

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held
by Zoom on Monday 22nd June 2020

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

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

2624 Welcome from the Chairman

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

2625 To Receive Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2626 To receive apologies for absence

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

2627 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Sheldon declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 7 – the draft minutes of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 28th February 2020 and Item 8 – the draft minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2020 by virtue of him having personally submitted application LB/344436/20 which was discussed at these meetings .

2628 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 24thFebruary 2020

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 24th February 2020 were **APPROVED**. It was **AGREED** that the Chairman would sign them off when next at the office.

2629 Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee held on Thursday 27thFebruary 2020.

The minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee held on Thursday 27th February 2020 were **NOTED**.

2630 Minutes of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 28th February 2020

The Minutes of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 28th February 2020 were **NOTED**.

2631 Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2020

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2020 were **NOTED**.

Cllr Sheldon said that he felt that the advice given by the Parish Council's Planning Consultant contained errors relating to the age of the previous extension of this property which had resulted in the advice given being incorrect. He also felt that there may have been an element of pre-determination by the committee members. He said that he had appealed against Oldham Council's the decision to refuse his application.

Cllr Allsopp said that the minutes are a correct record of the meeting and that the Planning Committee's decision had been made based on the best evidence available at the time. He said that the decision had not been made solely on the age of the extension but that other factors, namely the committee's view that the proposed design was incorrect for a Grade II

listed building and also that he, personally, dislikes bi-fold doors per se and did not pre judge the application on this issue. He said that, if the advice had been incorrect, it was given without intent. Cllr Darlington endorsed Cllr Allsopp's comments.

2632 Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Monday 9th March 2020

The minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Monday 9th March 2020 were **NOTED**.

Cllr Battye said that Cllr AlHamdani had asked for councilors to identify potential sites in the parish for Oldham Coucil's tree planting scheme and asked whether councilors should submit these to Oldham Council directly or whether a list is being compiled for submission. Cllr Al-Hamdani said that councilors were free to submit their suggestions individually but that he had offered to co-ordinate the list for discussion with Nik Anderson, the officer responsible for the scheme once it had been compiled.

Due to broadband problems Cllr Hudson left the meeting at 19:45.

2633 Recommendation from the Environment Committee Meeting held on Monday 9th March 2020

The recommendation from the Environment Committee Meeting held on Monday 9th March 2020 that:

- The Swan, Dobcross, be removed from the Community Toilets scheme;
- Uppermill Methodist Church be approached to see if they would be interested in joining the scheme; and
- The annual payment to scheme members be reduced to £300.

Cllr Darlington said that he had spoken to Uppermill Methodist Church but they felt that it was not practical for them to join the scheme.

A lengthy discussion took place about the Community Toilets Scheme, which had originally been set up to combat the lack of public toilet facilities in the parish. Cllr Beeley reminded the meeting that the scheme had originally been designed to encourage visitors to places other than Uppermill and Dovestones, The current and previous members of the scheme were discussed and it was concluded that a full review of the scheme was needed before any decisions could be made.

Following this discussion, the recommendation **was NOT APPROVED**. It was **AGREED that the Environment Committee undertake a full review of the scheme, including advertising to invite expressions of interest in joining the scheme, and report back to a future meeting.**

2634 Comments of the Virtual Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 6th April 2020

The comments of the Virtual Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 6th April 2020 were **NOTED**.

2635 Comments of the Virtual Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 4th May 2020

The comments of the Virtual Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 4th May 2020 were **NOTED**.

2636 Comments of the Virtual Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 1st June 2020

The comments of the Virtual Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 1st June 2020 were **NOTED**.

2637 Accounts for Payment for February 2020

The accounts for payment for February 2020 totaling £17,037.06 were **APPROVED**. It was **AGREED** that the Chairman would sign them off when next at the office.

2638 Accounts for Payment for March 2020

The accounts for payment for March 2020 totaling £26,917.26 were **APPROVED**. It was

AGREED that the Chairman would sign them off when next at the office.

2639 Accounts for Payment for April 2020

The accounts for payment for April 2020 totaling £69,428.55 were **APPROVED**. It was **NOTED** that this figure included a repayment of £30,000.00 to the reserve account which had been transferred to the current account to prevent it becoming overdrawn due to the late receipt of the precept from Oldham Council. It was **AGREED** that the Chairman would sign them off when next at the office.

2640 Accounts for Payment for May 2020

The accounts for payment for May 2020 totaling £14,748.66 were **APPROVED**. It was **AGREED** that the Chairman would sign them off when next at the office.

2641 Staffing Issues

The date for the interviews for the new Parish Clerk of 24th June 2020 was **NOTED**. It was **AGREED that an extraordinary Council meeting be arranged to confirm the appointment as soon as possible after the interviews have taken place.**

The resignation of the Parish Caretaker and the temporary arrangements made to cover his duties were **NOTED**. Cllr Phillips suggested that a card and gift be sent to thank him for his work over the past 4 years.

2642 Any Other Business

Cllr Allsopp asked whether the Covid 19 temporary legislation covered the 6 month rule for councillor absences. The Clerk said that she had contacted Cllrs B and P Lord and Cllr Bingley to ask them to write formally for an extension of the rule to ensure that their absences are covered and that she would report back to the July meeting.

Cllr Byrne said that she had been asked by Dobcross Community Association if the Parish Council could fund security cameras due to the recent high crime rate in the village, She said she has asked Lisa MacDonald about the protocol and funding. The Chairman suggested that a bid for L.I.F.T. funding could be made but this would only fund the capital costs and not the ongoing maintenance and monitoring costs. Cllr Allsopp said that the District partnership had recently discussed this for Uppermill but the difficulty is the expense of the equipment and, as the monitoring would have to be undertaken by Oldham Council's security service, this would need paying for.

The Chairman said that Oldham Council's Highways officers are looking at ways to alleviate traffic issues being caused on Manchester Road, Greenfield, by the number of visitors going to Dovestones. He said that increased enforcement has been requested as the double yellow lines are being ignored. He said that himself and Lisa MacDonald had requested a meeting with United Utilities about the long term issues surrounding the management of the site and suggested that this may result in a temporary closure to visitors. Cllr Allsopp said that there have been a number of calls on social media for residents' parking permits to be introduced and Oldham Council could be asked to look at this again. Cllr Sheldon said that residents' parking schemes are expensive and difficult to enforce. He added that there had recently been an article in the M.E.N. saying that Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, had procured the 2 fields behind the toilet block for additional parking. The Chairman said that Glenn Dale is looking to provide additional refuse collection provision in the short term. Cllr Beeley asked whether the Peak Park had been contacted as they may be able to exert some pressure on United Utilities to sort the problems out.

2643 Dates of Next Ordinary Meetings

The dates of future ordinary meetings are:

Monday 27th July 2020 at 7:30pm in the Ballroom at the Civic Hall, Uppermill, subject to Covid 19 restrictions being relaxed.

Monday 28th September 2020
Monday 26th October 2020
Monday 23rd November 2020
Monday 14th December 2020
Monday 25th January 2021
Monday 22nd February 2021
Monday 22nd March 2021

all at 7:30 pm in the Council Chamber at the Civic Hall, Uppermill, subject to Covid 19 restrictions being relaxed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and for their hard work and diligence in the unprecedented times currently being faced.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.