



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 14th June 2017 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 (A) M Cleasby Mrs R Crowe R A Crowe Mrs G Dawn (A) P Duncan (Ap) Ms H Gent K Girling L Goff S Haynes D Hyde D Jones T Roberts MBE (Ap) M Skinner R Williams
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors	P Duncan, T Roberts MBE
Officers Present:	Town Clerk	Alan Mellor
Taking Notes:	PA to the Town Clerk	Helen Crossland
	There was one member of the public present.	
Venue:	Council Chamber, Town Hall	

FGP01/17/18 Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 5th April 2017

The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 5th April 2017 were **AGREED** as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

FGP02/17/18 Matters Arising

FGP113/16/17 Market Operations

(vi) *'To liaise with N&SDC and the Police to ascertain what enforcement action can take place'*.

Cllr Mrs R Crowe asked if there had been any progress with this; the Town Clerk responded that nothing had been heard as yet.

FGP03/17/18 Declarations of Interest

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

FGP04/17/18 Payment Schedules 12/17, 1/18 & 2/18

Members **AGREED** that payment in accordance with Payment Schedule 12/17 in the sum of £134,290.63 (one hundred and thirty four thousand, two hundred and ninety pounds and 63p), Payment Schedule 1/18 in the sum of £152,458.40 (one hundred and fifty two thousand, four hundred and fifty eight pounds and 40p) and Payment Schedule 2/18 in the sum of £435,279.40 (four hundred and thirty five thousand, two hundred and seventy nine pounds and 40p) be **APPROVED**.

FGP05/17/18 Street Collection Licences

Cllr Mrs R Crowe declared a personal interest in the first application.

a. Members **AGREED** to recommend to Newark & Sherwood District Council that the following applications for a Street Collection Licences be **REFUSED**:

(i) Newark & Sherwood Concert Band on Sunday 2nd July 2017.

Members were concerned that this was being requested to take place during a Sunday Band Concert in the Castle Grounds. Historically these events are well known for being free of charge to attend and there was concern that visitors may feel 'pressured' to donate. Another concern was raised that if allowed, this could set a precedent and it could then become the 'norm' to have a collection at the Band Concerts.

Cllr k Girling suggested that perhaps the Band could play in the Market Place in the morning on that day, and hold the Street Collection there; following discussion it was agreed that this could provide a solution and the Town Clerk said he would talk to the applicant to explore alternative options.

(ii) Meningitis Research Foundation of Saturday 8th or Sunday 9th July 2017.

Members said that also this was a national charity, the remit of this

Committee was to support local causes. As a result of this, it was decided to refuse the application.

- b. Members then **AGREED** to recommend to Newark & Sherwood District Council that the following application for a Street Collection Licence be **APPROVED**:

- (iii) Newark & District Round Table on Saturday 16th December 2017.

Cllr R Crowe asked if the Round Table could let the Town Council know which actual charities they were collecting for.

This was **AGREED**.

FGP06/17/18 Revenue Out Turn & Final Accounts 2016/17

The Town Clerk addressed Members on this Agenda item. He said that the report identified the highlights of the particular budget that had changed.

Cllr D Jones asked the Town Clerk to explain the working out of the 'fixed assets' on page 55 of the Agenda, (box number 9) and whether this change had any detrimental financial implications for the Town Council. The Town Clerk confirmed that the change in asset valuations had no impact on the Town Council's revenue account.

The Town Clerk added that, in his opinion, the required methodology of valuing assets didn't give a realistic financial description of the assets in the Town Council's ownership.

Cllr M Cope asked if, in these circumstances, the Town Council should use a more realistic asset valuation method. The Town Clerk explained that he had some sympathy with this view but that this would not be in accordance with the accounting guidelines against which the accounts are audited. From a pragmatic perspective it was therefore advisable, on balance, to adhere to the recommended valuation methodology.

Following the above discussion, Cllr Mrs R Crowe asked if a report could come to the next meeting of this Committee regarding the Cemetery; she wanted to know if any progress had been made with the Lodge, toilets and the bench strategy.

The Town Clerk said he would be happy to provide a report at the meeting of this Committee on Wednesday 6th September, and this was **AGREED**.

Members then **APPROVED** the Town Council's Out Turn Revenue Expenditure for the financial year 2016/17.

FGP07/17/18 Cheque Signatories

- (i) Members **APPROVED** the list of authorised cheque signatories to the Town Council's main bank accounts for the Civic Year 2017 – 2018 as recommended in the report.
- (ii) Members **APPROVED** the list of authorised cheque signatories to the Town Mayor's Charity bank account for the Civic Year 2017 – 2018 as recommended in the report.

FGP08/17/18 Representation on Outside Bodies

Members **CONSIDERED** the appointment of Town Council representatives on Outside Bodies for the 2017/18 Civic Year, and the following appointments were **AGREED**:

East Midlands Museum Service – Town Hall Curator for the Civic Year

Newark Allotments & Gardens Assoc – Cllr L Goff for the Civic Year

Newark Civic Trust Awards – the Town Mayor for the Civic Year (and every Civic Year)

Newark Healthcare Consultative Group – Cllr Mrs I Brown for the Civic Year
Cllr R Williams for the Civic Year

Newark MIND - Cllr Mrs C Barker-Powell for the Civic Year

Friends of Newark Cemetery – Deputy Town Clerk for the Civic Year
Cllr R Williams for the Civic Year

Newark on Trent Twinning Association – Town Mayor – ex officio for the Civic Year
Cllr M Cleasby for the Civic Year
Cllr D Jones for the Civic Year

Newark & Sherwood CVS - Cllr R Williams for the Civic Year

It was **AGREED** that a new list of Town Council representation on Outside Bodies would be circulated to all Members, incorporating the above changes.

The Town Clerk was asked to find out which Safer Neighbourhood Groups still met and what areas they covered and advise Town Councillors accordingly.

FGP09/17/18 Dog Control Orders

- (i) Members **CONSIDERED** the consultation papers issued by Newark & Sherwood District Council relating to the introduction of new Public Space Protection Orders.

Points raised during discussion of this item:

Cllr K Girling said that the Orders do not clarify how this is controlled; the list misses out some areas. He felt that the paper asked more questions than it answered.

Cllr M Skinner said that this was one of the most asked questions he gets, as a Councillor. He would like to see more statistics and information on the enforcement of such Orders.

Cllr Mrs R Crowe agreed with Cllr M Skinner; enforcement is the issue. There is no point putting things in place if there is no enforcement.

Cllr Ms H Gent asked who would be given this responsibility – would it be an Officer of the Town Council?

Cllr D Lloyd said that it would be a District Council Officer; he also said he was concerned that these measures would turn a Public Order offence into a

Criminal offence.

Cllr D Lloyd went on to say that assessments should be made with regard to:

- who owns which site
- any bye-laws in force on those sites
- other needs and resources (poo bags)
- fines

Cllr D Lloyd asked all Members to respond to the questionnaire individually and send them to the Town Clerk, who will then pass them on to the District Council.

It was also **AGREED** to give the Town Clerk delegated authority, in consultation with the Chairman of this Committee, to:

- Assess the list of sites, and identify all areas that are not on the list.
- Review other bye laws whilst doing this.
- Also assess other needs that may be required.
- What resources will be required for these?
- Fines for dog owners not having poo bags on their person
- What are the penalties? What is the cost?
- Extend the use of such orders to cover other 'Penalty Notices' such as littering.

A response could then be sent to the District Council before the deadline of 27th June 2017.

Meeting Closed:	8.15pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 12th July 2017
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