

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held
at the Civic Hall, Uppermill on Monday 24th February 2020

There were present: Cllrs. J. Curley - Chairman
B. Beeley -Vice Chairman

Cllrs.	S. Al-Hamdani	L. Dawson
	N. Allsopp	J. Hudson
	A. Belmore	G. Hulme
	M. Bingley	L. Lancaster
	P. Byrne	K. Phillips
	R. Darlington	G. Sheldon
	K. Dawson	M. Woodvine

The Chairman said prayers prior to the start of the meeting.

2607 Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed his fellow Councillors, the press and members of the public to the meeting.

2608 To Receive Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2609 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. B. and P. Lord.

2610 Declarations of Interest

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 10th February 2020. Cllr. Belmore declared a pecuniary interest in Item 14 - Accounts for Payment - and did not vote on this item.

2611 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 27th January 2020

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 27th January 2020 were **APPROVED and SIGNED.**

2612 Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee held on Thursday 30th January 2020.

The minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee held on Thursday 30th January 2020 were **NOTED.**

2613 Minutes of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 31st January 2020

The Minutes of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 31st January 2020 were **NOTED.**

2614 Membership of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee

Cllr Allsopp said that, following the resignation of David Chadderton, membership of the committee was now 2 councillors and 2 co-optees. The Chairman said that Standing Orders state that there may be up to 8 members. Cllr Allsopp proposed and it was **AGREED that the parish councilors canvass for volunteers and the names be brought back to the next meeting of the Council for discussion and possible co-option.**

2615 Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2020

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2020 were **NOTED.**

2616 Minutes of the Estates Committee Meeting held on Monday 10th February 2020

The minutes of the Estates Committee Meeting held on Monday 10th February 2020 were **NOTED**.

2617 Recommendation from the Estates Committee Meeting held on Monday 10th February 2020

Cllr Sheldon said that the floor covering on the back staircase is in a poor state of repair and needs to be replaced. The Estates Committee had received a quote of £670. Cllr Hudson said that there were health and safety concerns arising from the flooring being patched up. He proposed and it was **AGREED that the quote be accepted and the flooring replaced as soon as possible**.

Cllr Sheldon said that water is leaking into the back corner of the ballroom and through to the lower halls and it is beginning to damage the plaster. The window cleaner has been asked to clean the troughing to see if this solved the problem. He thanked the Civic Hall staff for bringing it to the attention of the Estates Committee.

2618 Minutes of the Communications Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2020

The Minutes of the Communications Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2020 were **NOTED**.

2619 Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2020

The Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2020 were **NOTED**. Cllr. Darlington said that the meeting had approved the Climate Change information leaflet and this had now gone to print.

2620 Accounts for Payment for January 2020

The accounts for payment for January 2020 totaling £23,483.97 were **APPROVED and SIGNED**.

Cllr Allsopp reminded the meeting that the Council had committed to a root and branch review of expenditure by July and proposed that monthly meetings of the Finance Committee be arranged whilst the review is ongoing. The proposal was **AGREED**.

2621 2 casual vacancies in the Springhead Higher Ward

The Chairman reminded the meeting that 2 vacancies had arisen due to the resignation of Cllrs. Goodman and Roberts on 27th January 2020. He said that Oldham Council had been informed and notice of the vacancies had been issued through the Borough Solicitor. Notice had also been posted in the ward noticeboard and appeared in the press. He said that no petition for a by-election had been made within the 14 working days statutory period and the Council was now bound by the Local Government Act and its own standing orders to co-opt to the vacant posts. As the political party to which the 2 councillors belonged has now been dissolved, there are no restrictions on who can be nominated providing that they meet the legislative requirements of eligibility to stand for election.

A lengthy discussion followed in which a number of differences of opinion were aired regarding whether the established practice of the Council to co-opt the next 2 candidates from the previous election be continued or whether applications should be invited. The Clerk reminded the meeting that the current standing orders are legally binding and that the latter proposal would require a change to standing orders which cannot be done until the Annual Meeting in May. Cllr Allsopp referred to s174 of the Local Government Act which stated that the vacancies must be filled at the earliest opportunity. He commented that the people of Higher Springhead are not currently represented on the parish council, which is undemocratic.

Following the debate Cllr Hudson proposed and Cllr Byrne seconded that the usual practice of co-opting the next 2 candidates from the last election be adopted.

Cllr Belmore proposed and Cllr Al-Hamdani seconded that an invitation be extended for potential candidates to formally apply.

Following a vote, Cllr Belmore's proposal was rejected. Following a second vote, Cllr Hudson's proposal was **AGREED**.

Cllr Allsopp proposed and Cllr Woodvine seconded that Rob Knotts be co-opted to the parish council. Cllr Belmore asked for a recorded vote, the result of which was as follows:

Cllrs:	Al-Hamdani	AGAINST
	Allsopp	FOR
	Beeley	AGAINST
	Belmore	AGAINST
	Bingley	AGAINST
	Byrne	FOR
	Darlington	ABSTAINED
	K. Dawson	ABSTAINED
	L. Dawson	ABSTAINED
	Hudson	FOR
	Hulme	FOR
	Lancaster	FOR
	Phillips	FOR
	Sheldon	FOR
	Woodvine	FOR

It was therefore **RESOLVED that Rob Knotts be co-opted to the Parish Council.**

Cllr Hulme proposed and Cllr Phillips seconded that John Battye be co-opted to the parish council.

Cllr Al-Hamdani proposed and Cllr Beeley seconded that Tom Johnson be co-opted to the parish council.

Cllr Belmore proposed and Cllr Darlington seconded that Mick Scholes be co-opted to the parish council.

The Chairman said that he would take a vote on each proposal in the order they were made. Cllr Belmore asked for a recorded vote, the result of which was as follows:

Cllrs:	Al-Hamdani	AGAINST
	Allsopp	FOR
	Beeley	AGAINST
	Belmore	AGAINST
	Bingley	AGAINST
	Byrne	FOR
	Darlington	AGAINST
	K. Dawson	ABSTAINED
	L. Dawson	ABSTAINED
	Hudson	FOR
	Hulme	FOR
	Lancaster	FOR
	Phillips	FOR
	Sheldon	FOR
	Woodvine	FOR

It was therefore **RESOLVED that John Battye be co-opted to the Parish Council.**

Cllr K Dawson asked what the new political balance of the Council is and was informed that it is 9 Liberal Democrats, 8 Conservatives and 3 Labour.

Cllr Beeley asked that the Council's policy on co-opting members be reviewed to avoid such an acrimonious debate in the future.

Cllr Woodvine paid tribute to his fellow councillors for attending tonight's meeting and fulfilling their responsibilities.

2622 Period Poverty Scheme

Cllr Phillips thanked everyone who had made donations to the scheme and it was **AGREED that a collection box be placed in the office for donations to be made.**

2623 Dates of Next Meetings

The dates of future meetings are:

Monday 23rd March 2020

Monday 27th April 2020

Monday 18th May 2020 (AGM)

all at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.