



Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 10th September 2020 via Zoom at 6.30m

- Present** Cllrs L Wearn, S Allcroft, L Aynsley, P Broom, G Castle, P Edge, B Gridsale, M Harrington, J Lyford, S Patience, M Swinbank, A Symmonds, A Waton, G Watson and L Wood-Mitchell.
- In attendance** P Hatley, Town Clerk & Chief Officer; J Pibworth, Assistant to the Town Clerk; T Kirton, Project & Funding Officer.
- C20/36 Questions from the public**
None.
- C20/37 Apologies for absence**
Councillor Humphries.
- C20/38 Declarations of Interest**
None.
- C20/39 James Ormsby (JO) – from Geraud UK on Alnwick Market**
James Ormsby gave an update on the progress of the Alnwick Markets.
Geraud UK had taken over Alnwick Market at the end of March but had held their first market on June 11th.
JO explained that Geraud are the largest private operator of local authority markets in Europe and ran 4.700 market days per year. They support Local Your Local Market events and are the main sponsor of NABMA (National Association of British Market Authorities) and NMTF (National Market Traders Federation).
Alnwick – weekly markets on Thursdays and Saturdays and a monthly farmers market on a Friday. They also run seasonal markets which usually finish on September but having spoken to traders these will continue.
The 1st market on June 11th there were 9 stalls and by the market on September 5th this had risen to 35. JO thought there was capacity to have more than 40 stalls.
A new group website has been launched and Alnwick Market now has its own page. Geraud had also done some promotion with Lionheart Radio.
Northumberland Estates, the market landlord, had taken a community stall which they let out for free.
JO reported that Alnwick Market had done really well and that Geraud would be using it as a template for other market they run.
JO explained that they were looking to bring more food providers to Alnwick and were creating a food and drink area with local cafes.
Councillor questions/comments:
Councillor Castle explained, on behalf of Alnwick Christmas Lights team, that a Christmas tree was put up in the Market Place and that this year is was planned for November 8th. JO Asked how many stalls this would affect. Councillor Castle advised that he would send JO a plan showing the location of the Christmas tree.
Councillor Swinbank said it was great to see the market back and doing so well. He explained to JO that he had been the Town Council representative on Local Living. He asked about the Taste of the North and Food Festival which Local Living used to run and asked if Geraud would take them over. JO advised that there would be a 2 day

Christmas Market and that on 2021 there would be a full calendar of events including both the food festivals.

Councillor Patience said she was delighted to see the market back and asked about the infrastructure including toilets and parking. JO advised that there had been queues for the toilets the previous Saturday but this had not happened before. Geraud were advising stall holders to use the long stay car park in Dispensary Street.

Councillor Edge said it was fantastic that the market has got going so well. He asked if the plan was to use Northumberland Hall if there was bad weather. JO advised that the intention was to trade in the Market Place throughout the whole year.

Councillor Wearn asked JO to pass on her congratulations to the market team at Geraud.

C20/40 Approval of the Minutes of the Last meeting (13th August 2020)

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 13th August 2020 were tabled for approval.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2020 were agreed as a true record.

C20/41 Matters Arising

C20/28a TPO request for trees at Allernburn House - The Assistant to the Town Clerk advised that she had asked NCC to reinstate the TPO request made by the Town Council in 2017 and had sent the supporting documentation supplied by local residents to the Planning Officer. The Planning Officer had advised that she and the Tree Officer were making an assessment visit that week.

C20/28c COVID safe Town Centre measures – The Town Clerk advised that there was no update from NCC on these. Councillor Castle explained that NCC Officers were focused on other activities.

C20/42 Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that she had taken part in a VJ Day commemorative event at the War Memorial on August 15th. The short ceremony started by echoing the national commemorations with a Two Minute Silence at 11am. This was broken by our local piper Carole Robb playing Battle's O'er, a poem Better for Peace read by the Mayor after which the Town Crier read A Cry for Peace. The ceremony finished with the Mayor laying a floral tribute on behalf of the Town Council.

