



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 4th October 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 (Ap) R A Crowe (Ap) Mrs G Dawn P Duncan Ms H Gent (Ap) K Girling L Goff S Haynes D Hyde D Jones T Roberts MBE M Skinner R Williams
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors	Mrs C Barker-Powell, Mrs R Crowe, R A Crowe, Ms H Gent
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	

FGP30/17/18	Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 6th September 2017
	The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 6 th September 2017 were AGREED as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
FGP31/17/18	Matters Arising
	FGP26/17/18 – Cemetery Buildings Cllr L Goff asked if there was any update on this item; the Town Clerk responded that there was nothing to report.
FGP32/17/18	Declarations of Interest
	It was AGREED to accept any Declarations of Interest as and when they arose during the meeting.
FGP33/17/18	Payment Schedule 5/18
	Members AGREED that payment in accordance with Payment Schedule 5/18 in the sum of £176,464.29 (one hundred and seventy six thousand, four hundred and sixty four pounds and 29p) be APPROVED .
FGP34/17/18	Street Collection Licences
	Members AGREED to recommend to Newark & Sherwood District Council that the following application for a Street Collection Licence be REFUSED as they are outside of the area and do not meet the criteria:
	(i) Animal Defenders International Foundation on Saturday 21 st October 2017.
FGP35/17/18	Voluntary Body/Community Events Grant Applications
	<p>Cllr K Girling began discussion on this item; he said it appeared that the same people apply for these grants each year/time and asked if there a way of letting smaller charities know about this fund.</p> <p>Cllr T Roberts MBE noted that some of the larger local charities had professional fundraisers which perhaps meant that they had an advantage when applying for this grant. He suggested that perhaps a limit could be put on the number of times an organisation could request free use of the Town Hall over a number of years.</p> <p>Cllr M Skinner pointed out that if this application were granted, there would be less than £400 remaining in this budget.</p> <p>Cllr M Cope said that the money was put in the budget to support community events like this; once it was gone, it was gone.</p> <p>The Town Clerk then asked Members if they would like him to submit a review of the current policy and application form, to include limiting the number of occasions a charity could apply and the provision of information on the anticipated income to be generated from the hire; this was AGREED.</p> <p>Cllr K Girling then said it would also be useful to have an idea of 'how much' the various charities have had, possibly over the last 3 years, for instance.</p> <p>Cllr T Roberts thought that maybe two or more charities could get together and hold 'joint' ventures.</p>

	<p>Cllr M Cope suggested that the limit could be reduced.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs I Brown talked about the method employed by N&SDC for charity collections, in that if 80% of the monies collected are not received by the charity, the collections are not allowed.</p> <p>Cllr T Roberts MBE made the point that charities should not be relying on the Town Council as a funding source in this way.</p> <p>Cllr D Lloyd said it would interesting to know how much the charities were hoping to raise, and much the costs actually were for their events that were held in the Town Hall.</p> <p>The Town Clerk then asked Members if they would like him to submit a review of the current policy taking into account the above comments that various Councillors had made, this was AGREED.</p>
	Members then AGREED to grant the following application for free use of the Town Hall:
	(i) Free use of rooms on Saturday 2 nd December for Newark Emmaus Trust to hold a Christmas Ceilidh. The cost of room hire is £479.17.
FGP36/17/18	Financial Out-Turn
	<p>Cllr K Girling said this report showed that Newark Town Council provided high quality services and made good things happen, with the amount of money that it had.</p> <p>Cllr P Duncan pointed out that there had been a period of considerable change, and it had been handled extremely well.</p> <p>Cllr G Dawn asked about the Newark Festival (figures given on page 47 of the Agenda); she said that she would like to see a report back to the Town Council on the Newark Festival so that Members could assess its impact.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed Members that the final account from the Festival held in June had not been finalised. It was AGREED that this should be on either the November or December Agenda for this Committee.</p> <p>Members then RECEIVED and APPROVED the financial out turn for the period 1 April to 31 August 2017 as in the Agenda report.</p>
FGP37/17/18	Final Accounts 2016/17 – External Audit
	Members NOTED the approval of the Town Council's financial accounts for the 2016/17 financial year ended on 31 st March 2017 by the external auditors.
	An addendum to the Agenda report was circulated prior to the meeting, and there were no matters which the External Auditor required to be brought to Members attention.
	After discussion regarding the additional information in the addendum pertaining to the Local Government Finance Settlement, Members AGREED to give delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of this Committee to submit representations opposing the extension of Referendum Principle to Parish Councils.

Meeting Closed:	8.15pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 8th November 2017
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