

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held
at the Civic Hall, Uppermill on Monday 23rd September 2019

There were present:

Cllrs.	J. Curley - Chairman	
	B. Beeley - Vice Chairman	
Cllrs.	N. Allsopp	L. Lancaster
	A. Belmore	B. Lord
	P. Byrne	P. Lord
	R. Darlington	K. Phillips
	D. Goodman	G. Sheldon
	J. Hudson	M. Woodvine

Rev. Pat Gillan said prayers prior to the start of the meeting.

2512 Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed his fellow Councillors and the press to the meeting.

2513 To Receive Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2514 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Al-Hamdani, Bingley, Hulme and Roberts.

On Tuesday 24th September Cllr. Beeley informed the Clerk that Cllrs K. and L. Dawson had sent her a text message at 7:20pm on 23rd September asking for their apologies to be submitted as they had been called away to a family crisis and they did not have a contact number for the Clerk. Unfortunately Cllr Beeley had already put her phone on silent for the meeting and had not picked the message up until it had concluded.

2515 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Belmore declared a pecuniary interest in Item 22 – Accounts for Payment - and did not vote on this item. Cllr Sheldon declared a non-pecuniary interest in land at Greenbridge Lane which was referred to in the minutes of the Estates Committee meeting held on Monday 12th August 2019.

2516 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2019

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2019 were **APPROVED and SIGNED.**

2517 Minutes of the Communications Committee held on Wednesday 24th July 2019

The minutes of the Communications Committee held on Wednesday 24th July 2019 were **NOTED.**

2518 Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee held on Friday 26th July 2019.

The minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee held on Friday 26th July 2019 were **NOTED.**

2519 Recommendation from the Strategic Planning Committee held on Friday 26th July 2019

The recommendation from the Strategic Planning Committee held on Friday 26th July 2019 was **APPROVED, subject to a successful bid for grant funding being made.**

2520 Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee held on Wednesday 31st July 2019.

The minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee held on Wednesday 31st July 2019 were **NOTED.**

2521 Recommendation from the Traffic and Transport Committee held on Wednesday 31st July 2019
The recommendation from the Traffic and Transport Committee held on Wednesday 31st July 2019 that the revised terms of reference be adopted was **DEFERRED to the next meeting as the document had not been circulated with the agenda.**

2522 Minutes of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 2nd August 2019
The minutes of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 2nd August 2019 were **NOTED.**

2523 Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 5th August 2019
The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 5th August 2019 were **NOTED.**

2524 Minutes of the Estates Committee Meeting held on Monday 12th August 2019
The Minutes of the Estates Committee Meeting held on Monday 12th August 2019 were **NOTED.**

Cllr Sheldon said that the Parish Caretaker had strimmed the Kenworthy Gardens drainage ditch and Oldham Council had put weedkiller down. He said that he had met with Graeme Moore from Oldham's Planning Department who had provided him with a number of files covering the construction of the ditch and he had asked Cllr Beeley to look through the files with him to see if they can ascertain ownership of the land.

Cllr Byrne said that she had received a very negative answer from Craig Dale regarding the provision of refuse disposal facilities following the removal of the skip from Churchill Playing Fields, the waste coming from the clearance of public footpaths for which Oldham Council have responsibility but do not do. He had said that the Parish Council would need to arrange for additional trade waste bins to be added to their contract.

2525 Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee held on Thursday 29th August 2019
The minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee held on Thursday 29th August 2019 were **NOTED.**

The Chairman gave a brief report for the meeting held with the Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham, at Dovestones on 21st August 2019. He said the attendees included the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, RSPB, United Utilities, the MP, Debbie Abrahams and the Leader of Oldham Council, Cllr Sean Fielding. He said that he was unsure of the purpose of the meeting and suggested it was simply a PR exercise. He expressed his disappointment that the ward councilors had not been included in the invitation.

There had been some discussion about the GMSF and Cllr Hudson said that the Parish Councillors must insist that they are fully included in any discussions about the development of Chew Valley.

Cllr Sheldon said that he had been extremely disappointed not to be invited to the meeting. He raised the issue of the parking charges at Dovestones which are currently being revised and suggested that funding for the marshall service should be factored into any costings. He said that he is to meet with Peter Wood from Oldham's parking division in the near future.

