

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
at the Saddleworth Civic Hall.**

There were present: Cllrs: K. Dawson (Vice Chairman)  
S. Al-Hamdani L. Lancaster  
J. Battye B. Lord  
B. Beeley P. Lord  
H. Bishop K. Phillips  
L. Dawson M. Scholes  
J. Hudson G. Sheldon  
G. Hulme M. Woodvine  
R.Knotts

**Welcome by the Vice Chairman, Cllr. Kevin Dawson**

**Prayers were led by Revd. Barbara Christopher**

**3325. Apologies for absence** Cllrs. M Bingley, P. Byrne, J. Curley, D. Simpson

**3326. Declarations of Interest** None declared

**3327. Approval of Council Minutes 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Vice Chairman at the meeting.

**3328. Notice of Motion (Cllr. J. Battye)**

Cllr. Battye read his amended motion to the meeting (as below)

*Saddleworth Parish Council states that the announcement by William (Jacob) Rees-Mogg about lifting the moratorium on fracking in England is a retrograde step. Fracking for shale gas in former coal mining areas such as Oldham and Saddleworth is dangerous and could cause the collapses of abandoned pit shafts and underground galleries, leading to subsidence at the surface.*

*Therefore the Council calls on Oldham Council and the Combined Authorities of Greater Manchester to oppose any applications to enable fracking licences in Saddleworth, Oldham and the rest of Greater Manchester.*

*This motion to be brought to the attention of Oldham Council and the Combined Authorities of Greater Manchester via Mayor Andy Burnham's office.*

Cllr. Battye informed the meeting that there were many unregistered mines around the Greater Manchester area, including Oldham and Saddleworth, many of which contained contaminated water. The vibrations that would be generated by the fracking process could cause the galleries in these mines to collapse, endangering roads and buildings on top of them, and could also produce deadly methane gas into the atmosphere putting lives at risk.

He asked Parish Council Members for their support the motion to oppose fracking in the Greater Manchester, Oldham and Saddleworth areas. Cllr. Phillips stated that it was important that we have the opportunity to discuss this matter fully before the situation became a critical concern. The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Battye and seconded by Cllr. Phillips.

Cllr. Lancaster thanked Cllrs. Battye and Phillips for submitting the Motion to Council and read an amended Motion proposed by himself and seconded by Cllr. Woodvine. (as below)

*Saddleworth Parish Council recognises that the announcement by Mr. Jacob Rees-Mogg that the moratorium on fracking be lifted in England constitutes a change in Government Policy.*

*This Parish Council also notes that the Government has though made it unequivocally clear that the practice of fracking in any area is dependent on local support having first been demonstrated and supports this position.*

*Therefore, in the context of fracking licences potentially being applied for within or in the nearby vicinity of our Civil Parish, this Council resolves to work with the principal authority, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council in facilitating Saddleworth residents to express their views. In the event that local consent is not provided, this Parish Council commits to opposing local fracking licences.*

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

**3329 To approve and confirm as a correct record the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

The Minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Vice Chairman

**3330. To note the Minutes of the Strategic Planning Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

The Minutes were proposed, seconded and approved

**3331. To note the Minutes of the Strategic Planning Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

The Minutes were proposed, seconded and approved

**3332. To note the Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

The Minutes were proposed, seconded and approved

**3334. To note the Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

The Minutes were proposed, seconded and approved

**3335. Nature of Uppermill Parish Field (Reference Document)**

This document had been circulated to all Members. The document was found interesting as it drew attention to the various flora, fauna and wildlife present on the site. The site did not have Ancient Woodland status but an ecology check would be deemed appropriate.

The Environment Committee has discussed the possibility of extending the Allotment Site into a part of this area, the remaining field to have information boards pointing out the various plants, flowers and wildlife on the field.

**3336, Neighbourhood Plan Version 1.7 (Confidential Document)**

The Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan 2022 – 2042 (Draft 1.7) had been circulated to all Parish Councillors. Cllr. Beeley, Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee thanked Cllr. Al-Hamdani for his efforts in producing such a comprehensive document. A meeting would take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 for consultation and discussion with local Community Representatives.

**3337. Saddleworth Parish Council Lettings Policy**

This was approved

**3338. Warm Spaces Update**

Cllr, Phillips introduced this item. Warm Spaces is a proposed scheme where people who are struggling with their heating bills and trying to keep warm have a place to go to during the day to have a hot drink in a warm environment. The Assets Management Committee had discussed the possibility of using the Council Chamber in the Civic Hall to this end.

This scheme could be run in conjunction with other organisations within the Saddleworth Area and Oldham Council. Volunteers would be required to attend perhaps with some form of training to be able to help the diverse members of the community, some who may have special needs. It was agreed by all councillors present that a pilot scheme be undertaken, one morning per week, probably Fridays, to see if this could be viable and a risk assessment would have to be produced and the service advertised. Cllr. Phillips agreed to take the lead on this initiative.

**3339. Accounts for Payment**

One query on the Payments was regarding the supply of Perspex for the Lower Hall window. This is the window where the fire escape from the ballroom comes down to ground level. It was explained that this is a fireproof Perspex to guard against heat etc. hindering the evacuation from the ballroom down the fire escape outside.

With this explanation, the accounts for payment were approved,

**3340 Date of next Meeting – Monday 28th November 2022 at 7.30pm**