



WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 2018 - 2019

1. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

From May 2018 to April 2019 the Town Council held 11 Town Council Meetings, 12 Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee Meetings, 1 Annual Meeting and 1 Annual Town Meeting.
Councillors attended meetings as follows and received no payments or expenses:

COUNCILLOR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
	AM ATM P & AM	P TC	P TC	P TC	P TC	P TC	P TC	P&TC	P TC	P TC	P TC	P TC
CONSERVATIVE												
Mrs L J Winrow-Baker	1 1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
INDEPENDENT												
J Speight	1 1 0/1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1
LABOUR												
R A Battersby	1 1 1	0 0	1 0	1 0	0 0	0 0	1 0	0	1 0	0 0	0 0	0 1
D A Chadwick	1 1 1	1 1	0 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1	1 1	1 0	1 1	1 1
Ms A Graham	0 0 0	1 0	0 0	1 0	0 0	1 1	1 0	0	1 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Mrs C J Harkin	1 1 1	1 0	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 0	1 0	1	0 1	0 0	1 1	1 0
K S Jones	1 1 1	1 0	1 1	1 1	0 1	0 1	1 1	1	1 1	0 1	1 1	1 1
Mrs J A Peplow	0 0 0	1 0	0 1	1 0	0 1	1 1	1 0	0	1 0	1 0	0 1	0 1
A Price	1 1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1	0 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
T D Robinson	0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0						
Miss S Watkin	1 0 0	0 1	1 0	0 1	0 0	0 1	0 0	0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Mrs G F Williams	0 0 0	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 0	0 0	1 0	0	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
LIBERAL DEMOCRAT												
J R Ainscough	0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 0	0 0	1 0	0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Mrs A B Eckersley-Fallon	0 1 1	0 1	0 1	1 1	1 0	0 1	1 0	1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Miss R S M Fairhurst	1 1 1	1 1	1 0	1 1	1 1	1 0	1 0	1	1 1	1 0	1 1	1 1
D J Gradwell	1 0 0	1 0	0 1	0 1	1 1	1 0	0 1	1	1 0	1 0	0 1	1 1
Miss D J McGeown	1 1 1	1 1	0 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1	1 0	1 1	1 1	1 1
D A Wilkinson	1 1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 0	0 1	1 1	1	1 1	1 1	1 1	0 1

From December, 2017, Cllr J Speight is not a member of the Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee and in the last year, he left four Town Council Meetings early.
From November, 2018, Cllr T D Robinson is no longer a Town Councillor due to non-attendance for six months

THE FOLLOWING TOWN COUNCILLORS MAY BE CONTACTED DIRECTLY

CENTRAL WARD

Cllr R A Battersby (Lab), 344 Bolton Road, Westhoughton, BL5 3EJ

Tel: 07982 099 737 e-mail: ryanbattersby@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr D A Chadwick (Lab), 16 Dale Lee, Westhoughton, BL5 3YE

Tel: 01942 818526 e-mail: david.chadwick@bolton.gov.uk

Cllr Mrs C J Harkin (Lab), 6 Rutherglen Drive, Bolton, BL3 4PN

Tel: 07771 803 867 e-mail: colette.harkin1457@gmail.com

Cllr K S Jones (Lab), 22 Common Street, Westhoughton, BL5 2BZ

Tel: 07931775357 e-mail: kevanjones29@gmail.com

CHEQUERBENT WARD

Cllr Mrs J Peploe (Lab), 45 Junction Road, Bolton, BL3 4LT

Tel: 01204 656756 e-mail: jackiepeploe13@virginmedia.com

Cllr J Speight (Ind) 60 Clough Avenue, Westhoughton, BL5 2NQ

Tel: 07977 262 022 e-mail: cllrjackspeight@hotmail.co.uk

DAISY HILL WARD

Cllr Miss R S M Fairhurst (Lib Dem)

Tel: 07731 867 336 e-mail: rebekah@westhoughton-libdems.org.uk

Cllr Mrs G F Williams (Lab), 17 Sanderling Close, Westhoughton, BL5 2SP

Tel: 01942 815638 e-mail: gillfwilliams@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr Mrs L J Winrow-Baker (Con), 6 Mill Street, Westhoughton, BL5 3AL

