

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting 28 March 2022 held at Saddleworth Civic Hall

Present: Cllr.

B. Beeley (Chairman)	P. Byrne (VC)
S. Al- Hamdani	M. Bingley
J. Batty	H. Bishop
K. Dawson	L. Dawson
R. Knotts	B. Lord
P. Lord	K. Phillips
M. Scholes	D. Simpson
M. Woodvine	

Prayers were led by the Chairman, Cllr. B. Beeley.

Welcome from the Chairman

3266. Public Question- Jayne Gibson

Will Saddleworth Parish Councillors use their influence to encourage the necessary authorities to retain the 20mph areas that were introduced under temporary Covid 19 powers, AND will they also use their influence and connections to put pressure on the police to carry out regular enforcements of the 20mph speed limits, to encourage more drivers to stick to the limits?

Cllr. Byrne – national speed limits are being reviewed in the next Fiscal year. She will ask when the outcome is expected.

Cllr. S. Al- Hamdani - Oldham MBC have signed up to the Helsinki declaration, committing the borough to lower speed limits. Borough Councillors are trying to do more and support this. Safer Roads for Greater Manchester are introducing changes to rules of speed cameras so simpler to enforce.

Cllr. Bishop- Highways are reviewing all data where 20 mph is not effective and investigating other measures to be used instead.

A written response will follow.

3267. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. Curley, Hudson, Hulme, Lancaster and Sheldon.

3268. Declarations of interest.

Cllr. Scholes declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 11.

3269. To approve and confirm as a correct record the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28th February 2022.

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

3270. To note the minutes of the Civic Functions Committee Meeting held on 21st February 2022

Noted

3271. To note the Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held on 24th February 2022

Cllr. Knotts wished his thanks to Cllr. Al-Hamdani be recorded.

Noted.

3272. To note the Minutes of the Traffic & Transport Committee Meeting held on 1st March 2022

Noted

3273. To note the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 7th March 2022

Noted

3274. Correspondence:

Greenfield Station Accessibility.

Responses received: D. Abrahams MP. Network Rail, P. Street.

Cllr. Battye- The Mayor of Manchester has said that if accessibility is not reached by 2025 then he would step in. To wait another 7 years is unacceptable. And that a further letter needs to be written. It was resolved that the letter would refer to access for all and 27 years of campaigning. Cllr. Beeley – how many people are aware that Network Rail will pay the cost of transport from Ashton or Stalybridge and it was resolved that this information would be published in the Saddleworth Independent.

Cllr Al-Hamdani – has contacted disabled groups, and whilst not illegal it is not within the spirit of the law.

It was resolved that a further letter be written to Network Rail and the response from Network rail be forwarded to The Rt Hon. D. Abrahams.

3275. Governance review

Cllr. Beeley gave a synopsis of the meeting held with P. Entwistle (Borough Solicitor) and 2 officers from the Election's Office. As part of the Boundary Commission's local boundary review of Oldham Borough, no recommendations for changes were made regarding Saddleworth Parish Council. The next opportunity for review would be the 50th Anniversary of the Parish Council in 2024.

This was accepted by the Council.

3276. **MOTION Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone**

Proposer: Mick Scholes

Seconder: Kevin Dawson

Saddleworth Parish Council Notes:

- 1) The agreed postponement, by the Conservative UK Government, of the introduction of Greater Manchester's "Clean Air Zone" planned for May this year. This is to allow the Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham, and his administration to re-think the manner in which the required and necessary improvements to air quality in Greater Manchester are to be achieved.
- 2) The long-running campaign by several groups, including those representing local and national business groups, which are in opposition to the specific plans put forward to tax only vehicles used for commercial purposes and not to tax equally polluting private vehicles, a burden that fell both disproportionately on poorer people, smaller businesses and public service vehicles whilst ignoring the pollution from private vehicles.
- 3) That the lack of upgrade kits that can be retro-fitted to older diesel vehicles to reduce their pollutant levels pre-dates both Covid 19 and Brexit. This lack of kits was brought to the attention of the Office of GM Mayor as far back as 2019.
- 4) The financial and cash-flow issues that many smaller businesses still face as a result Covid 19 and Brexit. namely the lack of financial resources available to smaller businesses to purchase newer, less polluting vehicles and the massive decrease in the re-sale value of older, commercial vehicles due to the specifics of the now postponed Clean Air Zone charge.
- 5) That over the previous 12 months the UK Government has reduced the subsidy on purchasing Electric Vehicles by between 16% and 50%. It has removed hybrid cars from the scheme and limited the total retail price of vehicles that are eligible for the scheme.
- 6) That our world, country and Parish will face many challenges in achieving environmental improvements and tackling climate change. Any financial burden incurred in achieving these necessary and vital improvements must be borne by those most able to pay, and any tax burden resulting from these actions must be progressive in design and practice.
- 7) That the poorest in society should never face increasing taxation merely because they are poor and cannot afford other options that are available to those with greater income or wealth.
- 8) The almost seamless and painless move from Leaded Four-Star Petrol to Unleaded Petrol, achieved over a 40-year period worldwide (Algeria became

