

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28th November 2022
at the 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 Kathryn Phillips
Max Woodvine

Welcome by the Chairman, Cllr. Pam Byrne

Prayers were led by Revd. Ken McNally

Appreciations for the life of the late Mrs Enid Firth, former Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council, were made by Cllr Beeley, Cllr Hudson and Cllr Byrne.

Appreciations for the life of Mr Roger Tanner, were made by Cllr Byrne and Cllr Hudson.
Cllr Byrne was also asked to express Cllr Bingley's sentiments for Mrs Firth.

One minute's silence was held.

3341. Apologies for absence Cllrs. Mavis Bingley, Jamie. Curley, Mick Scholes, George Hulme

3342. Declarations of Interest None declared

3343. Notice of Motion (Cllr Beeley) A new Health Centre for Saddleworth

The following motion was debated:

There was one amendment by Cllr Battye, the Chairman asked Cllr Beeley whether she was happy to accept this addition to the motion; it was agreed.

This Council notes:

- That Uppermill GP surgery has delivered a high quality service for residents over many years, but now is faced with significantly increasing demand;
- That for many residents, access to a range of health services is only available by travelling a significant distance across Oldham Borough or Greater Manchester
- That Oldham Council agreed to invest in a new Health Centre for Saddleworth in its 2020 budget, but this was withdrawn in its 2021 budget;
- That Saddleworth is chronically under served for public transport, meaning that for residents without cars, travel outside the area can take considerable time, effort and money.

This Council believes:

- That residents should be able to access as broad a range of health services as possible with the minimum amount of travel and inconvenience.

This Council resolves:

- To write to the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership and Oldham Council's Place Lead Executive Director on the Care Partnership, and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Housing, to:
 - state Saddleworth Parish Council's support for the necessity for a new Health Centre in Saddleworth providing a wide range of care;
 - to note the support for accessible local healthcare provision included in the draft Neighbourhood Plan being produced by Saddleworth Parish Council;
 - ensure that residents of the Parish of Saddleworth are given the broadest possible input into the kind and quality of provision to be introduced within Saddleworth.
- To specifically request Oldham Council's Place Lead Executive Director and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Housing, jointly with the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership to urgently explore the options to create a new Health Centre on either the site of the former Saddleworth School, or a suitable alternative site which meets the requirements for access.

Cllr Beeley stated that options must be explored to create a new health centre in Saddleworth and the timescale for providing this new health facility.

Cllr Beeley's full presentation:-

"This motion has grown out of meetings with residents, the responses to the survey for the Neighbourhood Plan and the meeting with the Community Groups about the draft plan in October 2022.

I decided to take a trip down memory lane and go back to the beginning of the LIFT funding program for the NHS which started in 2001. Primary Care Trusts were in charge then and all areas of the Borough had high hopes of greatly improved facilities. Councillors in Saddleworth looked for possible suitable sites and found one on Cooper Street in Springhead. A clinic with land adjoining owned by the PCT. What happened? It was sold off.

2004 hopes were raised only for Saddleworth along with Shaw to be put to the back of the queue once again.

In 2013 PCTs were replaced by CCG's. Surely now those who understood health needs were in charge and Saddleworth's needs would finally be recognised. Not so, and CCGs have come and gone and now we have a grand Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership. I think of Greater Manchester as a large dinner plate and Saddleworth hangs by its fingertips to the edge seemingly out of sight of those in charge.

After 21 years it would seem not a penny of that LIFT funding has made its way to Saddleworth and the needs of the 26,000 population of Saddleworth are still not being met.

They may not be the same needs as some areas of the Borough but Saddleworth has an ageing population which has special chronic problems such as diabetes, heart disease and ambulatory Musculo skeletal problems.

The services have not come any nearer to the patients and some services such as retinopathy and the blood donor service have even been withdrawn.

This is in an area which is badly served by public transport, one train station with 2 per hour if not cancelled but not accessible if you are disabled, a bus network which is constantly being changed and reduced and yet people have to travel possibly on 2 buses to go for a blood test.

I looked at the Ring & Ride Service – the furthest distance it will take you is 6 miles – Bury is 13 and Wythenshawe 19.

IT definitely is not good enough for Oldham's Lead on Health to say that now that Shaw has one (which took 15 years to happen) "we probably need one in Saddleworth" The people of Saddleworth deserve far better than just a passing comment.