2526 Minutes of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 30th August 2019
The minutes of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 30th August 2019 were **NOTED.**

2527 Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2019
The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2019 were **NOTED.**

2528 Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Monday 9th September 2019
The minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Monday 9th September 2019 were **NOTED**.

Cllr Darlington circulated the latest version of the Climate Change leaflet, drawing attention to the changes which had been made since the first draft. He said that it needed to be put into the standard format and go back to the Environment Committee in December for approval and recommendation to Council.

Cllr Hudson said that climate change is a worldwide issue that will impact on everybody and thanked Cllr Darlington for his work. He said that Saddleworth Parish Council need to be seen to be taking the lead.

Cllr Darlington asked for volunteers to join the Fair Trade working group. The Chairman said that he would like to be involved.

2529 Recommendation from the Environment Committee Meeting held on Monday 15th July 2019

The Clerk said that this item had been deferred at the Council meeting on 22nd July for confirmation that Fair Trade products could be used in the vending machine. She said that she had contacted the supplier and Fair Trade alternatives are available.

The recommendation that the Parish Council agree to only using Fair Trade tea and coffee with immediate effect was **APPROVED**.

2530 Minutes of the Communications Committee held on Monday 16th September 2019
The minutes of the Communications Committee held on Monday 16th September 2019 were **NOTED**.

2531 Recommendation from the Communications Committee held on Monday 16th September 2019

The recommendation from the Communications Committee held on Monday 16th September 2019 that the Council adopt the following style guides for all publications:

- The Parish Council logo should be used on all leaflets;
- The green from the logo as the primary colour for messaging (C70,M0, Y100, K0 for anyone we get to do design);
- The Palatino font is used on all leaflets, etc.;
- The primary contact details are included on any leaflets etc.; and
- Basic information about hiring etc is included on any leaflets etc.

was **APPROVED**.

2532 Conclusion of Audit for 2018/19

The Clerk presented a report which said that the Council's external auditor, PFK Littlejohn LLP, had completed the audit of the Council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019. The report states that:

"in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR (*Annual Governance and Accounting Statements*) is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

In addition, no other matters which do not affect the audit opinion which need to be drawn to the attention of the authority have been identified."

The external auditors report for the year ended 31st March 2019 was **ACCEPTED**.

2533 Accounts for Payment for July and August 2019

The accounts for payment for July 2019 totaling £22,549.65 and for August 2019 totaling

£17,463.05 were **APPROVED**.

2534 Alleged Breach of the Code of Conduct

Cllr Allsopp informed the meeting that, following the Planning Committee's approval of PA/343258/19 Donkeystone Brewery Unit 17 & 18 Boarshurst Business Park, a complaint about him had been made to the Borough Solicitor. He believed the allegation had no foundation, having been made on supposition and guesswork. He said that the Borough Solicitor had considered the complaint and found no grounds for any further action.

Cllr Allsopp said that he now is waiting for a public apology from his accuser.

2535 Response from the Leader of Oldham Council re Whit Friday Band Contest Funding

The Clerk had circulated the response she had received from Cllr Sean Fielding, Leader of Oldham Council to the letter she had sent regarding the withdrawal of funding for the Whit Friday Brass Band Contests. Cllr Sheldon said that it was evident from Cllr Fielding's response that he had not grasped what the contests are about. Cllr Allsopp said that his foolish and juvenile comment again demonstrated his lack of understanding about Saddleworth Parish Council, possibly due to his continued refusal to meet with the parish councillors.

Cllr Belmore said that the response was very disappointing, patronising and political and proposed that a standing invitation to meet with the Parish Council at a time and date of his own choosing be issued to Cllr Fielding.

Cllrs Hudson and Curley both referred to the international status of the Whit Friday contests which bring kudos to the whole Borough, not just to Saddleworth.

It was **AGREED that the Clerk write to Cllr Fielding, explaining that his letter includes a number of comments which are factually incorrect and issue an open invitation to meet with the Parish Council at a time and date of his own choosing.**

2536 Dates of Next Meetings

The dates of future meetings are:

Monday 28th October 2019
Monday 25th November 2019
Monday 16th December 2019
Monday 27th January 2020

Monday 24th February 2020
Monday 23rd March 2020
Monday 27th April 2020
Monday 18th May 2020 (AGM)

all at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 8:35pm.