

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
DRAFT Minutes of the Finance & General Services Committee Meeting held at
6:00pm on Tuesday 14 December 2021

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Lynne Grimshaw (Chair), Caroline Ball, Louis Brown, Vicky Brown, Marjorie Chambers, Avril Chisholm, Matthew Cuthbert, Lawrence Henderson, Jim Lang, Liam Lavery, Mark Purvis, Sophie Robinson, Pauline Thompson, John Tully.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Slaughter – Project Support Officer

FGS 21/110 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Eleanor Armstrong, Michelle Brannigan, and Victor Bridges.

FGS 21/111 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest in items for agenda discussion.

FGS 21/112 DISPENSATIONS

There were no dispensations received or to consider.

FGS 21/113 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions received from members of the public.

The Chair reported that she had received correspondence from Woodhorn Road Allotments Association thanking the Council and its officers for the urgent and outstanding practical response to the aftermath of “Storm Arwen.”

The Chair informed members that the Allotment Association Committee also wished to place on formal record their gratitude to the Council for the financial help and support in acquiring essential materials to secure and reinstate severely damaged allotment plots, without which many elderly and longstanding plot-holders may not have been able to return to allotment gardening.

FGS 21/114 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was **AGREED to RECEIVE and SIGN** the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th October as a true record.

FGS 21/115 CLERK AND OFFICER UPDATES

It was **AGREED to RECEIVE** the following reports, which were sent out in advance of the meeting.

Applications for Funding Support

Grant payments had been made to Ashington Hirst Running Club (£750) and Parkhead & Wansbeck Powersports (£500) as agreed at the Finance and General Services meeting on 5th October.

A grant payment of £650 was also made to the Full Circle Food Project for Christmas Activities for young people, as agreed at the Full Council meeting on 16th November. The Clerk and Assets and Facilities Manager visited Full Circle on 7th December and

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
DRAFT Minutes of the Finance & General Services Committee Meeting held at
6:00pm on Tuesday 14 December 2021

preparations were in full swing to welcome the young people, with everywhere looking very Christmassy.

Precept Working Group

It was resolved at the Full Council meeting on 16th November to establish a Budget/Precept Working Group. Those members intending to be involved were requested to advise the Clerk so ideally a meeting could be arranged prior to the Christmas break. Meetings were provisionally scheduled for 14th December 2021 and 11th January 2022.

Woodhorn Museum Accessible Play Area

A press release was put out by Woodhorn (Museums Northumberland) on 21st November. The Council had placed the item on the website and received wide local press/twitter/social media coverage and recognition.

Links for these are given below:

[Museums Northumberland secures funding to create accessible play area at Woodhorn Museum - Museums Northumberland](#)
[Town Council Supports New Play Area at Museum \(ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

The Project Support Officer informed the meeting that work on the Play Area was currently scheduled to start in mid-January 2022.

Balloons and Sky Lanterns (Climate Change Working Group)

The agreed actions in regards the Council's position on balloons and sky lanterns will be communicated via the Council's website and Facebook page next week.

FGS 21/116 BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE 2021/22

a) Updated Budget Report

It was **AGREED to RECEIVE** the updated Budget Report, sent out in advance of the meeting.

b) Accounts Paid and to be Paid

It was **AGREED to RECEIVE** the schedule of accounts and to endorse those accounts paid via delegated authority, and approve those accounts to be paid, since 8th July 2021.

FGS 21/117 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP

a) Report of the meeting held on 14th October 2021

It was **AGREED to RECEIVE** the report of the meeting, sent out with the agenda papers.

b) Recommendations

Members agreed to the following recommendations from the Working Group:

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
DRAFT Minutes of the Finance & General Services Committee Meeting held at
6:00pm on Tuesday 14 December 2021

i. Tree Planting Scheme A197 / A1068 Junction

To seek permission, a scheme, costs to three plant trees at this entrance to Ashington, including the consideration of wildflower and bulb planting. Permission relates to landowner and highways, both Northumberland County Council.

It was AGREED to proceed to develop the scheme and that an agreed overall scheme cost of £700 be allocated from the Climate Change budget.

ii. Tree Planting Scheme at Woodhorn Villas

To seek permission, a scheme, and costs to plant ten trees at this location, near the roundabout onto Woodhorn Road. Permission relates to landowner and highways, both Northumberland County Council.

It was AGREED to It was AGREED to proceed to develop the scheme and that an agreed overall scheme cost of £2,400 be allocated from the Climate Change budget.

iii. Tree Planting Scheme B1334 Roundabout to North Seaton Industrial Estate

To seek permission, a scheme, and costs to plant twenty-four trees to complement existing tree planting on the area opposite North Seaton Industrial Estate, including the consideration of wildflower and bulb planting. Permission relates to landowner and highways, both Northumberland County Council.

It was AGREED to proceed to develop the scheme and that an agreed overall scheme cost of £6,000 be allocated from the Climate Change budget.

iv. Community Orchard at Seaton Hirst Allotment Site

To discuss with Seaton Hirst Allotment Association, the potential project of transforming an unused area of land at Seaton Hirst Allotment Site to be developed to include a wildlife area and small pond.

It was AGREED to proceed to discussions and to investigate the feasibility of the project.

FGS 21/118 PLAY AREA WORKING GROUP – ALEXANDRA ROAD PLAY AREA

It was AGREED to set-up a task and finish working group, to include Ward Cllrs Victor Bridges, Sophie Robinson, and Pauline Thompson to advance the future development and improvement of Alexandra Road Play Area.

FGS 21/119 SMALL GRANTS APPLICATIONS

a) Wansbeck Gymnastics and Trampolining Club

To receive details of an application for funding of £750 from the club to purchase two pieces of equipment: 'Tumbl Trak Pit Pillow Mat' (£648) and 'Tumbl Trak Steps' (£198).

It was AGREED to award the organisation funding of £750.

FGS 21/120 CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

To consider the gifting of ASDA vouchers totalling £620, previously purchased by the Council, to the toy appeals at Real Deal Plus, Salvation Army and Heart of the Hirst.

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
DRAFT Minutes of the Finance & General Services Committee Meeting held at
6:00pm on Tuesday 14 December 2021

Cllr Sophie Robinson asked for the minutes to reflect that she did not support vouchers being gifted to the Salvation Army for personal reasons relating to their historical stance over many years in seeking to both oppose and limit the rights of the LGBTQ community across nations.

It was AGREED to award and divide the ASDA vouchers totalling £620 equally between the toy appeals of Real Deal Plus and the Heart of the Hirst.

FGS 21/121 STREET NAMING – SEATON VALE SITE

It was AGREED to receive communication from Northumberland County Council on proposed street naming for Seaton Vale, specifically Formby, Fairhaven, Tralee, Truro and Trevoise, following a Golf Course theme. Members did not raise any issues with the suggested names, and **it was AGREED** to respond positively to the consultation.

FGS 21/122 DATE, TIME, AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next Finance and General Services Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 18th January 2022 at 6:00pm, venue to be agreed.

The meeting ended at 7:30pm.