



**Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018  
in the St James's Church Centre, Pottergate, Alnwick at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Councillors P Broom (Chair), P Edge, B Grisdale, M Harrington, G Mavin, S Patience, M Swinbank, A Symmonds and G Watson.

**In attendance:** W Batey, Town Clerk; J Pibworth, Assistant to the Town Clerk; Councillor Wearn for part of Item 6. Grant Applications.

**RA 18/26 Apologies**

Clrs Waton and Wood-Mitchell.

**RA 18/27 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Watson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6. Grant Applications – Spring Show.

Councillor Broom declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 6. Grant Applications - Christmas Lights and Alnwick in Bloom.

The Assistant to the Town Clerk declared a pecuniary interest in Item 6. Grant Applications - Alnwick in Bloom.

Councillor Watson declared a pecuniary interest in item 5. Proposed Allotment rents 2019/20.

**RA 18/28 Minutes of last meeting – matters arising not on the agenda**

RA 18/21 REFILL SCHEME – information has been given to the Town Team. A letter is being prepared for the Chamber of Trade to distribute to its members.

RA 18/21 YOU'RE WELCOME SCHEME – The Town Clerk advised that no further work had been done.

RA 18/21 WORKING GROUPS (WWI) – the WWI working group met on October 26<sup>th</sup> and actions are underway. An update will be sent out to member of working group who were not able to attend.

RA 18/21 FLAGPOLE – the flagpole is up and the Union Flag has been flying since Remembrance Day.

RA 18/22 SPEED INDICATOR SIGN – the speed indicator sign had now been replaced.

RA 18/21 BOLLARDS – 6 new bollards have arrived, and a price had been requested from NCC for their installation.

**RA 18/29 Budget Update 2018/19**

**2018/19 Budget** The Town Clerk circulated a copy of the Recreation & Amenities Committee Income and Expenditure for 2018/19 as at 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and highlighted the following:

**EXPENDITURE**

**EVENTS:**

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – some costs still to be paid.

**PROJECTS:**

PETER'S MILL RIDGE PROJECT - Councillor Harrington reported that he had spoken to James McLean who was still keen to undertake the work.

COMMUNICATION PROJECT – Councillor Swinbank felt that information about the Town Council's activities needed to get out into the outside world. The Town Clerk advised that press releases were sent to the Gazette but that they no longer attended meetings. He advised that this would be added to a future agenda for further discussion.

Councillor Grisdale felt that as reported were no longer attending Town Council meetings it was important that information was sent to them.

Councillor Symmonds agreed that this needed to be discussed further.

Councillor Mavin reported that the presentation by Pure Fishing at the Alnwick Business Network meeting had been very good and that attendees had been given an example of pyramid model.

Councillor Harrington reported that newspapers were very keen to sell advertising and many gave free articles on the back of this.

Councillor Watson asked if the Media Study pupils from DCHS could write press release for the Town Council. Councillor Grisdale said he would speak to DCHS.

The Town Clerk advised that he would add this to the Communications Working Group agenda.

FLAG POLE PROJECT – money has been moved from unallocated to this budget heading to cover the final costs.

UNALLOCATED – extra purchases since the last meeting for Remembrance Sunday including wreath holders.

#### **ASSETS & SERVICES:**

TOWN HALL LIGHTING – Councillor Edge asked if the Town Council were paying for all the lighting or just the Town Clock. He asked if the lights could be changed to low energy. The Town Clerk advised the clock tower was paid for by the Town Council.

Councillor Harrington asked if the Town Council paid for the tunnel lighting. The Town Clerk advised that they didn't and thought this was paid for by NCC.

FINGERPOSTS / LECTERN MAPS – The Town Clerk advised that a new fingerpost would be installed outside the Iceland store saying 'Council Offices'.

ROBERTSON'S PANT - Councillor Edge asked if, as Robertson's Pant was not being reinstated as a drinking fountain, the water could be turned to save money.

ALLOTMENTS (Ratten Row) The Town Clerk advised that the new water system was now finished and although there were small leaks the new stock taps should enable these to be traced more easily.

PLAY AREA REPLACEMENTS – NCC had asked if the Town Council wanted to take over the zip wire at Alnwick North. The repair cost would be around £5k and if the Town Council do not want to take it over then NCC will remove it.

Councillor Patience asked if anyone had been asked if they wanted it to stay.

