

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held at the Civic Hall Uppermill**

**25th October 2021.**

**Present:** Cllr. B. Beeley (CH) P. Byrne (VC)  
S. Al-Hamdani M. Bingley  
H. Bishop J. Battye  
J. Curley K. Dawson  
L. Dawson B. Lord  
P. Lord L. Lancaster  
K. Phillips M. Scholes  
G. Sheldon D. Simpson  
M. Woodvine

**Revd. Barbara Christopher opened the meeting with prayers.**

**The Chairman welcome members to the meeting**

**3202. To receive Public Questions**

No public questions were received.

**3203. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Knotts, Hudson and Hulme.

**3204 To receive Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were received.

**3205. To approve and confirm as a correct record the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed at the meeting by the Chairman

**3206. To note the minutes of the Assets Management Committee Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The minutes were noted

**3207. To note the minutes of the Communications Committee Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021**

The minutes were noted.

Comments on the minutes prior to noting:

Cllr. Al-Hamdani said that the Blue Plaque has since been ordered.

Cllr. Beeley asked if other businesses could be included in the Shop Local Scheme. Cllr. Al-Hamdani stated that the scheme is being rolled out to more businesses

**3208. To note the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The minutes were noted.

**3209. To note the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

The minutes were noted.

**3210. To note the minutes of the Assets Management Committee Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

The minutes were noted.

Cllr. Beeley requested that M 559 be amended to read ...for plastering and decoration to be completed before the Civic Ball on 28th January 2022.

**3211. Correspondence received**

**Dovestone** – response from TfGM (Deferred from September meeting. (Document attached).

TfGM have advised they have no plans to put in place a bus services to Dovestone. Services will go no further than the Clarence. They will stay hourly only. There appeared to be an indication of a reduction in services to the area. .

Cllr. Curley commented that Greater Manchester as a whole needs to be considered and not just cities with regard to the connections. Cllr. Al-Hamdani asked, what does the franchising model give in practice?

In general, it was thought that the response was not good enough and it was resolved that the chairman would write again to TfGM expressing the meeting's disappointment with the response.

### **3212. Dovestone.**

A power point presentation was given by Peter Gill, Consultant Estates Manager, United Utilities and his colleague Simon Howard regarding the visitor strategy for Dovestone Reservoir.

Councillor Mick Scholes declared a non-pecuniary interest as member of the sailing club of 17 years.

Peter Gill went through the proposed Dovestone visitor strategy and councillors were invited to ask questions following the presentation.

Councillor Battye raised the issue of possible parking on Purico land using grasscrete cells to keep it in keeping with area. If development does occur in the area, UU will seek to ensure an S.106/Infrastructure contribution to additional parking. UU have considered this option also. It was felt that rather than add to congestion to the residents of Bradbury's Lane with parking behind the toilet block, somewhere nearer to the holiday lodges may be more practical. It was mentioned by UU that experience told that increasing parking provision is not a cure at all. Increased provision may attract even more visitors with the likelihood of increased anti-social behaviour being seen on the ground.

Cllr Bishop said that the signage at the reservoir is too small, could anything be done about this? UU have been reviewing signage at a number of their 'honeypot' sites. Some larger, simpler messaging may be more effective without adding the 'sign blindness' which is always a risk at popular sites.

Cllr Sheldon- Can solar bins be installed as per Hollingworth Lake. UU thought this is a good idea and UU will look at this, which would be in addition to the 2 x 1100 litre bins to be shortly installed by Oldham BC, see below.

Can UU share traffic counter numbers with council? UU will provide.

Oldham Council have confirmed they are additionally providing 2 large commercial type bins in the car park and 1 recycling commercial bin car park – to be emptied every 3 weeks.

Cllr Curley- Requested we stop promoting the site. Frustration with MEN – stories on how busy it is one day, then putting it in top 10 places to visit next day....UU agree with this and have had similar dialogue with the MEN and Oldham MBC. Cllr Curley also advised he had spoken to Oldham Council about UU taking car park back from Council.

Cllr. Curley asked about the possibility of a shuttle bus to distant car park on the land at Well-i-Hole farm. It was relayed that similar schemes have had poor uptake in the past due to car drivers preferring to be as close to the reservoir as possible.

Councillor Scholes commented that the Marshalls on the A635 junction do a good job.

There was question about Peak Park rangers – can this decision to abandon the site be reversed? This is not in UU's gift but the Parish Council may wish to pursue this.

Cllr Scholes- Why can we not have a rubbish bin every 200m? Whilst more bins are welcome, UU commented they would not like to despoil the appearance and view of the area too much. Who would empty them?

Cllr Scholes - CCTV on sail club seems like a good idea. Post meeting note - CCTV was installed on 26th October and will be fully operational shortly. To be clear, the installation is meant as a deterrent and provide evidence as required. It will not be a 24/7 monitored and reactive service.

Cllr Sheldon– There is repeated flooding at St Mary’s Primary School after heavy rainfall. Why can we not keep the reservoir level low to act as a flood mitigation system? UU were able to provide a partial answer i.e. they have to maintain minimal flows to the river system plus once the reservoir is ‘full’ the overflows take the surplus into the river catchment system. UU will provide a fuller answer shortly.

### **3213. AGAR – Conclusion of Audit**

Members are asked to note the Conclusion of Audit 2020/2021 as previously considered by the Finance Committee (attached)

Conclusion of the audit was noted

### **3214. District Partnership**

There has been some confusion concerning the District Partnership and the involvement of Borough Councillors in the Environment, Traffic and Transport, and Strategic Planning Committees, Until the Parish Council is notified that the District Partnership has been dissolved, Borough Councillors will be expected to attend meetings in that role, in line with the Standing Orders of the Parish Council and each Committee. It should also be noted that the Standing Orders of those Committees can only be changed once annually, so if the District Partnership were to be dissolved, participation in the Committees would still continue until the annual meeting when changes can be made.

The statement was noted.

### **3215. Local Heritage Listing Project**

Members are asked to consider the information provided by LHLP and decide whether to participate in the scheme.

For the months of October and November, local residents will be able to nominate their favourite historic buildings, landscapes, historic sites, public art, monuments and even street furniture to join the Local Heritage List for Greater Manchester. Cllr Beeley suggested that councillors identify buildings in their area and submit their own applications. Cllr. S. Al-Hamdani said that he would submit a half page to the Saddleworth Monthly in order to encourage residents to make nominations. This was agreed.

**3216. Accounts for Payment – September 2021**

Receipts £114,161.24 (Includes Precept Payment)

Expenditure: £24,874.01

The accounts were accepted and signed at the meeting by the Chairman at the meeting.

**Dates of next Meetings 22 November 2021 at 19.30 hrs.  
20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 19.30hrs**