



Newark TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 18th October 2023 in the Council Chamber, at the Town Hall.

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

FGP40/23/24 Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 6th September 2023

The Amended Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th July 2023 were brought back to the meeting tonight and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 6th September were then discussed.

The following amendments in **RED** were **NOTED**:

FGP 30/23/24 - Arts, Culture, Events and Twinning Working Group

Appendix 1 – Remit of Arts, Culture, **Events and Twinning Working Group**

FGP 32/23/24 - Christmas Lights Switch-On-Event

Cllr I Brown then spoke; she said **she** had brought this up last year – the middle of the market is not safe. No-one could move at certain times of the night. The Town Council need to ask how many fairground rides were going to be allowed in.

Cllr B Corrigan said that this could be given to the Arts, Culture, Events and Twinning **Association** Working Group next year.

FGP 33/23/24 Chairman's Update – Climate Change Working Group

Cllr M Skinner also informed Members that the ~~group had spent some money~~ **had committed some expenditure.**

FGP 34/23/24 - Allotment Fees and Charges

The Chairman opened the debate on this item. She said she had done some rough calculations and to get anywhere near to breaking even on the figures provided, the cost would have to be 42.95 pence per **square** metre – an increase of 71.8%.

Cllr P Taylor thought the cost could be raised to 50p per **square** metre, and bring in a discount scheme for people who are on benefits and proposed this.

Cllr B Corrigan said that had already been a proposal, to raise the cost by 50% (to 50p per **square** metre) with a 50% discount for those who are eligible.

Cllr B Corrigan then proposed a 10% increase, based on inflation. Cllr N Ross seconded the proposal; a vote was held and this was **AGREED.**

It was also AGREED that the amount charged should be 'rounded up' for administration purposes.

FGP 35/23/24 - Councillor Email Addresses

Cllr M Skinner proposed that Councillor Email Addresses should be issued to all Members. ~~He~~ **It was** suggested that if Members did not wish to use this email address, they could forward it to their personal/**District Council** email (autoforward).

The amended Minutes (as above) will be brought back to the next meeting of this Committee on 22nd November 2023.

FGP41/23/24 Declarations of Interest

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

As there was an Officer from N&SDC present to talk to Members about an Exempt Item on the Agenda (Item 14) it was brought forward at this point in the meeting.

FGP42/23/24 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Cllr B Corrigan proposed, Cllr D Ledger 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 member of the public and member of the press left the meeting.

FGP43/23/24 Newark Castle Gatehouse Project – EXEMPT ITEM

Exempt Minute at end of Agenda.

The member of the public and member of the press were invited back to the meeting following the debate on the previous item (8.15pm).

FGP44/23/24 Monthly Payment Schedule 05/24

Cllr D Ledger asked a question about Vouchers 508/509/526 and 527 – all were to do with the Music Festival and Brass Explosion.

The Town Clerk responded that he would give a detailed explanation to Members that required it after the meeting.

Cllr E Cropper asked if the Arts, Culture, Events and Twinning Working Group (ACETWG) could deal with this.

Cllr N Ross pointed out that the Town Council was under pressure already to get funding in place for the next year.

Cllr G Rix thought there should be a Cost Benefit Analysis.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the ACETWG would be doing this.

Cllr B Corrigan then proposed and Cllr J Kellas seconded the Monthly Payment Schedule 05/24.

Members **AGREED** that payment in accordance with Payment Schedule 05/24 in the sum of £258,394.39 (two hundred and fifty eight thousand, three hundred and ninety four pounds and 39p) be **APPROVED**.

FGP45/23/24 Voluntary Body/Community Events Grants Application

The following Voluntary Body/Community Events Grants Application had been received:

- a. Children's Bereavement Centre on ~Saturday 2nd December 2023.
Cllr M Skinner declared an interest in this (he was part of the organisation of the Duck Race for the CBC which was being held soon).
- b. Newark Palace Singers on Tuesday 12th December 2023.

The Town Clerk pointed out that both groups had been given grants last year. Discussion followed with regard to this point and the fact that in the guidelines for such applications it states '*An individual organisation will only be eligible to apply for one event in any two year period.*'

Cllr M Skinner said that a precedent would be set if these groups were given another grant this year. He also thought that the question should be asked, on the forms for next year, if they had applied in the previous year.

Cllr I Brown noted that the budget has been set for this financial year; if these grants were given, the budget would be gone. Another proposal would have to be made if any more applications came in before the end of the year, and more budget allocated.

There was a discrepancy on the figures in one of the applications; the Town Clerk could not give a reason at the meeting because the Officer who deals with them was not present. He would inform the Chairman following the meeting.

Cllr L Geary proposed, Cllr G Rix seconded, the two applications as above. A vote was held and it was **AGREED** that both organisations be given the grants as requested.

FGP46/23/24 Cemetery Development Working Group

This item was deferred from the last meeting of this Committee.

Cllr N Ross proposed, Cllr E Cropper seconded that a Cemetery Development Working Group in accordance with the remit attached to the report be created. A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

It was proposed by Cllr B Corrigan, seconded by Cllr G Rix that the following Members be appointed to the Group:

Cllr D Ledger

Cllr B Corrigan

Cllr M Skinner

Cllr L Geary

Cllr D Moore

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

Cllr D Moore then proposed, Cllr B Corrigan seconded, that Cllr D Ledger be appointed as the Chair of this Group.

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

Cllr B Corrigan proposed, Cllr G Rix seconded, that Cllr L Geary be appointed as the Vice-Chair.

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

Following a proposal from Cllr D Ledger, seconded by Cllr L Geary, Members **RESOLVED** to host a meeting and invite local stakeholders to discuss the provision of future burial space in and around Newark.

Based on the input from that meeting the Working Group will then meet and begin the work identified under the remit.

FGP47/23/24 Credit Card Policy

Cllr D Ledger proposed, Cllr B Corrigan seconded that the Credit Card Policy as in the Appendix to the Report contained within the Agenda be adopted.

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

FGP48/23/24 Quarterly Budget Analysis Report

Cllr G Rix proposed, Cllr L Geary seconded that Members **NOTE** the Quarterly Budget Analysis Report as compiled by the Town Clerk.

FGP49/23/24 Newark Royal Market Review

Cllr N Ross began the discussion on this item. He said that the Markets Manager had put together a very good report. He thought that the Council should make a supportive statement that 'we support Newark Royal Markets and will continue to support it'.

Cllr M Spoors said he was 'not comfortable' with page 92, headed '**THE VISION FOR OUR MARKETS 2023-2030**'.

Cllr D Moore pointed out that the 'Masterplan' was still ongoing.

Cllr B Corrigan proposed that no action should be taken, and no changes should be made until the Towns Fund and the Masterplan were in place/finalised.

Members then **NOTED** the report.

FGP50/23/24 Replacement Representative Appointment on Lilley & Stone School Charity

Cllr N Ross informed Members that he was currently a Town Council representative on this; for various personal reasons he was withdrawing from this position.

Cllr N Ross proposed that Cllr G Rix be appointed, this was seconded by Cllr D Moore. A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

A short break was requested before the continuation of the meeting following the next Agenda Item.

FGP51/23/24 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Cllr B Corrigan proposed, Cllr D Ledger 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 left the meeting.

The meeting was then paused at 8.50pm and restarted at 8.55pm.