Councillor Harrington said it was very well used when it was working. It was also the only piece of play equipment at that end of the town and that he thought the Town Council should take it over and repair it.

Councillor Watson felt that as the young people chose the equipment in the first instance Hannah at Community@NE66 could be asked to the young people if they wanted to keep the zip wire or have another piece of equipment instead.

The Town Clerk advised that he would ask NCC to wait before removing it and would contact Hannah at Community@NE66.

Councillor Swinbank agreed that the young people should be asked what they wanted and for the asset to be transferred to the Town Council.

The Town Clerk advised that he could ask NCC to pay for the repairs to the zip wire before transferring it to the Town Council.

Councillor Patience thought that if the equipment was repaired it should have a sign giving age limits.

Councillor Harrington felt it would positively promote the Town Council to local residents if the equipment was repaired or replaced.

The Town Clerk advised that he would speak to Hannah in the first instance and ask NCC if they would pay a percentage of the repair costs.

Councillor Mavin agreed that it should be repaired or replaced depending on what the young people wanted.

**RESOLVED: i) To ask Community@NE66 about the zip wire or replacement equipment; ii) If the zip wire is still needed ask NCC if they would pay a percentage of the repair costs for the zip wire; iii) To give delegated powers to the Town Clerk to progress the matter as appropriate in consultation with the Chair of Finance & Policy.**

## **RA 18/30**

### **Grant Applications for Events 2019/20**

Alnwick Music Festival – Councillor Wearn advised the committee that as yet it had not been decided what type of event to hold in 2019. The festival needs updating so the trustees are rethinking the whole festival. It relies on bucket collections and these were at their lowest ever in 2017. They were looking at a number of options including staying as it is, but this is not really a viable option and reducing to a long weekend event.

They have also talked to the Alnwick Garden about moving the Music Festival to the Garden which would mean that expensive road closure would not have to be paid and catering would not be done by outside businesses. It would also leave the market free to operate a four-day market during the festival

They were also discussing asking venues to sponsor an event and host them on-site.

The 1801 Air Training Corps have agreed that cadets will help with the festival.

She advised that there was an open meeting followed by the AGM on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2019.

She advised that the trustees would be grateful for any support from the Town Council and that the committee needed expanding so they are looking for new members.

Councillor Harrington said that he was a great supporter of the music festival but could not support it being moved from the town centre to the Alnwick Garden. He added that it seemed less popular since the international performers were no longer taking part.

Councillor Wearn advised that the name would change to Alnwick Alive and would bring in a range of performers. The idea was to have two marquees and bring headliners in on the Friday and Saturday nights as well as local performers.

Councillor Watson agreed that he was reluctant to let it go the Alnwick Garden and felt that the Town Council might be able to offer a grant if this happened.

Councillor Broom explained that the Alnwick Fair ceased because people wouldn't work together but thought that the committee should speak to the people involved in the Alnwick Fair to see if they could provide any help.

Councillor Patience felt it was difficult when things change and that it would be a shame if the music festival moved to the Alnwick Garden.

Councillor Broom suggested asking Round Table members to get involved.

Councillor Edge said he was a massive fan of the festival but that the field offered at the Alnwick Garden was quite a distance from the Town Centre.

Councillor Wearn advised that none of the evening events had been very well attended except for the Northumberland night and the Family Caliedh.

Councillor Broom asked councillors to feed ideas to Councillor Wearn through the Assistant to the Town.

Councillor Swinbank felt that the music festival needed to focus on the town centre if the Town Council were support it.

Councillor Harrington thought that events in the town on the days when there was a major concert in The Pastures might work and that the trustees should wait until the Alnwick Castle announced their concert dates.

Councillor Wearn left the meeting.

Councillor Symmonds explained that, having been involved with the music festival for many years, the Town Council needed to support the committee. He suggested that a draft budget be set to enable them to support any music event that takes place.

Councillor Patience said that it was unlikely that 7-8 day event would take place in 2019 as it was likely to be 1-2 days so the budget could be set accordingly.

Councillor Harrington suggested that, as there was no detailed information available at this point, it should be treated like a new event and an amount set to support this.

Councillor Swinbank agreed that a budget figure be allocated for a new event and the music festival trustees asked to submit another application once details were known. He suggested the same budget of £4,800 as in 2018.

Councillor Patience felt that detailed financial information would be needed with the revised application.

