



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 7th March 2018 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 M Cleasby Mrs R Crowe R A Crowe Mrs G Dawn P Duncan Ms H Gent K Girling L Goff S Haynes D Hyde D Jones (Ap) T Roberts MBE M Skinner R Williams
Apologies for Absence:	Councillor	D Jones
Officers Present:	Town Clerk	Alan Mellor
Taking Notes:	PA to the Town Clerk	Helen Crossland
	There were four members of the public present.	
Venue:	Council Chamber, Town Hall	

FGP79/17/18 Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 7th February 2018

The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 7th February were **AGREED** as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

FGP80/17/18 Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

FGP81/17/18 Declarations of Interest

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

FGP82/17/18 Payment Schedule 10/18

Members **AGREED** that payment in accordance with Payment Schedule 10/18 in the sum of £129,210.13 (one hundred and twenty nine thousand, two hundred and ten pounds and 13p) be **APPROVED**.

FGP83/17/18 Destination Management Plan

Members **CONSIDERED** the Draft Plan and made the following comments:

- (i) It was noted that the Business Club did not seem to be involved, and were not on the list of Consultees; following discussion it was **AGREED** that the membership list should include the Business Club.
- (ii) The Plan highlights and identifies the whole range of attractions that Newark has to offer.
- (iii) Newark Management Group (NMG) - there was a need to understand how the Town Team 'fit' into this; the Town Clerk said that the NMG could be a higher strategic group and the Town Team would then be more operational.
- (iv) Some of the original people involved as Consultees were no longer at Newark & Sherwood District Council.
- (v) It was noted that there were 5 Conservatives on the Consultee list; the Chairman explained how they were appointed, and that it was not on the basis of Political Party.
- (vi) It was suggested that perhaps in the spring months the Market Place could be lit – it was currently very 'dull' in the evening. Advantage should be taken of the facility (the Market Place) – extend the evening and night-time economy.

The Chairman pointed out that the Shopfront Supplementary Planning Document was specifically aimed at lighting in retail units.

It was also noted that the evening and night-time economy was located mainly along Castlegate, and the Market Place was 'day time' economy.

A suggestion was made that there could be more activities in the Market Place, particularly for children; a lot more could be put on.

Other Members felt that there was plenty being put on in the Market Place (themed markets and street entertainment for example) and the Town Council had spent a lot of money making the Market Place a nice place to be. In the

couple of years since the Town Council had taken control of the Market Place, a lot of work had been done.

- (vii) The current review of the Buttermarket would include the 'mix' of shops.
- (viii) The Plan identified the retail potential of the Town.
- (ix) There is now a need to fully develop a Town Plan, looking at 20 years' time – it was **AGREED** that this should be a recommendation from the Town Council.

FGP84/17/18 Risk Register

The Town Clerk presented the report; there were two revisions; Risk No 12 – Workforce Succession Planning and within Risk No 9,10 & 11, Devolved Services, the Town Council Capacity.

There was discussion about the workforce succession planning; Cllr K Girling asked if there was a Skills Matrix in place – as staff left, you would be able to see what skills would need to be replaced. The Town Clerk pointed out that the demographics of the Town Council employees are not an even spread and perhaps there was a need for a better 'balance' of ages in the workforce, in the future.

Cllr D Hyde asked about the new GDPR law that was due to come into effect in May; the Town Clerk responded that he was aware that all Councils will have to deal with Data Protection issues. He reported that was having conversations at the moment with other Councils, and had also had some initial discussion with the Town Council's IT providers. He did not consider it to be a risk at this stage.

Town Council Capacity – the Town Clerk informed Members that he was satisfied that there was now no risk with regard to the transfer of additional services.

Members then **CONSIDERED** the strategic risks as discussed in the report and **APPROVED** the revised Risk Management Strategy.

FGP85/17/18 Internal Audit Report

Cllr Mrs R Crowe was pleased that the recommendations had been carried out and congratulated the Town Clerk.

Members **ACCEPTED** the Internal Audit Report and **ENDORSED** the proposed actions in response to the report's recommendations.

FGP86/17/18 Financial Out Turn

Cllr M Skinner asked about the PWLB Loans; the Town Clerk explained that the application had gone in, but it was a protracted process. He now had to submit a lot more information and this was ongoing.

Cllr K Girling felt that the Town Council was in a good financial position and the people of Newark should be pleased about this. Cllr P Duncan agreed and said that the Devolution Agreement had been successful.

Members **RECEIVED** and **APPROVED** the financial out-turn report as at 31 January 2018.

FGP87/17/18 Investment Strategy

The Town Clerk began discussion on this item. He said that it was now moving towards the end of the financial year and the decisions made last year had proved to be good ones.

