

Training

Following contact with the National Association of Councillors, they are unable to offer training on 'Effective Meetings and Decision Making,' however this was covered in the previous training delivered. This subject is covered in most 'Chair' training.

NALC has recently offered training on Finance, the details of which has been shared with members via email.

Training is being sourced on the following as a priority. An outside provider would best deliver the first two topics. Knowledge and understanding of safeguarding in respect of the Council, will be checked following adoption of the Safeguarding Policy.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
Data Protection
Safeguarding

Christmas Lights

Costed proposals have been received from Gala Lights. Options and ideas will be explored further to allow a decision to be taken at the Finance and General Services Committee in July. Anyone with any specific ideas about Christmas Lights displays is encouraged to share these with the office.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

The AGAR is complete and will be brought to Full Council at the end of the month. The Full Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 28th June to ensure submission deadlines and the period for the exercise of public rights are adhered to.

Members are reminded they are welcome to question the Clerk on any matter relating to the Finance and Governance of the Council, so they feel assured to answer that they have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements, as well as maintaining an adequate system of internal control, risk management and insurance.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Council agreed funding for twelve groups to put on events or projects to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Unfortunately, one event did not go ahead, but we are sharing the stories of those that did. Sharon is liaising with the groups that were supported for further updates so these can be shared on our website and Facebook Page.

Northumberland County Council separately asked for information about events, which we have shared.

We did receive one phone call and one email to express disappointment that the Council did not decorate Station Road with banners or bunting to mark the occasion. We have responded to advise that the Council pledged £8,000 support to Community Groups.

NWL Inspections of Allotment Sites

The Water Regulations team at Northumbrian Water are carrying out a planned programme of plumbing inspections at all Allotment Sites on 16th June. The inspections are required to ensure plumbing systems are installed in a way that does not pose risk to health or wastewater. As our water supplier, Northumbrian Water has a duty to enforce the [Water Supply \(Water Fittings\) Regulations 1999](#). These cover contamination, waste, misuse, undue consumption and erroneous measurement.

Updates following the Annual Meeting of the Council

The Council website was updated with the details of new positions, including photographs of the newly elected Civic Head, Cllr Bob Walkinshaw, and Deputy Civic Head, Cllr Victor Bridges. Outgoing Civic Head, Cllr Pauline Thompson was pictured handing over to Cllr Walkinshaw and the editorial included an outgoing statement from Cllr Thompson.

[The start of a new Council year for Ashington Town Council](#)

All new policies have been updated on the Council's website, further information about roles will be included under 'The Council' soon.

[Ashington Town Council - Council Policies](#)**Northumberland Miners' Picnic at Woodhorn Colliery (11th June)**

Work has been going on behind the scenes for the above, and at the time of the meeting, the event will have been held.

The Council has supported with funding of £10,000 as well as organising the Miners' Memorial Service and collaborating with those involved in this important part of the day. Special thanks to Rev. Michael Hedley for leading the service alongside Ian Lavery MP, the Brass Marras, and to those who lay wreaths.

Further updates may be given.

Ashington Armed Forces Day & Falklands Commemoration (12th June)

Work has been going on behind the scenes for the above, and at the time of the meeting, the event will have been held.

With thanks to Stephen and Sharon for liaison and support of the Ashington Branch of the Royal British Legion and Churches Together, and Rev Chris Grocock for leading the service. Also, Mark Air and Ryan Appleby for their work in the memorial garden, and to those in attendance on the day and laying wreaths; Deputy Lord Lieutenant Bryony Gibson, Ian Lavery MP, Cllr Bob Walkinshaw, County Cllr Jim Lang and Phil Rainger (RBL).

Further updates may be given.

Environmental Enhancements

All planters, hanging baskets and tubs are in place for the summer season and part of an intensive watering schedule.

Station Road is on the agenda.

Photocopier Contract

At the time of writing the current photocopier is scheduled to be replaced this week with a new copier, under lease with NCS Limited.

The lease hire cost represents an annual saving of £1,216. Additionally in regards printing and copying this brings a cost per copy saving of 1.5p (colour) and 0.2p (mono), with the additional feature of utility colour (low colour), additional annual saving expected to be more than £300.

Core Services Meeting

NCC Officers, Paul Jones, Greg Gavin, Stephen Wardle, and the NEAT Senior Team will be presenting to Council on Core Services in Ashington on **Tuesday 21st June, at 6pm in the Council Chamber.**

NCC ATC Partnership Meeting

A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 21st June at 2:00pm. The Clerk is currently seeking confirmation of the date/time as an Extraordinary Meeting has been called at Northumberland County Council. It is unknown whether this will require the attendance of officers scheduled to attend the NCC Meeting. Additionally County Cllrs Lynne Grimshaw and Caroline Ball may also be expected to attend and are members of the Partnership Board.

Grant Funding

It has come to our attention that many local community groups are not aware of the funding available from external sources, or that they can sign up to receive the ebulletin from Northumberland County Council, or of where to go to for advice and support.

The Council's website will soon be updated with this information, so that groups can click on links for information and sources of support.