the final country to stop selling 4* in July 2021), that is a beacon of world-wide environmental campaigning and achievement, started in the UK by CLEAR, the Campaign for Lead Free Air in the 1980s, and is an ideal template for environmental change.

All above noted by council.

Saddleworth Parish Council resolves to:

- 1) Write to Mayor Andy Burnham expressing our support for the decision to postpone the introduction of the GM Clean Air Zone and express our desire for the points below to be included in any new scheme, namely:
 - Take steps to ensure that the cost of these improvements do not unfairly burden the poorest people in our society, or businesses across Greater Manchester.
 - Campaign to ensure that other vehicle and traffic originating airborne particulates, such as dust from brake linings, tyres etc, which have a detrimental effect on our air quality are also monitored any their damaging impacts can also be considered.
 - Re-iterate our support for environmental improvements, including improvements to our air quality, and our support for the continued reduction of our reliance on the use of fossil fuels for transport.
 - As a priority, find ways to increase the number of publicly accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Saddleworth.
- 2) Campaign through, and alongside other local government organisations, including NALC and the LGA; relevant campaign groups; industry groups such as the Federation of Small Businesses, Road Haulage Association. etc, thereby achieving the required environmental improvements in our air quality and environment whilst not placing an unequal burden on those least able to bear it.
- 3) We must re-iterate our support for taxpayer-subsidised public transport and promote alternatives to the reliance on fossil fuel powered vehicles for example: walking, cycling, electric cars, electric cycles and scooters.

Cllr. Scholes – the scheme has been postponed as it couldn't be delivered in an equitable manner.

Cllr. Knotts- no air monitoring in Saddleworth, therefore, difficult to assess if such a scheme had been successful.

Cllr. Byrne- understands that the figure was taken as an average across the borough.

Cllr. Al-Hamdani- agreed that there is a lack of monitoring points but other types of pollution should be measured.

It was unanimously resolved that the proposal following the motion be sent in form of a letter, pointing out the lack of systems for measuring pollution be sent to the Mayor of Manchester, Andy Burnham and that point 2 of the proposal be referred to the Environment Committee.

3277. Saddleworth Parish Council supports Fair Trade.

Proposed by Cllr Kathryn Phillips

Seconded Cllr Sam Al-Hamdani

The Environment Committee have been supporting the Fair-Trade initiative for several years but this has taken a back seat during the pandemic. In reviewing the criteria, we found that the Saddleworth Parish Council had never formally endorsed commitment to this initiative.

This motion is aimed at correcting that by asking the Council to pass a resolution supporting Fairtrade in Saddleworth and agree to use Fairtrade products.

Below are: The Five Goals for a Fairtrade Town

1. Local council passes a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and agrees to serve Fairtrade products (for example, in meetings, offices and canteens).

2. A range of (at least two) Fairtrade products are readily available in the area's retail outlets (shops, supermarkets, newsagents, petrol stations) and served in local catering outlets (cafés, restaurants, pubs).

3. Local workplaces and community organisations (places of worship, schools, universities, colleges and other community organisations) support Fairtrade and use Fairtrade products whenever possible. Populations over 100,000 will also need a flagship employer.

4. Media coverage and events raise awareness and understanding of Fairtrade across the community.

5. A local Fairtrade steering group is convened to ensure the Fairtrade Town campaign continues to develop and gain new support

Cllr. Phillips- brought as a motion as the parish Council had not previously officially endorsed the Fair-Trade ethos within the Council.

The motion was passed unanimously.

3278. Accounts for payment and Receipts for February 2022

Income £4,585.00

Expenditure £18,083.29 (attached)

These were accepted and signed off at the meeting by the Chairman.

**Next Ordinary Meeting of the Council 25th April 2022 7.30pm at
Saddleworth Civic Hall Uppermill.**