

**WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**PLANNING AND ANNUAL MEETING (CONTINUED FROM 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2019)**

**PLANNING MEETING**

**20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019**

**PRESENT:** Town Mayor Cllr D A Wilkinson and Councillors  
M Cox, Miss R S M Fairhurst, T J Hewitt, N Maher,  
Miss M Maley Miss D J McGeown, Mrs J M Nicholson,  
Mrs M E M O’Riordan, C Reilly and Mrs A M Seddon,  
Town Clerk.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Members of the public.

**PFGP62/2019 THE APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING AND  
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Resolved that Cllr N Maher be appointed as Chairman of the Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee. The Town Mayor will chair the current meeting.

**PFGP63/2019 THE APOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING  
AND FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Resolved that Cllr Miss R S M Fairhurst be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee.

**PFGP64 /2019 FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION**

The Town Mayor explained the Fire Safety Procedure.

**PFGP65/2019 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO ACCEPT  
REASONS**

Resolved that the following apologies for absence and reasons be accepted by the Town Council : Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Mrs A B Eckersley-Fallon and Councillors Mrs C H Kirkman and A P Morgan – Personal Commitments, D J Bullock and Cllr Mrs L M Reilly – meetings, and Cllr R M Brennan – will be late.

**PFGP66/2019 TO READ THE NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING**

The Town Mayor read the notice convening the meeting.

**PFGP67/2019 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED**

Cllr D A Wilkinson declared an interest in Agenda item No. 9 – To Discuss Planning and Development Matters and to approve any action because he is a member of the Bolton Council Planning Committee and reserved the right to speak and vote, and to re-consider his decision at a Bolton Council Planning Committee, if additional information is presented.

Cllrs Miss R S M Fairhurst, Miss D J McGeown and D A Wilkinson declared interests in Agenda Items 8 & 11 – the request for a grant from the Westhoughton Vets Bowling Club because they know the Chairman.

**PFGP68/2019 ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW PUBLIC QUESTION TIME RELATING TO TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND ITEMS WITHIN ITS POWERS**

A member of the public had previously requested a copy of the transcript of the statement which the Town Clerk read out under Town Clerk's Report at the Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. but said that he had not received it. The Town Clerk had forwarded the statement but will send it again.

**PFGP69/2019 THE ATTENDANCE OF A WESTHOUGHTON PARKS BOWLING CLUB OFFICIAL RE A REQUEST FOR A GRANT**

The Chairman of the Westhoughton Parks Bowling Club explained the Grant Application.

**PFGP70/2019 TO DISCUSS PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MATTERS AND TO APPROVE ANY ACTION**

**(a) TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Town Council requested that its comments on the following Planning Applications are placed before the Bolton Council Planning Committee:

05988/19 The Town Council raised no objections

05937/19 The Town Council raised objection because of the loss of wildlife and trees, there is a pond with newts, the restriction of light on to Leigh Common, the access via Peel Street and Grundy Street is very narrow and there are insufficient places at dentists, doctors and schools

05925/19 The Town Council raised no objections

05972/19 The Town Council raised no objections

05928/19 The Town Council raised no objections provided that the public footpath is protected during building

05944/19 The Town Council requested that the Bolton Council Planning Committee or Planning Officer determine the application and commented that there is insufficient information regarding the increase in the number of houses and more houses will have a detrimental impact on Bolton Road and Westhoughton High School

05274/19 The Town Council raised objection because of the overdevelopment of the site, the detrimental impact during the development on a small street with parked vehicles, and the access is via an unadopted road

05909/19 The Town Council raised no objections

05921/19 The Town Council requested that the Bolton Council Planning Committee or Planning Officer determine the application and commented that the access to the proposed dwelling is quite difficult

**(b) DISCUSSION ON PLANNING APPEALS**

Nil.

**(c) TO NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS**

Resolved that the Planning Decisions, as circulated, be received and noted.

