



Ashington Town Council
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To: **ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **FULL COUNCIL**, at **North Seaton Community Centre, Manley View, NE63 9TF**, on **Tuesday 29th March 2022 at 7:00pm**.

The agenda for the meeting is set out below, along with supporting documents. 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. Our Risk Assessment requires that anyone wishing to attend the meeting, reads the risk assessment and meeting guidelines in advance. These are available on request, or via the Town Council website.

Regards

Sarah Eden
Clerk to the Town Council

22nd March 2022

AGENDA

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

Welcome by Cllr Mark Purvis.

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 Clerk with questions on items on the agenda no later than 5.00pm on Monday 21st March 2022.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

To receive and sign as a true record, the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th January 2022 (enc)ⁱ

7. CLERK AND OFFICER UPDATE

To receive an update on the team priorities agreed in January, and progress of actions to achieve them (enc)ⁱⁱ

8. REPORT FROM THE CIVIC HEAD OF ASHINGTON (CLLR PAULINE THOMPSON)

To receive a verbal report from the Civic Head of Ashington.

9. REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (CLLR MATTHEW CUTHBERT)

To receive a verbal report from the Leader of the Town Council.

10. INTERNAL AUDITOR

In accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, Part 2 (5), to agree to appoint Mr Peter Basnett as the Internal Auditor for the financial year ending March 2022.

11. SELECTIVE LICENSING OF PRIVATE LANDLORDS

To agree to write to Northumberland County Council Head of Housing and Local Protection, Philip Soderquest, copied to Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Cllr Colin Horncastle, and Leader Cllr Glen Sanderson, to request that Northumberland County Council introduce a scheme of selective licensing of private landlords, as provided for in sections 79, 80 and 81 of the Housing Act 2004 (enc)ⁱⁱⁱ

12. LONG-TERM EMPTY HOMES

To agree to write to Northumberland County Council Head of Housing and Local Protection, Philip Soderquest, copied to Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Cllr Colin Horncastle, and Leader Cllr Glen Sanderson, to request up-to-date information relating to the success of the strategy for dealing with long-term empty homes in Ashington (enc)^{iv}

13. COMMUNITY SAFETY

To agree to write to Community Safety Officer Lynsey Green to request the set-up of a suitable forum to tackle issues of anti-social behaviour and public protection in Ashington.

14. GRANT AID

To receive the Funding Report (enc)^v, including the following proposals, and agree:

- To adopt the revised Annual Grant Aid and Small Grant Funding procedures, as recommended in the Clerk's Report.
- To the timescales detailed, and to launch the Annual Grant Aid Funding opportunity immediately.
- To the timescales detailed and to publicise the timetable for Small Grants and launch according to the schedule throughout the year.
- A small group of Cllrs and Officers to review Annual Grant and Small Grant applications in detail.

15. ALTERNATIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

To receive and approve an 'Alternative Scheme of Delegation' to be invoked in matters of urgency, or when circumstances outside of the Council's control determine that meetings cannot be held (enc)^{vi}

16. PLANNING RESPONSES (enc)^{vii}

a) Strategic/Public Interest Responses

To receive and approve a motion that Ashington Town Council continue to bring planning applications that are of strategic importance, or considered to have significant public interest, to a meeting of the Full Council, for consideration and an agreed response.

b) Routine/Other Responses

To receive and approve a motion that Ashington Town Council respond to all other Planning Applications received, as invited, with 'support', 'object' or 'no comment', via delegated powers to the Clerk, in consultation with *Ward Councillors*.

17. TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC SEATING

To receive a request from Ashington Women's Institute (WI) to place 'Happy to Chat' plaques on public seating outside Holy Sepulchre Church, at Ashington Memorial Garden and the entrance to North Seaton Colliery, and agree to grant permission (enc)^{viii}

18. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS

To receive notice of consultation running from 7th March 2022 to 15th April 2022, and to agree a response (enc)^{ix} <https://haveyoursay.northumberland.gov.uk/transport/local-cycling-walking-infrastructure-plans/>

19. ASHINGTON & DISTRICT MALE VOICE CHOIR

To receive correspondence and agree to renew patronage at an annual cost of £15 (enc)^x

20. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Annual Meeting of the Council - Tuesday 10th May 2022, venue to be confirmed (awaiting information from NCC regarding Council Chamber).

21. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Town Council is 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 Part I (1) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) as the matter is confidential and relates to an individual.

22. JACK CHARLTON STATUE AND CHARLTON BROTHERS COMMEMORATION PROJECT

To receive a verbal report and agree the formative action to be taken by the Council

ENCLOSURES

ⁱ Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 25 January 2022

ⁱⁱ Team Priorities (Update for Members)

ⁱⁱⁱ Selective Licensing of Private Landlords - Background and Proposal

^{iv} Empty Homes – Background and Proposal

^v Funding Report, with recommendations

^{vi} Alternative Scheme of Delegation

^{vii} Planning Responses

^{viii} Letter from Ashington WI

^{ix} NCC Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans Consultation

^x Ashington & District Male Voice Choir