



Newark TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 17th July 2024 the Council Chamber, at the Town Hall.

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| Membership Present: | Councillor | B Corrigan (Chairman) |
| | Councillors | I Brown D Campbell T Collier E Cropper S Crosby (Vice-Chairman) S Dickinson L Geary L Goff J Kellas D Ledger D Moore G Rix N Ross L Roulstone M Skinner M Spoors (A) P Taylor |
| Apologies for Absence: | Councillors | No Apologies Received |
| Officers Present: | Town Clerk | Matthew Gleadell |
| | Deputy Town Clerk | Anna Lawson |
| Taking Notes: | Executive Assistant | Helen Crossland |
| | There were no members of the public and one member of the press present. | |
| Venue: | Committee Room, Newark Town Hall | |

FGP14/24/25 Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 19th June 2024

There was an omission in Minute **FGP09/24/25** which was amended to read:

‘Cllr L Geary and E Cropper left the meeting at this point’.

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 19th June 2024 were then proposed by Cllr B Corrigan and seconded by Cllr S Dickinson.

A vote was held and they were **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman.

FGP15/24/25 Declarations of Interest

Cllr J Kellas declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 7 and said he would leave the meeting when this item was discussed.

Cllr N Ross, I Brown, P Taylor and S Crosby all declared the same interest and would take the same action at the appropriate time.

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

FGP16/24/25 Payment Schedules

A question was raised with regard to Voucher 1931; this was a deposit that had been returned to a hirer of the Town Hall.

Cllr B Corrigan proposed, Cllr D Campbell seconded the Monthly Payment Schedule 3/25.

Members then **NOTED** Payment Schedule 3/25 in the sum of £130,075.16 (one hundred and thirty thousand and seventy five pounds and 16p).

FGP17/24/25 Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring Report

The Chairman thanked the Town Clerk for the very thorough report.

There were no questions so Cllr B Corrigan proposed and Cllr D Campbell seconded that the report be **NOTED**.

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

FGP18/24/25 Dog Waste Bins

The Town Clerk reported to Members that he had spoken to N&SDC with regard to waste bins specifically; they are midway through an audit of dog bins and waste bins at this point in time. He suggested that Members await the outcome of their audit.

Cllr L Geary then proposed that there be no further discussion on this item, and that Members await the outcome as suggested. This was seconded by Cllr B Corrigan.

Cllr M Skinner said he would be asking for a dog bin near to his house to be

moved to a more suitable location; he also pointed out that many developers fail to put in adequate provision.

A vote was then held on the proposal from Cllr L Geary and it was **AGREED** to defer a decision for the reason already noted above.

FGP19/24/25 Land at Cedar Avenue - Acquisition Review

As noted at **FGP15/24/25** Cllrs J Kellas, N Ross, I Brown, P Taylor and S Crosby left the room whilst this Agenda Item was discussed.

Cllr D Ledger began the discussion of this item; she felt it was not the interest of Newark Town Council not to buy the land and felt that the purchase should go ahead if and when the Charity Commission consent was received.

It was pointed out that the area is not a designated 'Green Space', but a designated 'Public Open Space'.

Cllr D Ledger then proposed that the original decision to buy the land be upheld; Cllr B Corrigan seconded the proposal.

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

The Councillors named above returned to the meeting.

FGP20/24/25 Sherwood Avenue Skate Park

Cllr D Campbell began the debate on this item. She reported that the tendering process had been going through with the criteria being split 60/40 – 60% on the quality of the build and 40% on the price. The top bidder had scored 92.8%, with the next highest being 82%.

The Town Clerk offered to show Members some images but pointed out that this would mean the exclusion of the press and public. The aim was to support the selection process.

Cllr D Ledger proposed that this item be moved to the end of the meeting under the Exclusion of the Press and Public part of the meeting.

This was seconded by Cllr B Corrigan; a vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

FGP21/24/25 Lithium Batteries Safety Campaign

The Chairman was supportive of the item and proposed that the recommendation be approved; this was seconded by Cllr G Rix.

Cllr P Taylor proposed an amendment to the recommendation as follows:

'to call on the Police to take more action over the Lithium Battery Electric Scooters being illegally driven around'

Some other concerns were raised and it was felt that the amendments as above was not relevant to this item

Cllr P Taylor withdrew the amendment.

A vote was held and Members then **AGREED** to formally support legislation that would improve the safety of Lithium batteries used in e scooters and similar products.

FGP22/24/25 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Cllr B Corrigan proposed, Cllr D Campbell 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.

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

FGP23/24/25 Buttermarket / Colonnades

This Agenda item was discussed at some length. Generally there was support, in principle, for the proposals contained in the Agenda report.

There was also support for keeping the Cells as 'pop up' spaces, and equally for allowing Radio Newark to have a small space as outlined.

The point was made that Newark Town Council had already agreed that 'tenants' should be making a contribution at least to any electricity costs incurred.

After further discussion Members **AGREED** to support, in principle, the proposals received for undertakings in the units adjoining the Colonnades as detailed in the Agenda Report.

FGP20/24/25 Sherwood Avenue Skate Park - Continued

Cllr G Rix left the meeting at this point.

The Town Clerk put some images on the projector for Members to look at.

After the images were shown, Cllr B Corrigan proposed that this option should be the preferred scheme for the skate park element of the Sherwood Avenue development project. This was seconded by Cllr s Crosby.

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

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| Meeting Closed: | 8.05pm | Next Meeting: | Wednesday 4 th September 2024 |
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