

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19th December 2022
at the Saddleworth Civic Hall.**

Present: Cllrs. Pam Byrne – Chairman
Sam Al-Hamdani John Battye
Luke Lancaster Helen Bishop
Jamie Curley Mick Scholes
John Hudson Brian Lord
Pat Lord Max Woodvine

Welcome by the Chairman, Cllr. Pam Byrne

Prayers were led by Revd. Pat Gillian

3354. To receive Public Questions

None received

3355. Apologies for absence Cllrs. Kevin Dawson, Linda Dawson, Mavis Bingley, Barbara Beeley, Graham Sheldon, Donna Simpson, Kathryn Phillips, Rob Knotts, George Hulme.

3356. Declarations of Interest None declared

3357. Notice of Motion (Cllr Bishop)

Motion on speculative news reports concerning moors investigations

Proposed by: Cllr Helen Bishop
Seconded by: Cllr Sam Al-Hamdani

Cllr Battye asked the Chairman to rule whether the Motion was a competent Resolution, said he had consulted ex Council Leader David Jones who Cllr Battye said was an expert on the use of Standing Orders. David Jones said “the only people who have competence to regulate the press are the regulatory authorities. For a Council to try to intervene in this way is censorship of the press worthy of authoritarian regimes. As there are bodies which have oversight of the press and have regulatory powers. This resolution is not competent as it seeks to impose powers on the press which can only be done by parliament. If the resolution just said Saddleworth Parish Council should ask parliament, which has powers to amend present regulations, then it would be a competent resolution”.

Cllr Bishop requested that the minutes of this meeting clarify that Cllr Battye’s request to the Chairman was before Cllr Bishop had begun reading the Motion.

Cllr Byrne then gave some background information on the Motion; that the Clerk had already asked for it to be redrafted in a more generic and less personal format, but had decided to include the amended draft as she understood it was beyond her remit as Clerk to refuse it.

Cllr Byrne said that both her and the Clerk believed it was inappropriate for SPC to raise this issue and agreed with Cllr Battye that she didn’t believe it was a competent resolution.

Cllr Battye proposed that this Motion be refused; this was seconded by Cllr Lancaster.

Cllr Scholes did not agree; he said the Motion was only a request to the press, not a demand and that he believed the Motion should stand.

On being put to the vote the Council ruled the motion was not competent and was therefore ruled out of order, This was carried by 8 votes to 3.

3358. Approval of Council Minutes 28th November 2022

With an amendment from Cllr Battye, the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman at the meeting.

3359. To note the Minutes of the Traffic & Transport Meeting held 1st December 2022

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

3360. To note the Minutes of the Planning Meeting held 5th December 2022

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

3361. To note the Minutes of the Finance Meeting held 8th December 2022

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

3362. Warm Spaces Trial Extension

As Cllr Phillips was unable to attend the meeting she had asked Cllr Byrne to update Councillors. "I have talked to the church representatives and like us they haven't had many people use the facility, except where existing groups already meet up. The library has a few people just popping in for a free drink. The Satellite chat and brew group is popular.

So as both we and the Churches have advertised the January dates, we thought we should go ahead in January but possibly drop it in February. The Environment Committee have agreed this approach when we met last week. I have got sufficient volunteers for all Fridays in January, starting on 6th, but from 9.30 till 1pm".

All Councillors endorsed this.

3363. Accounts for Payment

There was one query around the £249.99 payment for a Christmas tree. The Clerk explained it was a good quality artificial 8 foot tree she had ordered for the bar area which should last a good number of years. The old was broken when it was taken out of the storage cupboard. Councillors noted the new tree looked lovely. With this explanation the accounts for payment were approved.

3364. AGAR – to note the Final Accounting Statements for 2021-22

Cllr Al-Hamdani explained why there has been a delay in submitting these accounts on time and why we had missed the deadline. He advised there was no reason going forward this would happen again. It was confirmed that no matters had been raised requiring any adjustment to the figures. The incomplete submission (with no changes to the final statements) had already been signed off by the Chair and Acting Clerk in July.

They were proposed and seconded and it was resolved that the Final Accounting Statements for the year ended 31st March 2022 be approved.

3365. Date of next Council Meeting– Monday 23rd January 2023 @ 7.30pm