Councillor Mavin agreed that a figure should be put in the budget for a music festival.

The Town Clerk advised that part of the grant to the music festival covered the cost of the storage unit which was £650.

**RESOLVED: To give a grant of £650 to Alnwick Music Festival to cover storage costs and to include an amount of £4,150 to Unallocated in the Events budget.**

The following grant applications were discussed and agreed:

Alnwick Christmas Lights – Councillor Broom left the meeting. The Town Clerk advised that had requested £2,950 which would not be taken if donations cover their costs.

**RESOLVED: To give a grant of £2,950 (£2,500 plus the cost if the stage) to Alnwick Christmas Lights.**

Councillor Broom re-joined the meeting.

The Assistant to the Town Clerk left the meeting.

Alnwick in Bloom

**RESOLVED: To give a grant of £4,000 to Alnwick in Bloom.**

The Assistant to the Town Clerk re-joined the meeting.

Councillor Watson left the meeting.

Alnwick Spring Show

**RESOLVED: To give a grant of £700 to Alnwick Spring Show.**

Councillor Watson re-joined the meeting.

Northumberland Pride

**RESOLVED: To give a grant of £1,000 to Northumberland Pride.**

The Big Sing

**RESOLVED: To allocate a grant of £450 to the Big Sing to cover the costs of the stage if the event takes place in 2019.**

Lantern Parade

**RESOLVED: To allocate a grant of £450 to the Lantern Parade to cover the costs of the stage if the event takes place in 2019.**

Taste of the North / Food Festival

**RESOLVED: To give a grant of £2,500 to Alnwick Food Festival and Taste of the North.**

Alnwick Markets

**RESOLVED: To give a grant of £2,500 to support special markets including entertainment and music.**

**RA 18/31 Proposed Allotment rents 2019/20**

The Town Clerk issued an allotment rent sheet showing potential increases in rents.

Councillor Edge explained that he wouldn't like to see the allotment rents kept the same as the Town Council should be encouraging people to grow their own.

Councillor Harrington felt that the increases did not make a big difference.

Councillor Patience supported Councillor Edge's suggestion that rents stay the same as in 2017/18.

**RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council that the allotment rents in 2018/9 be the same as 2017/18.**

**RA18/32 To consider committee actions in the Town Centre/Market Place Action Plan**

The Town Clerk advised that there were two actions for the Recreation & Amenities Committee to consider:

- i. re-painting of the traditional lampposts in the Market Place and around the town centre;
- ii. consideration of the appointment of a Town Centre Manager

- i. Councillor Swinbank suggested that budget be allocated to have ½ the lampposts painted in 2019/20 and the remainder in 2020/21.
- ii. The Town Clerk advised that this action would be picked up at a future meeting, after the Project & Funding Officer has had discussions with potential funding partners.

**RESOLVED: To include the repainting of lampposts in the 2019/20 budget.**

**RA18/33**

**Consideration of 2019/20 Budget**

The Town Clerk took councillors through the proposed budget 2019/20 column on the budget sheet that had been issued. He highlighted the following proposed changes:

**EVENTS:**

Remembrance Sunday – budget increased to £1,300 to pay for the hire of a PA System and operators.

**PROJECTS:**

Town Promotion – Councillor Swinbank suggested that some of the budget could be used to cover staffing to promote the town including on social media promotion. Councillor Mavin suggested the same budget of £4,000 with discussions on how to use it at a future meeting.

Public toilets – The Town Clerk advised that an extra £500 would need to be added to the budget if councillors wanted to add another You're Welcome Scheme location.

**The Committee resolved to waive standing orders to enable the meeting to proceed beyond 9.30pm.**

**ASSETS AND SERVICES:**

Planters – The Town Clerk advised that the suggested budget figure would purchase a further 6 planters, filling them and moving them to their locations.

The Town Clerk advised that the final recommended budget for Recreation & Service Committee was £110,155 (Events - £21,500; Projects - £21,300; Assets & Services £73,355 plus Income of £6,000).

**RESOLVED: To accept the changes and agreed to the Recreation & Amenities budget for 2019/20 amounting to £110,155, and recommend it to the Full Council.**

**RA 18/34**

**Any Other Urgent Business**

Councillor Patience reported that the taps were constantly on in the ladies' toilets in The Shambles.

Meeting closed at 9.41pm