



Ashington Town Council
Town Hall
65 Station Road
Ashington Northumberland NE63 8RX
Town Clerk: Mike Slaughter
Tel: (01670) 624520 / 624521
E-mail: mikeslaughter@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 6 November 2018, at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mark Purvis (Chair)	Eleanor Armstrong
Marjorie Chambers	Nicola Chambers
Avril Chisholm	Matthew Cuthbert
Stephen Fenwick	Brian Gallacher
Lynne Grimshaw	Lawrence Henderson
Jim Lang	Kris Lavery
Ken Parry	Pauline Thompson
Tom Wilson	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Slaughter – Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Stephen Humphrey – Funding & Projects Officer
Sharon Parmley – Senior Administration Officer
Members of the Public – 1

C18/799 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Victor Bridges, Liam Lavery and Bob Walkinshaw.

C18/800 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.

There were no disclosures of interest from members present.

C18/801 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 September 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record.

C18/802 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

C18/787 8. WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 – REVIEW OF DEFINITIVE MAP & STATEMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY ALLEGED PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY: MILBURN ROAD, ASHINGTON.

Cllr Wilson informed members that the review was still ongoing and that he was expecting responses and completed forms from residents for presentation to the Town Council in due course.

C18/803 5. CIVIC HEADS REPORT.

The Civic Head, Cllr. Marjorie Chambers, reported that she had attended the following events;

- **Thursday 7 to Monday 10 September** – Official visit to City of Remscheid. Cllr Chambers reported that the visit had gone extremely well and the delegation were made to feel very welcome.
- **Saturday 15 September** – The Civic Head of Northumberland held 'A Night at the Museum' at Woodhorn Museum.
- **Saturday 29 September** – YMCA Northumberland Charity Fundraising Dinner.
- **Wednesday 3 October** – Gleeson Homes, Show Home Opening.
- **Thursday 11 October** – Ashington Branch of the Royal British Legion - Poppy Appeal Launch.
- **Friday 19 October** – Presentation of cheque to James Knott Campus. Grant from the Town Council for Mini-Police uniforms.
- **Thursday 1 November** – Hugh Cairns VC & DCM unveiling of commemorative stone to mark 100th Anniversary of the awarding of the Victoria Cross. Cllr Chambers informed members that it was a respectful ceremony that was well-attended. The Civic Head thanked Town Council staff for the organisational and preparatory work and reported that the event had received positive media coverage.

C18/804 6. LEADERS REPORT.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr. Stephen Fenwick, reported that;

- (i) There were still ongoing issues relating to street cleansing and litter collection in the town that had been highlighted in the Town-Wide Survey. The Leader informed members that the Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Partnership had

been asked to review the contract and discuss ways in which problems could be addressed.

- (ii) The Leader reported that Ashington Town Council had continued its commitment to work closely with and support the Neighbourhood Policing Team and that a number of initiatives had been financially supported in 2018 including; the Town Centre CCTV system, the school's "Mini-Police" Project and the purchase of two new bicycles for use by Officers. The Leader reported that he was delighted to note that all the initiatives had received widespread press and media coverage.

C18/805 7. FINAL ACCOUNTS 2017/18

The Town Clerk reported that the Auditor's Report on the 2017/18 Accounting Statements and Annual Governance return had now been received.

Members were informed that, on the basis of the External Auditors review, the information in the annual return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters had come to attention giving cause for concern that the relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

Cllr. Grimshaw thanked the Town Clerk, on behalf of the Town Council, for the thorough and detailed work undertaken in managing the financial accounts and systems.

Resolved:

That:

- (i) The External Auditors report on the Final Accounts for 2017/18 be formally received and accepted,**
- (ii) The Council formally note that there were no matters giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements had not been met; and that**
- (iii) The Council formally note that the only matter drawn to the attention of the Council, not affecting the audit opinion, was to note that a full year cash book summary had not been provided in support of the bank reconciliation for the year ended 31 March 2018.**

C18/806 8. BUDGET WORKING GROUP 2019/20

The Town Clerk further requested that in the preparation of a draft budget for 2019/20, the Council consider the establishment of a Budget Working Group. Members were reminded that a similar Working Group had operated successfully in considering the proposals for the 2017/18 & 2018/19 Town Council budgets and that the group would undertake the preparatory detailed work, consider any capital schemes, growth or one-off areas of work and present detail to fellow members for consideration, full discussion and approval at Full Council. The Town Clerk reminded members that that the Budget Working Group had no delegated decision-making powers in relation to any matters.

Resolved:

That:

(i) That the Town Council establish a small Budget Working Group to prepare a 2019/20 draft budget, with fully appraised options, for the consideration of Finance & General Services Committee and Full Council; and that

(ii) The Budget Working Group membership consist of:

The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, Business Chair and Vice Business Chair of the Council and the Chair and Vice-Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee. (6 Members)

C18/807 9. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES.

Northumberland Credit Union

Cllr. Thompson informed members that she had received an invitation to attend a "Talk Money" meeting at County Hall on Friday 16 November 2018.

Wansbeck Valley Food Bank

Cllr. Cuthbert reported that he was to meet with the Wansbeck Valley Food Bank representatives to discuss the impact of Universal Credit on the Food Bank, including plans for cover and supply over the forthcoming Festive period.

Citizens Advice Northumberland

Cllr. Chisholm reported that she was to attend a Universal Credit Training session and she would update members at the next Council meeting.

Real Deal Plus

Cllr. Grimshaw informed members that due to personal and work commitments, Cllr Nicola Chambers was regrettably unable to continue as the representative for the Real Deal Plus and would be standing down with immediate effect.

C18/808 10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

To be agreed, subject to the timetable and programme for the Annual Budget and Precept setting for 2019/20.

The meeting closed at 8:10pm