

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held
at the Civic Hall, Uppermill on Monday 27th January 2020

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

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

Revd. John Rosedale said prayers prior to the start of the meeting.

2593 Welcome from the Chairman

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

2594 To Receive Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2595 To receive apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Cllrs. Belmore & Bingley

2596 Cllr. Derek Heffernan

The Chairman asked the Councillors present to stand for a moments silence to remember former Parish Councillor Derek Heffernan who represented Springhead Higher Ward for 31 years and was Chairman of the Parish Council twice.

Cllr. Brian Lord paid tribute to Derek and his service to the Parish Council and his never ending fundraising for MacMillan and other charities, stating that although he had gone, he would not be forgotten. Cllr. Hudson praised Derek for his work as Mayor of Oldham MBC and all the work he did as Peace Mayor during his term of office. He described him as a good community person that the people of Saddleworth could always rely upon.

2597 To approve and confirm as a correct record the draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 16th December 2019. These were noted and APPROVED

2598 To approve and confirm as a correct record the draft Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee held on Thursday 19th December 2019. Cllr. Beeley informed the Members that paper copies of the Neighbourhood Survey had gone to libraries and Community Centres and more copies were available in the office if required. **These were noted and APPROVED**

2599 To approve and confirm as a correct record the Draft Minutes of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee meeting held on Friday 10th January 2020. These were noted and APPROVED

2600 To approve and confirm as a correct record the Draft Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 13th January 2020. These were noted and APPROVED

2601 To approve and confirm as a correct record the Draft Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Monday 20th January 2020.

Cllr. Hudson, Chairman of the Finance Committee outlined the increase discussed and agreed by the Finance Committee stating that it was recommended that the precept be increased by £1.00 for the coming year, adding on any shortfall next year, stating that a gradual increase each year will be more acceptable to the people of Saddleworth. The £1.00 increase will realise the sum of £8700 which will offset the loss of the Rate Support Grant. A full and comprehensive budget review of all expenditure would be carried out within the next five months on all Parish Council spending. This recommendation was accepted by members and the Draft Minutes **were noted and APPROVED**

2602 Resignation of Cllr. Goodman and Roberts

The Chairman informed the meeting that letters of resignation had been received from Cllr. Goodman and Roberts, leaving two vacancies in the Springhead Higher Ward. A Notice of Vacancy had been posted in the Ward and the Legal Department at Oldham MBC had been duly notified. If within the 14 working day period, ten people in the Ward had not asked for a By-Election, then Members would have the opportunity to co-opt. The matter would be discussed further after the period of time had elapsed.

2603. Motion proposed by Cllr. Sam Al-Hamdani – Pledge to Peace

Cllr. A-Hamdani outlined the Pledge for Peace, stating that this would be a good time, being the 75th Anniversary of the Holocaust. It was pointed out to Members that this document was an EU document and that after 31st January, we would no longer be a member of the European Union. Whilst everyone wished for peace, Members were urged to read the full document and its implications before committing the Parish Council to supporting this particular project. In view of these comments, Cllr. Al-Hamdani withdrew his motion, with a view to raising the subject at a later date when Members have had the opportunity to fully read the document.

2604. Changes to Bus Services in the Area (Cllr. Al-Hamdani)

Cllr. Al-Hamdani explained that the changes in bus services within the Saddleworth Area would affect many people in different parts of Saddleworth. Additional changes seem to be being pushed through after the consultation period ended. People will be living more than the maximum recommended distance from a bus stop, which will be worse for elderly and disabled people given Saddleworth's hilly terrain and this would isolate many residents in the community. It was recommended that a letter be sent to GM Transport outlining these difficulties, with copies sent to Oldham MBC asking for their support. Cllrs. Al-Hamdani and Hulme to draft a letter to this effect.

2605. Accounts for Payment

The Accounts for payment were proposed and seconded **and APPROVED.**

2606 Dates of next Meetings

Dates of next Meetings
Monday 24th February 2020
Monday 23rd March 2020
Monday 27th April 2020
Monday 18th May 2020