Tel: 01942 816128 e-mail: lynda.winrow@ntlworld.com

HOSKERS AND HART COMMON

Cllr J R Ainscough (Lib Dem), 55 Dicconson Lane, Westhoughton, BL5 3NN

Tel: 01942 819728 e-mail: jainscough55@gmail.com

Cllr D A Gradwell (Lib Dem), 21 Cow Lees, Westhoughton, BL5 3EG

Tel: 07947 509 714 e-mail: djgradwell@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr D A Wilkinson (Lib Dem), 12 The Crescent, Westhoughton, BL5 2AE

Tel: 01942 819456 e-mail: david@westhoughton-libdems.org.uk

WHITE HORSE WARD

Cllr Miss D J McGeown (Lib Dem) , 9 Churnet Close, Westhoughton, BL5 3LF

Tel: 07764 949 922 e-mail: dmcgeown@sky.com

Cllr A Price (Lab), 11 Broomway, Westhoughton, BL5 3TZ

Tel: 01942 790497 email: arthurprice54@icloud.com

Cllr T D Robinson (Lab)

Cllr Miss S Watkin, 1 Fairhaven Avenue, Westhoughton, BL5 3HE

Tel: 01942 811659 e-mail: samantha.watkin1@gmail.com

WINGATES WARD

Cllr Mrs A B Eckersley-Fallon (Lib Dem),

Tel: 07500 016 523 e-mail: bernadette@westhoughton-libdems.org.uk

Cllr Ms A Graham (Lab), 10 The Mortons, Westhoughton, BL5 3QX

Tel: 07913 417 353 e-mail: annegraham1@sky.com

2. CIVIC MATTERS

During the year, the Town Mayor has attended numerous official functions by invitation. The Mayoral Sunday Service, the Remembrance Day Parade, the Pretoria Pit Disaster Memorial Services and the annual Carol Service were well supported.

3. The Town Council has continued to consider all Planning Applications during the year and has tried in every case to obtain the best decisions for the people of the town.
The Town Council has been active with Bolton Council on various highway, environmental, Town Centre issues and other relevant matters affecting the town. The Town Council has vigorously objected to the proposed Greater Manchester Spatial Plan, which proposed that 4,500 houses are built in Westhoughton. The Town Council has also objected to the developments at Bowlands Hey, land North of Platt Lane and Hulton Park, and has supported the Over Hulton Neighbourhood Plan.
4. The Town Council has made grants to a number of deserving causes, as listed in the 2018-2019 accounts.
5. The Town Council repeated its successful Christmas Lights initiative along Market Street, with a donation of £250 from Bolton Council, and provided Christmas Trees for the Town Hall balcony and Westhoughton Market.
6. The Westhoughton Town Council web site address is: www.bolton.gov.uk/westhoughton
7. The Town Council continues to maintain liaison with the Police.
8. The Homewatch Liaison Officer has encouraged the formation of new Homewatch Schemes and Bolton Council funds and sites the Homewatch Signs.
9. The Town Council supports the Market Traders and the retention and improvement of the Market Hall.
10. The Westhoughton Town Council funds the Westhoughton Town Centre CCTV scheme.
11. With the co-operation of Bolton Council and BTCV the Town Council has donated £4,000 towards the repair of footpaths which are part of the Definitive Footpath Network.
12. In the interest of highway safety, the Town Council's two Solar Powered Driver Feedback signs and a sign on loan from Bolton Council have been sited at various locations in Westhoughton.
13. The Town Council's digital camera has been used on Town Council business and on civic occasions. A Code of Conduct has been established to govern the use of the camera and personal use is prohibited.
14. The Town Council has donated £7,000 towards the cost renovating Westhoughton Local Nature Reserves.

