



The Council Offices, Greenwell Lane,
Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1HB

Your Ref:

Our Ref: FC/01/21

Clerk to Council

Peter Hately

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Dear Councillor

8th January 2021

The next meeting of the Council will be held on **Thursday 14th January 2021 at 6.30pm**. You are hereby requested to attend. The meeting will be held virtually. A link to access the meeting will be forwarded to your e-mail address prior to its commencement. Should members of the public wish to ask a question this should be done via e-mail no less than 24 hours before the meeting and sent to peter.hately@alnwick-tc.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

Peter Hately
Clerk to Town Council

Agenda

1. Questions from the Public
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting (10th December 2020)
5. Matters Arising
6. Mayor's Report
7. Updates:
 - a. County Council
 - b. Advisory Groups
8. On-line Banking – Update
9. Access to IT for learning – Financial Support
10. Councillor Vacancy
11. HRH Queen Elizabeth - Platinum Jubilee
12. Thomas Percy Wood
13. Prescription Delivery Service
14. Budget 2021/22 – To agree the budget for 2021/22
15. Precept – To agree the precept for 2021/22
16. To receive the Minutes of the Committees
 - a. Planning, Highways and Transport Committee -17th December 2020
17. Financial Matters – a) Payments b) Income & Expenditure
18. Any Other Urgent Business

In Private

Alnwick Forum

Agenda Item 3**Declarations of Interest**

To receive disclosures of pecuniary interests from Councillors, on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest. If you become aware, during the course of the meeting, of an interest that has not been disclosed under this item you must immediately disclose it.

Agenda Item 4

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting (10th December 2020)

Recommendation: To APPROVE the minutes of the previous meeting

Agenda Item 6

The Mayor will update Councillors on events of the past month.

Recommendation: To note the update

Agenda Item 7

Councillor Castle will update the Council of issues relating to Northumberland County Council. Advisory Group Chairs will provide updates.

Recommendation: To note the updates

Agenda Item 8

The Clerk will update on progress regarding on-line banking.

Recommendation: To note the update

Agenda Item 9

The Clerk will update Councillors on the financial support given to schools in light of the current Covid19 lockdown.

Recommendation: To note the update

Agenda Item 10

Councillor Vacancy. Following the resignation of Councillor Waton a vacancy exists in the Castle Ward. By the deadline the required 10 signatories were not received meaning the Council can start the process of filling the vacancy by co-option.

Recommendation: To note the update

Agenda Item 11

Councillor Watson will initiate a discussion on how the Town Council might prepare for the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee.

Recommendation: To note the update

Agenda Item 12

Councillor Watson will introduce a potential project from the Environmental Advisory Group

Recommendation: To agree further exploration of the potential project should be taken.

Agenda Item 13

The Clerk will update Councillors on the re-introduction of the Covid19 prescription delivery service.

Recommendation: To note the update

Agenda Item 14

Each of the Council's committees has approved a recommended budget for 2021/22, these are as follows:

Net Expenditure

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Cemetery | £20,900 |
| Recreation & Amenities | £114,850 |
| Finance & Policy | £194,733 |
| TOTAL | £330,483 |

Recommendation: To AGREE the budget for 2021/22

Agenda Item 15

Having agreed the budget the Council must then set the precept. At the Finance and Policy Committee on 3rd December 2020, the Committee considered the extent to which reserves should be used to support the 2021/22 budget. The Committee has recommended reserves, which are currently in line with the reserves policy, are not used to reduce the precept in 2021/22. The Finance and Policy Committee also reviewed the Town Council precept for 2021/22 in comparison to other larger Town Councils in Northumberland (Table shows 2020/21 figures)

| Council | Total Precept | Band D |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Newbiggin | £254,981 | £173.38 |
| Choppington | £407,202 | £157.93 |
| Pegswood | £122,280 | £141.43 |
| East Bedlington | £279,594 | £138.00 |
| Blyth | £1,287,196 | £127.65 |
| Seaton Valley | £579,890 | £121.00 |
| Morpeth | £645,037 | £120.32 |
| Amble | £211,340 | £118.78 |
| Alnwick | £329,290 | £116.40 |
| Cramlington | £947,000 | £113.08 |
| Prudhoe | £370,040 | £108.93 |
| Ashington | £796,180 | £106.94 |
| Berwick | £265,656 | £77.08 |
| Hexham | £333,000 | £76.40 |
| Ponteland | £422,018 | £73.87 |

A precept of £330,483 would be an increase of £1,193. The Town Council has been informed of the 2021/22 Council Tax Base which is 2839.13 Band D equivalent dwellings (an increase of 10.19). With this Council Tax Base, the Town Council precept will remain at £116.40, the same as the previous financial year. The Alnwick Band D Town Council precept is likely to be around, or slightly higher than the Northumberland Town Council average.

Recommendation: To set the 2020/21 Precept of £330,483.

Agenda Item 17

a) Payments

The following payments are due (as at 8th January); this list will be updated at the meeting, if necessary.

| PAYEE | TOTAL | VAT | DETAILS |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---|
| NCC Payroll (Aug 20) | £11,265.66 | 5.00 | Payroll (Aug 2020) |
| Northumberland County Council | £2,700.00 | 0 | Rent for Greenwell Lane (qtr3) |
| Northumberland County Council | £2,700.00 | 0 | Rent for Greenwell Lane (qtr2) |
| Northumberland County Council | £214.80 | 35.8 | Sign repairs |
| Diamond Business Group | £7.73 | 1.29% | Copying charges (Oct 20) |
| Chubb Fire & Security Ltd | £202.92 | 33.82 | Annual contract for Cemetery |
| Starboard Systems Limited | £876.00 | £146.00 | Annual licence for Scribe Accounts software |
| Electratest Northern Ltd | £54.00 | £9.00 | PAT Testing at Cemetery |
| Glasdon | £416.38 | £69.40 | New locks for Brunel bins |
| J Pibworth | £492.62 | £80.61 | Bulbs and planting |
| J Pibworth | £492.62 | £80.61 | Hand sanitiser, gloves and masks |
| | £19,422.73 | £460.25 | |

Direct Debits

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------|--|
| Barclays Bank charges (Oct/Nov) | £24.15 | £0.00 | |
| British Gas | £28.08 | £0.00 | |
| Corona Energy | £220.09 | £10.48 | Electricity charges Oct |
| Biffa | £119.71 | £19.95 | Trade waste Oct |
| BT | £137.47 | £22.91 | Phone (Cemetery / Greenwell Lane (Nov) |

| | | | |
|------|------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Wave | £36.72 | £0.00 | Water charges (allotments) |
| Wave | £834.79 | £0.00 | Water charges (allotments) |
| Wave | £157.68 | £0.00 | Water charges (cem main tap) |
| Wave | £12.20 | £0.00 | Water charges (cem new tap) |
| | £1,570.89 | £53.34 | |

Recommendation: To approve and authorise the above payments totalling £19,422.73 and to note the direct debit payments of £1,570.89.

b) Income & Expenditure 2020/21

The Clerk will circulate the 9-month statement for Income & Expenditure