- (i) Members **APPROVED** the withdrawals and additional investments made during the current financial year to date.
- (ii) Members **CONSIDERED** the performance of the investments achieved through the CCLA.

FGP88/17/18 Sports Club Support

Prior to discussion of this item, the Chairman said that he would take the report in an itemised fashion; he was aware that some Members had interests to declare and asked for those declarations to be made.

Cllr R Crowe declared a prejudicial interest in Newark Rugby Club and said he would leave the meeting for the discussion of this.

Cllr Mrs R Crowe declared a personal interest in Newark Rugby Club.

Cllr K Girling declared a personal interest in Newark Town Bowls Club.

Cllr M Skinner declared a personal interest in Ransome Bowls Club.

The Chairman then went through the background of the Agenda Report. He then proposed the recommendations prior to the discussion.

Members CONSIDERED and AGREED:

- (ii) The request from Newark Town Bowls Club for the Town Council to provide financial support to their building repair project and the purchase of wheelchairs to enable disabled people to play bowls.

Cllr L Goff proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the members of the public present to speak should they wish to do so.

The Chairman felt that Members had all the information required in the Agenda report, and that it would not be necessary and Members agreed.

Cllr Mrs G Dawn then suggested that the Maple Leaf Pub monies should go towards open spaces for children; Yorke Drive was losing some of their open space.

The Town Clerk pointed out that the decision made at the last meeting to allocate that money to Sports would now come under the 6 month rule.

The Chairman said that he did not believe sport was a core activity for Newark Town Council; he felt that the issue of Bridge Ward needed to be worked on, in another place, then maybe come back to this committee for support.

He then asked for a seconder, and Cllr M Cope seconded the recommendation.

Members **AGREED** to allocate £2,000, or the shortfall balance up to a maximum of £5,500 if their grant application was not successful.

The Club had also requested permission to use the Town Council Crest and this was **AGREED**. A formal letter of permission on headed paper is to be sent to the Club.

- (iii) The request from the three Bowls Clubs using the Beaumont Gardens bowling greens for the Town Council to install toilet facilities in the pavilion.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the main decision to be made on this recommendation would be 'in principle'.

The Chairman asked for a seconder and Cllr Cope seconded the

recommendation.

Members **AGREED** to allocate £5,500 to install toilet facilities, at Beaumont Gardens Bowling Green.

- (i) Cllr R A Crowe left the meeting at this point.

The request from Newark Rugby Club for the Town Council to provide financial support to their improvement project.

Cllr M Cope started the discussion; he felt that the Rugby Club was the best Youth Club in the area. They would be celebrating their Centenary next year. They do not usually ask for public support (money) but the Town Council has recently helped other sport in the town, and Cllr M Cope felt that this application should be supported also.

Cllr T Roberts MBE also said that the Rugby Club had been self-supporting for a long time and that hundreds of young people had been helped, and used the Club.

Cllr L Goff declared a personal interest at this point as he was a first aider for the Newark Rugby Club.

The Chairman asked for a seconder and Cllr M Cope seconded the recommendation.

Pursuant to decision already made, Members **AGREED** to allocate the residual amount of funding available to Newark Rugby Club. This would be between £40,000 and £45,000.

Cllr T Roberts MBE suggested that Newark Town Council's support should be recognised in some way by the Rugby Club.

Cllr R A Crowe returned to the meeting.

FGP89/17/18 Kidney Stones

The Chairman went through the Agenda Report.

Cllr L Goff proposed that the Kidney Stones be erected on the Riverside Park. There was no seconder for this proposal so it was not agreed.

The Chairman then put forward the following suggestions for other sites which could accommodate the Kidney Stones:

- (i) Newark College – either side of the entrance possibly.
- (ii) Entrances to the Industrial Estate.
- (iii) The new school at Fernwood.
- (iv) The new primary school on land south of Newark.

Cllr T Roberts MBE was concerned about vandalism.

The Town Clerk said the Stones need to be put somewhere that also discourages the public from climbing on them, or indeed falling from them and causing injuries.

Cllr L Goff suggested that they might be able to be accommodated in the Town Hall Ballroom; it was decided that this was not possible.

Cllr Mrs I Brown requested that this item be deferred to the next meeting; other Members were not in agreement with this suggestion.

The Chairman then proposed that:

The four options put forward above be looked at, and funding options pursuant to this.
A vote was held and this was **AGREED** with one abstention.

Cllr P Duncan said he understood that there was a 'Kidney Trust' and asked if this could be a source of funding towards moving the Stones. The Town Clerk said there was such a fund, but at the moment it is used for the items that are in the Town Hall; he would investigate this option further.

Meeting Closed:	8.50pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 4th April 2018
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