting ended at 8.00pm.