**PFGP71/2019 DISCUSSION ON THE LETTER FROM TURLEY RE THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND ADJACENT TO HULTON PARK AND TO APPROVE ANY ACTION**

Resolved that the Town Clerk inform the Senior Director, Head of Planning North, Turley that the Town Council is concerned that the applicant is now proposing that the 2030 and 2034 Ryder Cup Tournaments be considered as an amendment to the Planning Application, as the original application only proposed the 2026 Ryder Cup Tournament. A copy of the e-mail will be forwarded the Planning Control, Bolton Council.

**PFGP72/2019 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2019**

Resolved that the minutes of the Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting, held on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, as circulated, be approved.

**PFGP73/2019 DISCUSSION ON THE REQUEST FOR A GRANT FROM THE WESTHOUGHTON VETS BOWLING CLUB AND TO APPROVE ANY ACTION**

Resolved that the Town Council approve a grant of £500 towards the cost of bedding plants and a fridge/freezer.

This is in accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**PFGP74/2019 DATE OF THE NEXT PLANNING AND FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, 10<sup>TH</sup> June, 2019.

The meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

## **ANNUAL MEEETING (CONTINUED FROM 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2019)**

**PRESENT:** Town Mayor Cllr D A Wilkinson and Councillors  
M Cox, Miss R S M Fairhurst, T J Hewitt, N Maher,  
Miss M Maley, Miss D J McGeown, Mrs J M Nicholson,  
Mrs M E M O’Riordan, C Reilly and Mrs A M Seddon and J Speight.  
Town Clerk.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Members of the public.

The Town Mayor chaired the meeting.

### **TC86/2019 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **TC87/2019 ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW PUBLIC QUESTION TIME RELATING TO TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND ITEMS WITHIN ITS POWERS**

There were no questions.

### **TC88/2019 OPPORTUNITY FOR CLLR SPEIGHT TO APOLOGISE TO THE TOWN CLERK FOR MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS ABOUT HER IN THE BOLTON NEWS ON 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2019**

Cllr Speight denied making the false statements and said that he had been misquoted by the relief Bolton News reporter. The Chairman gave the Town Clerk permission to ask questions.

The Town Clerk asked Cllr Speight to explain why he had consistently voted against Agenda Items which she had produced for more than 4 years. Cllr Speight denied this and explained that Councillors can vote in favour, vote against or abstain.

The Town Clerk pointed out that he had voted against an item this evening – Annual Report of the Council.

The Town Clerk pointed out that it is now two months since the false statements were printed in the Bolton News and she asked why Cllr Speight had not printed a retraction, telephoned, e-mailed, or written to her to explain. Cllr Speight stated that he had not seen the article but the Town Clerk pointed out that there had been an Agenda Item to discuss the false statements at the Town Council Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 and Cllr Speight left the meeting early and did not stay for the discussion.

Also, the Town Clerk did not believe that the relief reporter would have used the words which related to Town Council work and the Town Clerk unless Cllr Speight had made the statement, as she had never attended a Westhoughton Town Council Meeting before.

The Town Mayor asked Cllr Speight if he wished to apologise to the Town Clerk and Cllr Speight apologised that the Town Clerk had read misquotes in the Bolton News. The Town Mayor asked the Town Clerk if she accepted Cllr Speight’s apology (that she had read the misquotes).

The Town Clerk stated that she did not believe Cllr Speight’s explanation (as above) and she certainly did not accept his apology.

**TC89/2019 OPPORTUNITY FOR CLLR SPEIGHT TO APOLOGISE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR BREACHING THE TOWN COUNCIL'S ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY, THE HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY, THE CODE OF CONDUCT, FOR DISREGARDING THE RISK ASSESSMENT AND FOR BRINGING THE TOWN COUNCIL INTO DISREPUTE**

Cllr Speight said that he had been misquoted and apologised to the Town Council for the misunderstanding.

