**Minutes from the Annual Council Meeting held at the Civic Hall, 22 May 2023**

Present: P. Byrne (CH) K. Dawson (VC)

E. Adamson S. Al- Hamdani

M. Bingley B. Beeley

M. Birchall H. Bishop

R. Blackmore L. Dawson

J. Garner P. Gaul

A. Marland K. Phillips

M. Powell G. Sheldon

G. Talboy-Smith D. Wall

P.Walsh A. Wrigley

**Prayers were led by Dr P. Monk**

Tributes were given for the three long serving retiring Councillors, Cllr J Hudson, OBE, Cllr B Lord, Cllr P Lord.

**1626. Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors, guests and members of the public to the meeting.

**1627. Apologies for absence:** Cllr K Barton

**1628. Declarations of Interest:** None declared

**1629. Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 23 May 2022**

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

**1630. Election of the Chairman 2023/2024**

It was proposed by Cllr Beeley, seconded by Cllr Al-Hamdani and resolved that Cllr K Dawson be elected Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

Cllr Dawson was invested with the Insignia of Office by the retiring Chairman Cllr P Byrne, following which the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was read out and signed by Cllr Dawson and witnessed by the Clerk.

Cllr K Dawson presented Cllr Byrne with her Past Chairman’s medal.

The Chairman’s Lady Cllr L Dawson, was invested with the Insignia of Office by the retiring Chairman’s Lady Ms Helen Harrison.

Cllr L Dawson presented the Past Chairman’s Lady’s medal to Ms Harrison.

Cllr K Dawson presided over the rest of the meeting.

He thanked everyone for their attendance, including the five ex Oldham Mayors. He said it was a great honour to be elected and quite humbling and that the outgoing Chairman Cllr Byrne would be a very hard act to follow.

He paid tribute to all the outgoing councillors and thanked them for their dedicated service and contributions.

He said he hoped that together the new look council would do a great job for Saddleworth without party politics hindering our administrations; that the people of Saddleworth must be listened to and be put first.

Trying to decide which charities he would like to support had been an arduous task but he has chosen the NSPCC and UNICEF to help children worldwide as well as helping some local charities.

He thanked the Chairman’s Charity Committee who work so tirelessly and give generously of their time to help raise funds to help others.

He also said we celebrate the fact that his wife and fellow Councillor Linda becomes The Chairman’s lady; and that she will fulfil her role admirably.

**1631. Election of the Vice Chairman 2023-2024**

It was proposed by Cllr Al-Hamdani, seconded by Cllr Marland and resolved that Cllr B Beeley be elected as Vice Chairman. Cllr Beeley was presented with the Insignia of Office by the Chairman.

Cllr Beeley thanked her fellow Councillors for electing her as Vice Chairman. She thanked the staff at the Civic Hall for the excellent work they do in maintain the Civic Hall and other Parish Council property and in running the affairs of the Parish Council so efficiently.

**1632. Vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman.**

Cllr Sheldon proposed and Cllr Al-Hamdani seconded a sincere vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman and her Lady for what they had done over the past year.

Cllr Byrne congratulated Cllr Dawson and Cllr Beeley on their appointments and spoke about her year as Chairman.

She spoke about her more than 20 years loyal service to Saddleworth Parish Council. During her year as Chairman she attended 136 events; 34 of these were Civic Events along with her Lady and announced the money raised, £6,100, through the Chairman’s Charity to support a number of local Charities. She thanked the Chairman’s Charity Committee for their continued hard work and support over the last 12 months: Cheques were donated to

Prevent Breast Cancer, Saddleworth Riding for the Disabled, Boarshurst Band, Saddleworth Carers, Saddleworth Church, Uppermill Football Club Juniors, 3D’s Football Club Juniors, Saddleworth Rangers Juniors, Oldham and Lees Air Cadets, Uppermill Stage Society, My Wellbeing – Keys rings to give contacts for young people who may think about taking their own lives.

Cllr Byrne also thanked her lady Helen for all her support throughout the year and presented her with some flowers.

**1633. Co-option – 2 vacant positions Delph & Dobcross**

Cllr Al-Hamdani proposed, and Cllr Marland seconded that Mr Graham Talboy-Smith be co opted to the ward of Diggle & Dobcross.

It was resolved that Mr Talboy-Smith be co opted. He signed the Declaration of Office, witnessed by the Clerk, and took his seat at the Council Table.

Cllr Phillips proposed, and Cllr Birchall seconded that Mr Dominic Wall be co opted to the ward of Delph & Denshaw.

It was resolved that Mr Wall be co opted. He signed the Declaration of Office, witnessed by the Clerk, and took his seat at the Council Table.

