



Newark TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 14th February 2024 in the Committee Room, at the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Councillor	B Corrigan (Chairman)
	Councillors	P Ball (Ap) I Brown D Campbell T Collier E Cropper S Crosby S Dickinson (Ap) L Geary J Kellas (Ap) D Ledger D Moore (Vice-Chairman) G Rix N Ross L Roulstone (Ap) M Skinner M Spoor P Taylor
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors	P Ball, S Dickinson, J Kellas, L Roulstone
Officers Present:	Town Clerk	Matthew Gleadell
Taking Notes:	Executive Assistant	Helen Crossland
	There was one member of the public and one member of the press present.	
Venue:	Committee Room, Newark Town Hall	

FGP77/23/24 Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 17th January 2024

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 17th January 2024 were proposed by Cllr B Corrigan, and seconded by Cllr D Moore.

A vote was held and they were **AGREED**.

FGP78/23/24 Declarations of Interest

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

FGP79/23/24 Monthly Payment Schedule 10/24

Cllr B Corrigan proposed, and Cllr D Campbell seconded the Monthly Payment Schedule 10/24.

Members then **NOTED** Payment Schedule 10/24 in the sum of £161,407.32 (one hundred and sixty one thousand, four hundred and seven pounds and 32p).

FGP80/23/24 Cemetery Fees and Charges

The Chairman began discussion on this Agenda Item and drew Members attention to the '**Changes to Services Proposed**' section on page 16.

The following recommendations were discussed:

Triple Depth Graves – these are to be removed as a service due to safety concerns, with the exception of those already dug and in use.

Additional Spoil Removal Charge – the charge of £180.00 was suggested.

Walled Graves / Vaults – these are to be charged bespoke as in the Agenda Report.

Bench Memorial Plaques – it was suggested that the cost be lowered to £150.00 in an effort to increase interest in the sale of the plaques.

Interments Outside of Specified Hours – Members should give the Town Clerk delegated authority to initiate consultation with staff and develop the logistics for the offer and the charges to be applied.

Exhumations – it was suggested that the cost of £4000.00 be implemented for an exhumation to cover the potential for sub-contractor involvement. This would also bring Newark more into line with other authorities.

There was then discussion about the recent meeting of the New Cemetery Working Group and those Members that had attended agreed that it had been very useful and brought up a lot of ideas for the future.

Members then discussed at length changes and increases to the Cemetery Fees and Charges. The following was resolved:

Cllr P Taylor then proposed an amendment that burials for '**under 18 years old Residents of Newark**' should be free of charge; this was seconded by Cllr L

Geary. A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

Cllr M Spoors proposed that interment of cremated remains also be free of charge for under 18's; this was seconded by Cllr N Ross. A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

Cllr D Ledger proposed that there should be a 10% increase to £673 for Non-Resident children; this was seconded by Cllr M Skinner. A vote was held and this was **AGREED**. This now became the substantive motion.

Another vote was held on the substantive motion and it was **AGREED**

Cllr D Ledger proposed a 10% increase for the interment of cremated remains of Non-Resident children. This was seconded by Cllr N Ross. A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

Cllr L Geary proposed that Non-Residents should no longer be allowed to be buried in Newark, unless they come under the 'discretionary policy'; this was seconded by Cllr M Spoors. A vote was held and it was **AGREED**.

Cllr. Corrigan proposed and Cllr. Moore seconded a 20% increase in all other burial fees, with 50% of the additional revenue going forward ringfenced towards future burial provision and the other 10% applied towards general overhead increases in delivering the burial service, as recommended in the Agenda Report.

It was also **AGREED** that any percentage increase be rounded upward to the nearest £10.00.

FGP81/23/24 Lilley and Stone Trust Appointments

It was proposed by Cllr B Corrigan, seconded by Cllr N Ross, that Cllr D Moore be appointed to one of the vacant positions on the Lilley and Stone Charitable Trust.

At this point, the Chairman suspended Standing Order 4 (4) to allow another 30 minutes for the remainder of the Agenda to be discussed. A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

A vote was held on the proposal to appoint Cllr D Moore to the Lilley and Stone Charitable Trust and it was **AGREED**.

Cllr T Collier was proposed by Cllr I Brown but declined to accept.

There were no other nominations for the other vacant position.

FGP82/23/24 Sherwood Avenue Tennis Courts Grant

Cllr B Corrigan proposed the recommendations; this was seconded by Cllr G Rix.

A vote was held, and Members **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the acceptance of the Lawn Tennis Association grant in the sum of £21,160.40 as detailed in the Agenda Report and **AGREED** to support the provision of in-house match funding for the grant in the sum of £2,500.00 plus electrical connection work costs of £3,282.25.

FGP83/23/24 Town Hall Maintenance Challenges / Issues

Cllr M Spoors proposed that the Town Clerk provide some further information on the environmental issues contained within the report. This was seconded by Cllr P Taylor; a vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

The Chairman suspended Standing Order 4 (4) again to allow another 30 minutes for the remainder of the Agenda to be discussed.

A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

Members then **NOTED** the contents of the Agenda Report.

FGP84/23/24 Recommendations and Update from Arts, Events, Culture and Twinning Working Group

Cllr T Collier began the debate on this item and updated Members on what the Working Group had been doing, as in the Agenda Report.

Cllr P Taylor proposed that an appeal should be made for Sponsors; this was seconded by Cllr D Moore.

Members thought that the Working Group should develop some options for the various events and bring some more details to this Committee.

The Town Clerk was asked if he could promote the group at the Newark Business Club meeting.

The Chairman proposed that this item be deferred to the next meeting; this was seconded by Cllr N Ross. A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

FGP85/23/24 Newark Town Hall Hospitality Business Development

Cllr B Corrigan proposed, Cllr P Taylor seconded the recommendation in the report.

A vote was held and Members **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the appointment of Kelly Chandler to undertake a feasibility and venue revenue potential assessment of the Newark Town Hall.

FGP86/23/24 Recruitment of Deputy Town Clerk

Cllr P Taylor proposed, Cllr B Corrigan seconded the recommendations in the report.

A vote was held and Members **AGREED** to appoint a recruitment panel and to give that panel authority to adopt the job description, person specification and contractual terms of the post and conduct interviews with candidates.

The panel would also have authority to deal with any operational decisions required in relation to the recruitment process.

After discussion Members **AGREED** to appoint the Leader of the Council (Cllr Neil Ross), the Chair of the Personnel Sub-Committee (Cllr Paul Taylor) and the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (Cllr Barbara Corrigan).

FGP87/23/24 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Cllr B Corrian proposed, Cllr D Moore seconded, that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972) the press and public be excluded from the next Agenda Item debate on the grounds that the Committee's remaining business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, and the public interest in disclosing the information.

The members of the public and press left the meeting.

FGP88/23/24 Buttermarket Rents & Hire Fees Review

The Town Clerk went through the Agenda Report.

Discussion followed with regard to the various tenants who currently have units within the Buttermarket.

It was then proposed by Cllr L Geary, seconded by Cllr D Campbell, that this Agenda Item be deferred to the next meeting as there was not enough time left at the current meeting for proper discussions to be held.

FGP89/23/24 Additional Information from Minute FGP85/23/24

Members **NOTED** the additional information from the Minute above.

Meeting Closed:	10.05pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 13th March 2024
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