Ashington Town Council
Town Hall, 65 Station Road
Ashington, Northumberland
NE63 8RU

3rd March 2025

To All members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **FINANCE & GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING,** in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 65 STATION ROAD, NE63 8RU**, **on Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 6:00pm.**

The agenda for the meeting is set out below, along with associated papers. If you have any questions about any of the items on the agenda, please contact the office.

The meeting is open to the press and public. As per the agenda and our standing orders, any resident wishing to speak should contact us prior to the meeting, before 5pm on Monday 10th March 2025.

Sarah Eden
Executive Office/RFO

AGENDA

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
To receive any apologies for absence.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS
To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

Members are also reminded that they need to regularly review their declarations of interest forms and ensure they remain up to date.

4. DISPENSATIONS
To receive and consider any dispensations.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
The Chair to receive any items put forward by members of the public and to put questions to or draw relevant matters to the attention of the Council. This is for a period of 15 minutes overall and is limited to 3 minutes per person.

Please email/telephone the office with questions on items on the agenda no later than 5.00pm on Monday 10th March 2025.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

To receive and sign as a true record, the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 (enc)[i]

7. CLERK AND OFFICER UPDATES

To receive an update on items actioned since the previous meeting (to follow)[ii]

8. ANNUAL GRANT AID FUNDING UPDATES

a) Wansbeck Valley Foodbank (WVFB)

To receive update on work this year to date, and agree to release final instalment of annual funding (to follow)[iii]

b) Northumberland Citizens Advice

To receive update on work this year to date, and agree to release final instalment of annual funding (enc)[iv]

9. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE 2024/25

a) Updated Budget Report

To receive updated budget and expenditure report (enc)[v]

b) Accounts Paid and to be Paid (including Bank Reconciliation)

To receive a schedule of accounts paid and to be paid; to endorse those accounts paid and agree those to be paid, since 31st January 2025 (enc)[vi]

10. NCC NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES PARTNERSHIP MEETING, 18th February 2025

To receive and note the report, and address any questions to Board Members (to follow)[vii]

11. FESTIVE LIGHTING PROCUREMENT

To endorse the submission checklist to be carried out by the Executive Officer (enc)[viii], to agree that presentations by contractors will be carried out on Tuesday 1st April, and those who will make up the evaluation panel (enc)[ix]

12. WORKERS MEMORIAL – ST JOHN'S CHURCH YARD

To receive a proposal for works to 'The Worker's Memorial' at St. John's Churchyard (Newbiggin Road) for work to be carried out in partnership with NCC Cemeteries Team, led by our own officers, with funding from the College Ward Environmental Enhancement budget heading (£5k remaining), and to agree to delegate spending to the Executive Officer (enc)[x]

13. DOG FOULING IN ASHINGTON

Following concerns raised by Councillors Gemma Hemsley and Mark Purvis, to receive a report on dog fouling and the enforcement measures in place as provided by NCC, and to consider actions to address dog fouling in Ashington, including engagement with NCC to improve enforcement and awareness efforts (enc)[xi]

14. NORTH SEATON COLLIERY PLAY AREA REDEVELOPMENT

To receive draft documents for North Seaton Colliery Play Area Redevelopment (preferred supplier), and agree to advertise the opportunity, according to the timescale detailed (enc)[xii]

15. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members are invited to consider passing the following resolution:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, permitted under Section 1 (2) LGA 1960, due to the confidential nature of the business being transacted.

16. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – LEGAL MATTER
To receive information on confidential item, and agree action to be taken (enc)[xiii]

17. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING
Tuesday 8th April 2025, 6:00pm, Council Chamber.

ENCLOSURES

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[i] Draft Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee, 11th February 2025
[ii] Clerk and Officer Update, March (to be further updated/tabled)
[iii] Report from WVFB (to follow)
[iv] Northumberland Citizens Advice
[v] Updated Budget and Expenditure Report 2024/25 (March)
[vi] Schedule of Accounts paid/to be paid (March)
[vii] Draft Report of the Enhanced Services meeting held on 18th January 2025 (to follow)
[viii] Festive Lighting Submission Checklist
[ix] Festive Lighting Evaluation Matrix
[x] Environmental Enhancements – Haydon Ward
[xi] Report on Dog Fouling in Ashington
[xii] North Seaton Colliery Play Area Redevelopment
[xiii] Legal Matter – Copyright

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