



NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, Market Place, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1DU
 Tel: 01636 680 333 ~ Fax: 01636 680 350
 Email: post@newark.gov.uk ~ Website: www.newark.gov.uk

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 7th February 2018 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

| Membership Present: | Councillor | D Lloyd (in the Chair) |
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| | Councillors | M G Cope (Vice-Chairman) (Ap) Mrs C Barker-Powell (Ap) Mrs I Brown (A) M Cleasby Mrs R Crowe R A Crowe Mrs G Dawn (A) P Duncan Ms H Gent (Ap) K Girling L Goff S Haynes D Hyde D Jones (A) T Roberts MBE (Ap) M Skinner R Williams |
| Apologies for Absence: | Councillors | M G Cope, Mrs C Barker-Powell, Ms H Gent & T Roberts MBE |
| Officers Present: | Town Clerk | Alan Mellor |
| Taking Notes: | PA to the Town Clerk | Helen Crossland |
| | There were no members of the public present. | |
| Venue: | Council Chamber, Town Hall | |

FGP68/17/18 Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 10th January 2018

The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 10th January were **AGREED** as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

FGP69/17/18 Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

FGP70/17/18 Declarations of Interest

It was **AGREED** to accept any Declarations of Interest as and when they arose during the meeting.

FGP71/17/18 Payment Schedule 9/18

Members **AGREED** that payment in accordance with Payment Schedule 9/18 in the sum of £224,427.93 (two hundred and twenty four thousand, four hundred and twenty seven pounds and 93p) be **APPROVED**.

FGP72/17/18 Street Collection Licences

Members **NOTED** the decision, under the Town Council's Scheme of Delegation, to grant a Street Collection Licence to:

- (i) Cancer Research UK on Saturday 3rd February 2018.

FGP73/17/18 Town Twinning

Cllrs M Cleasby, Mrs R Crowe, R A Crowe and D Hyde declared a non-pecuniary interest in this Agenda Item.

The recommendations were proposed from the chair:

- (i) Members then **AGREED** to hold a twinning event to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the signing of the Town Council's twinning agreement with Emmendingen.
- (ii) Members also **AGREED** to extend formal invitations for small delegations to attend from the Town Council's other twin towns, Sandomierz and Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire.
- (iii) Members **AGREED** to charge any costs associated with the event to the Festival Programme Events budget.

FGP74/17/18 Review of Market Fees and Charges

Cllr P Duncan spoke on this item; he questioned the Winter Loyalty Discount and the New Trader offers.

He felt that for the Winter Loyalty discount, two weeks was not generous enough, and proposed that this should be altered to four weeks.

He also thought that two stalls per new trader per year for the 'fiver a stall' offer to new traders was not enough of an incentive and proposed that this too should be altered to four weeks.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr K Girling and following a vote was **AGREED**.

Cllr L Goff asked about charity stalls; he asked that if there were empty spaces, could more stalls be allocated/offered to charities, instead of just the normal one that is available.

Cllr K Girling was concerned that if more charity stalls were put on the market, this cause a loss of quality stalls with a good range of products, so did not support this.

Cllr L Goff then informed Members that Newark Community First Aid wanted to apply for such a stall; the Town Clerk recommended that Cllr L Goff should declare an interest in this Agenda Item if that was his perspective, which Cllr L Goff then did.

Cllr M Skinner pointed out that this had been discussed at the last meeting of this Committee, with the Market Manager, who had said that he would take a 'commercial decision' on this matter.

Members then **CONSIDERED** the amendments to the current Market Fees and Charges as outlined in the Agenda Report, and **AGREED** that they should be effective from 1st April 2018, with the addition of the amendment proposed by Cllr P Duncan above.

FGP75/17/18 Review of Cemetery Fees and Charges

Members **CONSIDERED** an increase in Cemetery Fees and Charges as in the Agenda Report.

After discussion it was **AGREED** to increase the fees by 3% to be brought into effect from 1st April 2018.

FGP76/17/18 Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Town Clerk went through the report.

Following discussion it was **AGREED** to recommend approval of the report to the Full Town Council.

FGP77/17/18 Revenue Budget & Precept 2018/2019

The Town Clerk gave a summary of his report on this item.

It was **AGREED** to recommend to the Full Town Council the following:

- (i) The budget proposals as revised for the financial year 2017/18 in respect of all services and functions operated by the Town Council, giving rise to a projected net expenditure of £983,940.
- (ii) The budget proposals as submitted for the financial year 2018/19 in respect of all services and functions operated by the Town Council, giving rise to a projected next expenditure of £1,015,335.
- (iii) The level of precept required for 2018/19 to meet the net expenditure in respect of all services and functions operated by the Town Council be set at £896,025. This represents a 1.9% increase from that levied in 2017/18, this will result in a Council Tax charge of £108.84 per annum for a Band D property, an increase of £2.03 per annum from the charge in the current financial year.

Discussion followed with regard to the Town Council's contribution to Newark in Bloom. Cllr K Girling felt that as a 'major contributor' to this promotion, the Town Council should have a Councillor Representative on the Newark in Bloom Committee. They should have a say on the theme, and also a report from that group should be

brought back to this Committee; this would ensure that the Town Council knew what was decided.

Cllr K Girling then made this a formal proposal and it was seconded by Cllr R Crowe. Following a vote, Members **AGREED** to appoint a Town Council Representative to the Newark in Bloom Committee.

Cllr P Duncan noted that with regard to the market, and the Market Stall Erection and Clearance, and Market Cleansing, the figures contained in the report were now much better. He also said that the Devolution Agreement had protected the interests of the Town and the community.

FGP78/17/18 Meeting Dates

The Town Clerk informed Members that the Planning Meeting scheduled to be held on 2nd January 2019 may need to change as Newark & Sherwood District Council were going to reconsider the current date of their January meeting. He therefore suggested that the schedule of meetings be approved with the proviso that the Planning Committee proposed for 2nd January 2019 be moved, if necessary, to align with any changed date for the District Council's Planning Committee.

Members **CONSIDERED** the meeting schedule as in the Agenda and **AGREED** to recommend it be **APPROVED** by the Town Council, including any change required to align the 2nd January 2019 meeting with any changes made to the date of the District Council's Planning Committee for that month.

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| Meeting Closed: | 8.00pm | Next Meeting: | Wednesday 7th March 2018 |
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