

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting 26th September 2022
held at Saddleworth Civic Hall.**

Present: Cllrs. Pam Byrne – Chairman
Kevin Dawson - (Vice Chairman)
Sam Al-Hamdani John Battye
Barbara Beeley Luke Lancaster
Helen Bishop Graham Sheldon
Linda Dawson Donna Simpson
John Hudson Brian Lord
Pat Lord Mick Scholes
Jamie Curley Kathryn Phillips
Max Woodvine

Welcome by the Chairman, Cllr. Pam Byrne

Prayers were led by Cllr Byrne with a minute's silence held for the late Queen Elizabeth 11

3312. Apologies for absence Cllrs. M Bingley, R Knotts, G Hulme

3313. Declarations of Interest None declared

3314. Approval of Council Minutes 25th July 2022.

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

The Chairman asked the Clerk to update the meeting on the Dawson's Field insurance claim. She advised that we had received a claim from Express Solicitors following the incident at the Whit Friday event when a lady fell down a hole and sprained her ankle. We have forwarded this onto our insurers and are waiting to hear more from them. An acknowledgment was sent to Express Solicitors the day we received their communication.

Cllr Beeley said she had spoken to David Needham (the organiser of the event) and had been advised he had received the claim to send to his insurers. The Clerk advised she wasn't aware of that; only that she had given David Needham's details to our insurers. The Clerk advised we were waiting further communication from our insurers.

3315. To note the Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 1st August 2022

The minutes were proposed and seconded.

3316. To note the Minutes of the Assets Management Minutes held on 16th August 2022

Cllr Byrne updated the meeting regarding point 602 Energy usage. She advised that Mr Lawton has selected some events to monitor (ones that he believes may use a lot of power) and she will feed back at the next meeting.

Cllr Byrne updated the meeting on point 603 Civic Hall charges – it was moved to a Task & Finish Group which is listed later on in the agenda.

The minutes were proposed and seconded.

3317. To note the Minutes of the Traffic & Transport Meeting held on 1st September 2022

Point 1882, Cllr Byrne asked which car park is being referred to. Cllr Bishop advised Dovestone car park. Minutes to be amended.

Cllr Sheldon updated the meeting point 1889 question regarding the Royal George junction. He has just been informed traffic lights are going to be installed; no time scale yet.

Cllr Sheldon also advised this goes hand in hand with the speed limit at the junction. OMBC rejected the recommendation to reduce speed limit from 40mph to 30mph – didn't meet the criteria. The decision to install traffic lights may slow the traffic down naturally.

Cllr Sheldon also updated the meeting the little bridge at Well-I-Hole – too narrow for vehicles to pass – suggest a priority one way sign?

Cllr Bishop said that nobody from OMBC attending the last meeting. Cllr Scholes said he was going to email OMBC Highways Dept with all the issues that had been raised at the last meeting. He hadn't done that yet as he had been away. Cllr Byrne said that this email should be sent by the Clerk. It was decided that Cllr Scholes would email the Clerk with these points and she would forward to OMBC, with the hope we have replies before the next meeting. There was some discussion about the reason OMBC didn't attend the previous meeting – this was due to not having a Clerk for a few weeks over the summer – should be sorted going forward.

The minutes were proposed and seconded.

3318. To note the Minutes of the Planning Meeting held 5th September 2022

Cllr Byrne updated the meeting regarding a Planning Consultant. She has emailed the Senior Planning Officer at OMBC, explaining the background asking how they could support us; has not received a reply yet but will feed back when she does. Cllr Al-Hamdani asked if there was a job description for this position. Cllr Byrne replied that there was one and it was amended by Cllr Knotts.

The minutes were proposed and seconded.

3319. To note the Minutes of the Assets Management Meeting held 12th September 2022.

Cllr Byrne advised that item 613 Allotments and waiting lists was listed further down the agenda. Cllr Byrne advised that some work had been done on the warm spaces initiative. The Parish Centre was opening every Wednesday morning and we are waiting for further updates/directions about how we can help further, and what other areas were taking part.

Cllr Phillips would like to invite whoever is looking at this at OMBC, plus somebody from Churches Together to the next Environment meeting as this is on the agenda to be discussed then.

The minutes were proposed and seconded.

3320. Task & Finish Group item - Civic Hall charges and bookings proposal.

Cllr Byrne advised that the current pricing structure was confusing and too complicated. The Task & Finish Group had worked together to simplify these costs and take into account price rises across the sector. The proposed new charges, to take effect from 1st January 2023 were shared with councillors.

Cllr Bishop queried why we needed security for weddings but not for the brass bands/choirs etc. Cllr Byrne advised that these events have heavy drinking and security is needed to stop them being noisy outside the halls. The bands and choirs, although also having a bar, are usually finished and everyone away by 10.30pm and weddings are still going on at midnight. There was a small amount of discussion regarding the amended draft bookings policy and form plus the finishing times of events. But it was agreed this meeting wasn't the correct forum for these discussions.

Cllr Byrne advised that we need to be mindful and respectful of our neighbours as we do not want any issues that would contribute to our entertainment licence being revoked. The clerk was asked to send out to all councillors the draft booking's policy so they could feed back any comments or observations to the Task & Finish Group.

After some discussion it was agreed these new charges would be implemented for all new bookings from 1st January 2023; proposed and seconded.

Cllr Byrne sought full council approval of the Task & Finish Group's recommendation that we refuse future bookings from Judge Jules and Bongo Bingo or other bookings of a similar ilk which will, we believe, cause issues to our neighbours. There was some discussion around the sound systems and whether site staff would be able to turn it off music if it is too loud. This apparently damages the equipment, plus it is not a situation we want our site staff to be in.

After more discussion this was approved and seconded with 1 against.

3321. Allotments - a proposed possible extension of allotment into adjoining field.

Cllr Sheldon advised councillors about the proposal to look into extending our allotments as there were 27 people on the waiting list. There was some discussion around this.

Cllr Byrne expressed concern about the costs involved based on the original allotment project expenses. She believed it was a good idea in principal and we may be able to access some funding towards it.

Cllr Phillip expressed concern about the effect on the environment, we need to reserve the integrity of the wildlife. Cllr Sheldon commented it was mainly bramble and weed.

Cllr Scholes has a copy of the Parish Field Nature report and said he would send to the Clerk (this can be attached with the minutes).

Cllr Al-Hamdani said that areas needed protection and we need to check how these areas connect with others. He knows somebody who will be happy to research its history free of charge.

Cllr Beeley referred back to David Sanderson's report; very aware of the wildlife corridor.

Cllr Phillips asked how much we charge for the allotment - £50 per annum- and there was more discussion regarding grants as the allotments are certainly not self-funding.

Cllr Bishop asked about controls re environmental impact; restrictions re pesticides etc.

Cllr Battye – no problem in principal and feasibility studies being carried out.

Proposed and seconded with 1 against, 1 abstention.

3322. Accounts for Payment July 2022 Income £ 6,845.85 Expenditure £23,257.16

Accounts for payment were approved.

3323. Accounts for Payment August 2022 Income £2,886.88 Expenditure £17,251.95

Accounts for payment were approved.

Cllr Byrne notified Councillors of the new date for the Civic Service – Sunday 23rd October @ 3.30pm.

3324. Date of next Meeting – Monday 24th October 2022.