She also reported that she had also attended a vintage motorcycle event in the Market Place on August 31st. This had seen a lot of activity in the town with many visitors.

She reported that the Town Tidy event had been cancelled.

Councillor Waton asked if the Mutual Aid group would be wound up and the data destroyed. The Mayor advised that this would be premature at the moment as the volunteers may be needed again.

C20/43 Updates

a) County Council issues

Councillor Castle reported that NCC's Community Chest was open for application and that the deadline was October 2nd. He advised that Town & Parish Councils can apply for any COVID related actions/activities.

Councillor Castle reported that he had funded a bin store and signage in Paikes Lane.

Councillor Symmonds thought the Town Council might consider a Community Chest application for funding for care homes. The Mayor advise that she could call them to see if there as anything they needed.

Councillor Broom reported that there were a lot of weeds in the town centre. Councillor Castle advised that the weedkiller had been in the town that week. Councillor Wearn added that an assessment of NCC's cleaning schedule was taking place at present as a desk top exercise.

RESOLVED: To receive the update.

C20/45 Staffing Committee

The Town Clerk reported that, although previously established, the Council's staffing sub-committee has not met recently so his recommendation was that it meets regularly.

RESOLVED: To add to the next Finance & Policy Committee agenda and set up a staffing sub-committee and devise a meeting schedule .

C20/46 Meeting Schedule Oct 2020 – April 2021

The Assistant Town Clerk that at their meeting on August 27th the Finance & Policy Committee reviewed the meeting schedule for the remainder of the financial year. The recommendations from the meeting had been circulated to councillor.

Councillor Lyford advised that 2 of the dates appeared to be Saturdays.

Councillor Patience thought the period between Finance & Policy meetings seemed too long. The Assistant to the Town Clerk advised that these would both be amended.

RESOLVED: To approve the meeting schedule with the noted amendments.

C20/47 Website Tender update

The Town Clerk reported that selection of the supplier, by the agreed group, for the Town Councils new website had been done.

RESOLVED: To approve the appointment of Strive Digital as the website supplier.

C20/48 To receive the Minutes of the Committees

Minutes of the Planning, Highways & Transport were tabled to be received.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning, Highways & Transport held on 20th August 2020 were received.

Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting (27th August 2020) were tabled to be received.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 27th August 2020 were received.

C20/49 Correspondence

The Town Clerk advised that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting.

C20/50

PAYEE	TOTAL	VAT	DETAIL
Glasdon	£5,226.23	£871.04	Heritage benches for the Market Place
St James Church Centre	£1,253.00	£0.00	Room Hire 2019/20
James N Mclean	£687.92	£114.65	Lawnmower & Misc Supplies
NALC	£1,302.82	£0.00	Annual Subscription

Tim Kirton	£624.58	£104.10	COVID items for Play Areas, replacement zip wire part
Rotary Club	£163.00	£27.17	Return of contribution towards cost of Town Crier
John Ainsworth	£450.00	£0.00	Internal audit fee
Northumberland Estates	£76.90	£12.61	Fencing materials
South Road Tyres	£21.60	£3.60	Van wiper blades
Syd Carr	£140.00	£0.00	Play area boxes, bin fixing
TOTAL	£9,946.05	£1,133.17	

* Indicates LGA 1972 s137 Expenditure

The following invoices were paid by direct debit & were reported for information:			
Corona Energy	£42.96	£2.05	Electricity for Cem Workshop (Jul)
British Gas	£25.63	£0.00	Gas contract (Aug)
TOTAL	£68.59	£47.66	

RESOLVED: To note the payments made under powers of urgency of £10,226.80 and note the direct debit payments of £68.59.

a) Investments

The Town Clerk advised that he had been trying to get some options for the reinvestment of the 2 bonds which had matured during the COVID period. He advised that he had not been able to speak to anyone as he was not named on the accounts. He advised that he would progress the matter over the next few weeks and would bring back some options to the next meeting.

C20/51 Any Other Urgent Business

None.

The public meeting closed at 7.28pm.