



NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL

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FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 6th February 2019 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

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

FGP61/18/19 Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 9th January 2019

The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 9th January 2019 were **AGREED** as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

FGP62/18/19 Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

FGP63/18/19 Declarations of Interest

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

FGP64/18/19 Street Collection Licences

- (i) Collingham Panthers U7's on Saturday 16th February.

Discussion took place with regard to the fact that, although a worthy cause, this application would not be of benefit to local organisations and was thus outside of the Town Council's policy.

Cllr K Girling also stated that there were no local homeless veterans in Newark.

Members then **AGREED** to recommend to Newark & Sherwood District Council that the application for a Street Collection Licence be **REFUSED on the basis that it isn't providing support for local charities.**

However after further discussion it was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk be given Delegated Authority, in consultation with the Chairman of this Committee to speak to the applicant with the aim of changing the beneficiaries of the collection to local charities in which case permission could be granted.

FGP65/18/19 Voluntary Body/Community Events Grants Applications

Cllr R A Crowe noted that there was no request for refreshments in the application and asked if the Town Council were providing them free of charge.

The Town Clerk responded that if refreshments were to be required, the group would pay for them.

Members then **AGREED** to grant the following application for free use of the Town Hall:

- (i) Newark District Scout Council for free use of the Council Chamber on Wednesday 1st May to hold the Annual General Meeting at a cost of £87.50 net.

FGP66/18/19 Town Hall and Buttermarket

The Town Clerk went through the Agenda Report; Members then:

- (i) **NOTED** the Heads of Agreement which has been entered into with NSDC.
- (ii) **NOTED** the decision to renew the Licences for the two existing tenants for a period of six months.

- (iii) Discussion then followed with regard to future use of the Buttermarket and Town Hall.

Cllr M Skinner congratulated the Town Clerk on the tight timescale that had secured the purchase.

He was in agreement with the idea of an enhanced Museum, but was concerned about disabled access.

Cllr R Williams then asked about progress with the handrails outside of the Buttermarket; the Town Clerk informed Members that they were on order.

The Town Clerk undertook to include these issues within any review of options for the future use of the Town Hall & Buttermarket.

It was **AGREED** that:

- a. The preferred option for the future use of the Buttermarket was a new and extended Museum offer,
- b. The Town Clerk was instructed to appoint external consultants to produce possible options for a new Museum including advice on any associated building works that would be required to facilitate a reconfiguration of the Town Hall and Buttermarket,
- c. The above review should include possible alternative ways of providing office accommodation for the Town Hall based staff.

FGP67/18/19 Review of Market Fees and Charges

Members **AGREED** the amendments to the current Market Fees and Charges, to be effective from 1st April 2019, as outlined in the Agenda Report.

FGP68/18/19 Review of Cemetery Provision, Fees and Charges

Cllr L Goff declared a personal interest in this Agenda Item.

- (i) Members **AGREED** to provide benches upon which multiple plaques could be fixed, as outlined in the Agenda Report.
- (ii) Members **AGREED**, in principle, to provide an alternative for the interment of cremated remains.
- (iii) Members **AGREED**, in principle, to provide Memorial Walls that could be used for plaques.
- (iv) Members **AGREED**, in principle, to provide a dedicated area for the interment of children.

Cllr T Roberts MBE asked if this area would be solely for cremated remains or could include burials – he thought it should be for both options.

The Town Clerk responded that he would try to include this in the scheme.

Cllr Mrs R Crowe said that there would still need to be a policy with regard to the leaving of soft toys etc in this area and it would also be nice to see some form of memorial placed there.

The Town Clerk responded that he would try to include this in the scheme.

- (v) Members **AGREED** an increase of 4% in Cemetery Fees and Charges, to be effective from 1st April 2019.

(vi) Members **NOTED** the progress on relocating the Lodge.

FGP69/18/19 Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Town Clerk went through the Agenda Report and expanded on some of the points contained therein.

He explained that this years' budget preparations were more difficult given the additional revenue expenditure which would arise from the purchase of the Buttermarket. In this context it was recommended that the Devolution Reserve Fund be transferred to the General Fund to support expenditure over the next few years. In addition the estimates have been reviewed to achieve savings which wouldn't have a detrimental impact on current service delivery; this had identified savings of £66,980 which were shown in **RED** in the Revenue Estimate report.

If Members accepted these two recommendations then the Medium Term Financial Strategy would deliver an acceptable level of reserves in the period up to 2025/26.

Members thanked the Town Clerk for submitting a Medium Term Financial Strategy which took account of the unexpected additional cost of the Buttermarket.

Members **CONSIDERED** the Medium Term Financial Strategy and **AGREED** to recommend to the Town Council that it be adopted.

FGP70/18/19 Revenue Budget & Precept 2019/2020

Members **CONSIDERED** the Town Council's proposed Revenue Budget and Precept for the financial year 2019/2020 and it was **AGREED** to recommend to the Town Council the following:

- (i) The budget proposals as revised for the financial year 2018/19 in respect of all services and functions operated by the Town Council, giving rise to a projected net expenditure of £1,022,590.
- (ii) The budget proposals as submitted for the financial year 2019/20 in respect of all services and functions operated by the Town Council, giving rise to a projected net expenditure of £1,026,460.
- (iii) The level of precept required for 2019/20 to meet the net expenditure in respect of all services and functions operated by the Town Council be set at £927,429. This represents a 1.9% increase from that levied in 2018/19; this will result in a Council Tax charge of £110.95 per annum for a Band D property, an increase of £2.11 per annum from the charge in the current financial year.

FGP71/18/19 Meeting Dates

It was **NOTED** that there was a duplication of dates on the meetings schedule on Wednesday 26th June 2019 – Town Council and Planning.

It was **AGREED** to move the Town Council meeting to Tuesday 18th June 2019.

Members also **AGREED** to hold an additional Planning Meeting on Wednesday 24th April 2019 in order to keep up with outstanding applications.

Members then **AGREED** to recommend to the Town Council that the meeting schedule as in the Agenda be **APPROVED** by the Town Council, with the inclusion of the alteration as above.

Meeting Closed:	8.15pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 6th March 2019
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