**TC90/2019 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON MONDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2019.**

Cllr Speight objected to the minutes, although he had left the meeting early. The Town Mayor asked the Town Clerk to explain how the sanctions imposed on Cllr Speight could be rescinded. The Town Clerk referred Councillors to Standing Order 11(a) but explained that she had been harassed by Cllr Speight for more than four years and he had lied about her in the Bolton News. Cllr Speight had breached the Town Council's Anti-Harassment Policy, the Health & Safety Policy, the Code of Conduct, had disregarded the Risk Assessment and had brought the Town Council into disrepute. All Councillors are elected to the Town Council, which is her employer, and employers must comply with a duty of care to an employee, and for that reason she did not believe that any Councillor would wish to rescind the sanctions.

The Town Mayor clarified that the Town Clerk is the sole employee who carries out Town Council duties and she has employment rights. If any Councillor harasses or intimidates the Town Clerk he will use Standing Orders to firmly deal with the matter. Resolved that the minutes of the Town Council meeting, held on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, as circulated, be approved.

**TC91/2019 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE DAISY HILL IN BLOOM COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON TUESDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2019**

Resolved that the minutes of the Daisy Hill in Bloom Committee Meeting, held on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, as circulated, be approved.

**TC92/2019 TO ADOPT WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS**

Resolved that Westhoughton Town Council's Standing Orders, as circulated, be adopted by the Town Council.

**TC93/2019 TO ADOPT WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Resolved that Westhoughton Town Council's Financial Regulations, as circulated, be approved.

**TC94/2019 THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

**(a) PLANNING AND FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Resolved that all Town Councillors, except Cllr Speight , are appointed to the Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee.

**(b) DAISY HILL IN BLOOM COMMITTEE**

Cllr Bullock is already a Committee Member. Resolved that Town Councillors from the Daisy Hill Ward may attend if they wish

**TC95/2019 TO APPROVE THE DATES OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**(a) TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**(b) PLANNING AND FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**(c) OTHER COMMITTEE MEETINGS AS ARRANGED**

Resolved that the Calendar of Meetings, as circulated, be approved.

**TC96/2019 THE APPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

**(a) LIAISON WITH LOCAL POLICE**

Councillors should speak to Sergeant Howard or local officers  
The Town Clerk will invite Officers to a future Town Council Meeting.

**(b) L.A.L.C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Resolved that Cllr Miss M Maley be appointed as the Town Council's Representative to the L.A.L.C. Executive Committee.

**TC96/2019 TO APPROVE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**(a) NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

**(b) LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

Resolved that the above Annual Subscriptions be approved.

**TC97/2019 TO APPROVE BANK SIGNATORIES**

Resolved that the following Bank Signatories be approved:

Town Mayor Cllr D A Wilkinson, Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Mrs A B Eckersley- Fallon and Councillors M Cox, Mrs M E M O'Riordan, C Reilly, and the Town Clerk – three to sign.

The Town Clerk alone administers on-line banking.

**TC98/2019 TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION FOR 1.4.19 – 30.4.19**

Resolved that the Bank Reconciliation for 1.4.19 – 30.4.19, as circulated, be approved.

**TC99/2019 TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Resolved that approval be given to the signing by two members and the Town Clerk of an authorisation for payment of accounts totalling £7,627.97.

|                              |                        | £                           |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Salaries & H.M.R.C. Payments |                        | 2,530.49                    |
| AP12 Parsons Royle & Co      | Audit Fee              | 1,089.60                    |
| AP13 C Morris                | Refund Stationery      | 107.50                      |
| 065 D A Wilkinson            | Town Mayor's Allowance | 3,825.00                    |
| DD Data Protection Fee       | Renewal Fee            | 35.00                       |
| DD Talktalk                  | Internet & telephone   | 25.13                       |
| Bank Charges                 |                        | 15.25                       |
| TOTAL:                       |                        | -----<br>£7,627.97<br>----- |

The Town Mayor's Allowance payment is in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 SS15 (5)

**TC100/2019 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

The following correspondence was noted by the Town Council:

1. Premises Licences (2)
2. A6 Manchester Road/Bolton Road junction carriageway repair
3. Public Footpath 101 temporary closure
4. Leigh Road temporary road closure
5. L.A.L.C. Spring Conference
6. Parish & Town Training, Lancashire Training Workshops

**TC101/2019 DATE OF NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.