And just to finish:

An assessment of the LIFT program recently concluded that

- *The LIFT Programme has driven a significant improvement in the quality of health service accommodation, improving working conditions and facilities for a wide range of service providers. Outmoded and inadequate premises have been replaced with high quality, flexible accommodation conforming to NHS standards.*
- *LIFT projects have played a key role in providing modern and flexible facilities necessary to meet the diverse health and wellbeing needs of disadvantaged, ethnically-mixed and often rapidly changing populations.*
- *LIFT has brought care closer to patients and integrated a greater range of services under one roof, in better environments. It has also facilitated other programmes aimed at promoting healthier lifestyles and more outpatient activity*

It is a disgrace that after 21 years Saddleworth has still not benefitted at all from this programme.”

There was discussion around this Motion.

Cllr Al-Hamdani pointed out that the distance from Denshaw to the Royal Oldham hospital is further than the distance of the ring and ride scheme; this also emphasises how poor public transport is in Saddleworth.

Cllr Batty advised that discussions had taken place on possible sites close to Saddleworth School, but it wasn't on a bus route. A new health centre must be inclusive of all specialist services and adequately funded by the Health Service.

Cllr Batty stated that the Smithie Lane, Saddleworth GP practice cannot attract enough specialist staff because of the poor facilities

Cllr Bishop informed that Greenfield Satellite Centre site had been muted as a possible site for a new health centre and she would be against that.

Cllr Byrne advised that the letter from Dr Taylor to the Strategic Planning Committee was fully in favour.

Cllr Knotts offered to conduct a detailed quantitative analysis to support this motion.

Cllr Beeley advised the figures had been checked and were accurate and that we really need to push this forward.

This motion was proposed by Cllr Barbara Beeley and seconded by Cllr Sam Al-Hamdani.

Further debate took place and motion was passed unanimously.

Cllr Beeley to speak to the Clerk regarding next steps.

3344. Approval of Council Minutes 24th October 2022.

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

Regarding the motion from Cllr Batty on fracking, it was noted that there was a change in government very shortly after the motion was raised. It was agreed to let it lie on the table.

3345. To note the Minutes of the Traffic & Transport Meeting held 20th October 2022The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

3346.To note the minutes of the Strategic Planning Meeting held 27th October 2022

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

3347.To note the minutes of the Planning Meeting held 7th November 2022

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

3348.To note the minutes of the Asset Management Meeting held 14th November 2022

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

Cllr Sheldon advised the meeting of the plan for the Asset Management committee to visit the land for the proposed allotment extension on Thursday and rope off the area they would like to use. He invited all councillors to join them. Planning to use just half of the field for allotments and keep the rest as green space. There was some discussion around this and Cllr Phillips advised of the Environment Committee's intention to invite an SBI inspection in the spring (as per point 3350 below). It was agreed Cllr Sheldon would advise councillors of the date and time of the visit.

Cllr Sheldon also advised Councillors that due to a security concern the Assets Committee had been alerted to by the Clerk, it had been agreed to purchase a ring doorbell as when the building isn't in use and only staff are on site, the side door will be kept locked.

3349.To note - Warm Spaces Trial ongoing

Cllr Phillips updated the meeting on this trial. Only 1 or 2 people attended on the first two mornings, 2 more trial mornings still to come. Perhaps when it gets colder there may be more uptake. Councillors agreed a good idea to advertise it with Oldham Warm Banks. There was some discussion around it and about further advertising of it.

It was agreed we would see what happens over the next two weeks and Cllr Phillips would report back at the next meeting.

3350.To note – Parish Field – Environment Committee have requested an SBI (Site of Biological importance) inspection by GM Ecology Unit

Addressed on point 3348 above.

3351. Accounts for Payment

There was one query around payment for a new badge for chain £223.80. It was actually the cost of a badge purchased in June for the outgoing Chairman – invoice receipt was delayed. With this explanation the accounts for payment were approved.

3352. To make arrangements for the Christmas Council meeting

Arrangements were discussed and as always the Charity Committee will be providing wine and nibbles for after the meeting. All spouses, partners and friends are invited to this

3353 Christmas Council Meeting– Monday 19th December @ 7.30pm

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