**1634. Annual Governance Statement for year ended March 2023**

Cllr Al-Hamdani (Chair of Finance Committee) explained that the AGAR cannot be approved until the internal audit is completed. The Accounts will be presented to the Ordinary Council meeting in June 2023.

**1635. Financial Regulations for the year 2023/2024**

Cllr Al-Hamdani proposed and Cllr Sheldon seconded that the Financial Regulations be adopted. Cllr Al-Hamdani explained that an updated version was being worked on and will be proposed at the Annual Meeting May 2024.

It was resolved to adopt the Financial Regulations.

**1636. To agree and adopt the amended Standing Orders 2023/24**

It was proposed by Cllr Beeley, seconded by Cllr Al-Hamdani that the revised Standing Orders be adopted.

It was resolved that the Standing Orders be adopted.

**1637. To establish the Constitution of the Standing Committee of the Council.**

It was proposed by Cllr K Dawson and resolved that the Standing Committees be established as follows:

**Planning Committee (12)**

Chairman: Cllr Bishop

Vice Chairman: Cllr Beeley

Cllrs: Dawson K, Dawson L, Adamson, Blackmore, Gaul, Birchall, Garner, Wall, 2 vacancies to be filled.

**Finance Committee (9)**

Chairman: Cllr Al-Hamdani

Vice Chairman: Cllr Sheldon

Councillors: Bishop, Dawson L, Dawson K, Phillips, Walsh, Barton, Blackmore

**Assets Management Committee (7)**

Chairman: Cllr Sheldon

Vice Chairman: Cllr Dawson L

Councillors: Beeley, Adamson, Gaul, Wall, 1 vacancy to be filled.

**Communications Committee (5)**

Chairman: Cllr Al-Hamdani

Vice Chairman: Cllr Bishop

Councillors: Dawson L, Wrigley, Birchall, Powell, Marland

**Staffing Committee (5)**

Chairman: Cllr Phillips

Vice Chairman: Cllr Sheldon

Councillors: Bishop, Barton, Marland

**Disciplinary Committee (5)**

Chairman: Cllr Dawson K

Vice Chairman: Cllr Phillips

Councillors: Bishop, Barton, Marland

**Appeals Committee (5)**

Chairman: Cllr Dawson L

Vice Chairman: Cllr Beeley

Councillors: Walsh, Al-Hamdani, Adamson

**Environment Committee (6)**

Chairman: Cllr Phillips

Vice Chairman: Al-Hamdani

Councillors: Dawson L, Wrigley A, Birchall M, Garner J, Bingley M, Wall.

**Traffic & Transport Committee (6)**

Chairman: Cllr Beeley

Vice Chairman: Dawson K

Councillors: Bishop, Gaul, Powell, Marland

**Strategic Planning Committee (6)**

Chairman: Cllr Beeley

Vice Chairman: Al-Hamdani

Councillors: Dawson K, Blackmore, Birchall, Barton

**Civic Functions Committee (6)**

Chairman: Cllr Dawson K

Vice Chairman: Beeley

Councillors: Dawson L, Wrigley, Adamson, Clerk

**1638. To accept the calendar of meetings of the Council for the ensuing year**.

It was proposed by Cllr K Dawson and resolved that the calendar of meetings be adopted.

**1639. To appoint representatives on outside bodies**

It was proposed by Cllr K Dawson that the representatives to outside bodies be established as follows:

Standards Committee (1) - Cllr Blackmore

Peak Park Parishes Forum (1) – Cllr Beeley

Millgate Arts Centre (2) – Cllrs Dawson K, Dawson L, Birchall

Huddersfield Canal Society (1) – Cllr Marland

**1640. To appoint Representatives to Saddleworth Educational and other Charities**

It was proposed by Cllr K Dawson that the representatives to outside bodies be established as follows:

Hawkyard & Whitehead Educational Foundation (2) – Cllrs P Byrne, Bishop

Trustees of the Rochdale United Charity (2) – Cllrs Byrne, Al-Hamdani, Barton, Adamson

**1641.** **To approve the Bank Account authorised signatories for 2023/2024**

Chairman: Cllr Dawson K

Vice Chairman: Cllr Beeley

Chairman of Finance Committee: Cllr Al-Hamdani

Vice Chairman of Finance Committee: Cllr Sheldon

Chairman of Assets Management: Cllr Sheldon

Clerk to the Council: Mrs K Allott

RFO: Mr J Price

**1642. To approve the Accounts for Payment for April**

Total Income £ 6, 301 Total Expenditure £19,998.05

It was proposed by Cllr Al-Hamdani and seconded by Cllr Sheldon and resolved that the list of Accounts for Payment for April 23 were approved. There were no payments made in accordance with Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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