



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

FGP20/17/18 Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 12th July 2017

The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12th July 2017 were **AGREED** as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

FGP21/17/18 Matters Arising

There were No Matters Arising.

FGP22/17/18 Declarations of Interest

Cllr L Goff declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 7 (Grant Applications) and a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 (Cemetery Buildings).

Cllr R Williams declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 (Cemetery Buildings).

Cllr Mrs R Crowe declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7 (Grant Applications).

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

FGP23/17/18 Payment Schedules 3/18 & 4/18

Members **AGREED** that payment in accordance with Payment Schedule 3/18 in the sum of £186,622.59 (one hundred and eighty six thousand, six hundred and twenty two pounds and 59p) and Payment Schedule 4/18 in the sum of £234,683.21 (two hundred and thirty four thousand, six hundred and eighty three pounds and 21p) be **APPROVED**.

FGP24/17/18 Street Collection Licences

Prior to discussion of this item the Town Clerk pointed that there were 3 applications for the month of December; only three were allowed, and one of those had already been agreed (Newark & District Round Table, December 16th).

- a. Members **AGREED** to recommend to Newark & Sherwood District Council that the following applications be **APPROVED**:
 - (i) Royal Air Forces Association on Friday 29th September 2017.
Cllr L Goff declared an interest in this application.
 - (ii) Framework on Sunday 10th December 2017.
- (b) Members then **AGREED** to recommend to Newark & Sherwood District Council that the following applications for a Street Collection Licence be **REFUSED** as they are outside of the area:
 - (iii) Meningitis Research Foundation on Saturday 2nd December 2017.
 - (iv) Age Sentinel Trust on Saturday 9th December 2017.

FGP25/17/18 Voluntary Body/Community Events Grant Applications

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

- (i) Free use of the Ballroom to hold the Wolfit Choir Festival on Thursday 22nd March 2018. The cost of the room hire is £438.75.

Proposed by Cllr P Duncan and seconded by Cllr T Roberts MBE.

- (ii) Free use of rooms on Thursday 19th October 2017 to Hope House School, to hold their Speech and Prize Giving Day. The cost of the room hire is £460.00.

Proposed by Cllr M Skinner and seconded by Cllr M Cope.

It was noted that some of the pages from the accounts of this application were missing; it was agreed to provide these to Members in due course.

Cllr L Goff left the meeting at this point (interest already declared).

- (iii) Free use of the Ballroom and Kitchen on Tuesday 17th October 2017, to Newark Community First Aid to hold a Coffee Morning Concert in aid of the group. The cost of the room hire is £200.00.

Proposed by Cllr R Williams and seconded by Cllr K Girling.

Following agreement of this item Cllr L Goff returned to the meeting.

Addendum Item

It was noted that this should read "*to celebrate the 20th Anniversary....*" and not "to celebrate the 70th Anniversary".

Cllr Mrs R Crowe declared a personal interest in this application.

- (iv) Free use of the Ballroom on Saturday 18th November to Newark & Sherwood Concert Band to hold an event to celebrate the 20th (amended as above) Anniversary of when the band was initially formed. The cost will be in the region of £500.00.

FGP26/17/18 Cemetery Buildings

Cllr Mrs R Crowe began the debate on this item; she thought that the Lodge required a lot of work, and currently was of the opinion that it should be demolished.

Cllr K Girling said that Members needed to know what the market value of the property was and proposed that this item should be deferred until this has been researched.

Cllr M Cope then spoke; he agreed with Cllr K Girling. He also pointed that there was already a standing Council decision to sell this property, from a number of years ago. He felt that if the building were to be demolished, that something else should be put on the same site.

Cllr L Goff felt that any new build should be at the Thoresby Road end of the site. He also felt that new toilet(s) should be provided within any new construction.

Cllr Mrs G Dawn agreed with Cllrs Girling and Cope; she also proposed that this item be deferred until there is more information on the value etc.

Cllr T Roberts MBE was of the same opinion; he said that a proper valuation of the site was required. He pointed out however, that if it is demolished, the ability to maintain workshops etc on the site would be lost.

Cllr D Lloyd then proposed the following recommendations from the Chair:

- (i) Ascertain the market value, and interest, via two expert agencies in order to make an informed decision with regard to the sale (and any related options/restrictions)
- (ii) Determine precisely what storage/staff facilities are required.
- (iii) Begin discussions with neighbouring organisations/landholders with regard to co-location/co-provision of equipment and services.
- (iv) Bring a further report forward in three months' time together with proposals for policies on benches/plaques.

These were seconded by Cllr K Girling and **AGREED**.

FGP27/17/18 Allotment Agreement Review

Cllr M Cope started discussion on this item. He felt that there was already sufficient information/terms within the allotment agreement to remove the caravan, and the tenant. Paragraphs 7, 16, 24 and C (ii) contained the said terms.

General discussion following with regard to the existing agreement.

The Town Clerk said that the report had been put to this Committee in order to strengthen the position of the Council on the various issues contained therein.

Cllr M Cope also said that currently the tenancy agreement does not state that the Town Council can amend it; the Town Clerk said that agreements last for one year. On 1st October annually a new agreement is sent out to each tenant.

- (i) Members then **AGREED** that caravans should **NOT** be permitted on allotments sites and to amend the tenancy agreement to reflect that decision as outlined in the Agenda Report.

It was also **AGREED** to add a paragraph to actually state that the agreement is for 12 months and that it is/can be subject to amendment by the Town Council.

FGP28/17/18 Rent & Rates and Car Parks & Markets Offices

- (i) Members **APPROVED** the re-decoration and improvements to the Markets Office.

Discussion then followed with regard to the old Rent & Rates office.

Cllr T Roberts MBE said he would like to know what the square footage of the space was so that various options could be looked at.

Cllr Mrs G Dawn asked if this item should be deferred; this space could be valued at the same time as the Cemetery Lodge, and this was **AGREED**.

- (ii) Members deferred the matter of the future use of this premise in order that the Town Clerk investigate possible uses for the old Rent & Rates office following the departure of the District Council and to bring a further report back to this Committee including the valuations associated with the potential uses.

FGP29/17/18 Christmas Lights

The Town Clerk went through the recommendations contained within the report and showed Members some pictures of what the new displays would look like, if agreed.

- (i) Members **AGREED** to the removal of the existing lights displays sited on

the Street Lights columns in the Market Place and on the buildings along Castle Gate.

Discussion ensued with regard to the second recommendation, the installation of new Christmas Lights displays in various areas.

Cllr T Roberts MBE asked if something could be installed closer to Beaumont Cross, on Cartergate. In his opinion this area was the 'gateway' into Town from the Nottingham side. Cllr Mrs G Dawn agreed with Cllr T Roberts MBE and also said that Cartergate always appeared to be 'the odd one out' when the Christmas lights are on display.

The Chairman informed Members that they would have to prioritise the potential new light displays, there was no provision for lights at the entrance to Cartergate at the Beaumont Cross junction.

After further discussion it was **AGREED NOT TO PROCEED** with the potential Appletongate displays.

It was then **AGREED** that the proposed cross street displays in the Market Place be approved.

Further it was **AGREED** that the Cartergate/Beaumont Cross junction be prioritised for additional displays within the available resources and delegated authority be granted to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, to finalise the Christmas Light displays.

Meeting Closed:	8.50pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 4th October 2017
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