15. The Town Council has helped the youth of the town by providing finance for youth/sporting and recreational facilities.
16. The Town Council has funded the Get Active Westhoughton Youth Project. This exciting initiative is a partnership scheme between the Town Council and Bolton Council and is providing schemes and activities for the youth of the town. The Town Council has also funded Youth Workers and transport for the Bolton Lads & Girls Club Westhoughton Outreach and Detached Programme.
17. The Town Council produces a Newsletter, which is circulated quarterly to shops and outlets throughout the Town.
18. The Town Council has purchased and arranged the siting of an inscribed Harold Daniels M.B.E. Memorial Flag in Ditchfield Garden.
19. The Town Council awarded a Civic Medal to Mr Chris. Buckley in recognition of his outstanding charitable works and great service to Westhoughton. Mr Buckley was also awarded with the Harold Daniels Memorial Trophy, which he will keep for one year. Members of the public nominated the recipient.
20. The Town Council was very proud to confer the title of Honorary Freeman to the former Town Councillor, Town Mayor of Westhoughton, Bolton Councillor, Mayor of Bolton and Alderman, Peter L Finch, in recognition of his longstanding and devoted service to Westhoughton.
21. Town Councillors regularly attend the Westhoughton with Chew Moor Area Forum.
22. In 2010, the Pretoria Pit Disaster Centenary Memorial was sited in Ditchfield Garden by the Town Council and is a permanent memorial to the 344 victims of the Pretoria Pit Disaster of 21st December, 1910.
On 21st December, 2018, the Town Council organised two special Anniversary Services of Remembrance - at the Pretoria Pit Disaster Centenary Memorial in Ditchfield Garden at 7.45 a.m. and at the Parish Church of St Bartholomew at 10.00 a.m.
23. The Annual Accounts for 2017-2018 were duly signed off and no items were raised by the auditor.
24. The Town Council has appointed a Daisy Hill in Bloom Committee which comprises of Town Councillors and members of the public. The Committee has a £1,000 budget from the Town Council and is to be congratulated on working hard to improve Daisy Hill Village by arranging litter-picks and planting out baskets and tubs. The Committee also organised a very successful Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show.
25. In the interest of security and in order to comply with the Data Protection Act, the Town Council has a high security level shredder for the Town Clerk, and the shredder is also available for Town Councillors' use. The Town Council is committed to recycling and all paper is recycled.

26. The Town Council Notice Board is sited on the pavement at the front of Westhoughton Town Hall and Town Council Agendas, Minutes and information are regularly displayed.
27. In order to support the Police, the Town Council has funded a hire car for 12 months, which is used as a Policing Team vehicle in Westhoughton.
28. The Town Council funded the installation of a feeder pillar and double socket, and a PA System for the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.
29. In February, 2016, Historic England added the Westhoughton War Memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Historic Architectural or Historic Interest and the War Memorial is now listed at Grade 11.
30. In the summer of 2015, Bolton Council funded the siting of planters and plants in the Town Centre. In the ensuing years, the Town Council has ensured that the Town Centre is bright and cheerful by funding the planting and maintenance costs.
31. To commemorate the Centenary Anniversary of the end of WW1, the Town Council donated £200 to the Royal British Legion, purchased a WW1 Commemorative Plaque at a cost of £209 and two WW1 Commemorative Benches at a cost of £1,515. The plaque and the benches are sited next to the War Memorial.
32. Cllr Speight has breached the Town Council's Anti-Harassment Policy, the Health & Safety Policy, the Code of Conduct, has disregarded the Risk Assessment and has brought the Town Council into disrepute by making false statements about the Town Clerk in the Bolton News on 27th March, 2019. Cllr Speight was given the opportunity to apologise to the Town Clerk and the Town Council at the Town Council Meeting on 29th April, 2019 but he left the meeting and did not apologise.
 There will be an Agenda Item at every Town Council Meeting giving Cllr Speight an opportunity to apologise to the Town Clerk and the Town Council until he does so.
 The Town Council unanimously approved a vote of no confidence in Cllr Speight for harassing the Town Clerk and permanently attacking the Town Clerk over several years by persistently abstaining and voting against items which she has prepared and for making false statements in the Bolton News about her work.
 The Town Council approved the following legal sanctions:
 Cllr Speight will not be eligible to be appointed to any Town Council Committees or Sub-Committees in the lifetime of the next Town Council (until May, 2023) and
 Cllr Speight will not be eligible to represent the Town Council on any outside bodies, Committees or Sub-Committees in the lifetime of the next Town Council (until May, 2023).
 The Monitoring Officer has been informed of Cllr Speight's breaches in the Code of Conduct and the Town Clerk has explained that the Town Council has dealt with the matter and imposed legal sanctions. The Town Council also discussed Cllr Speight abstaining or voting against important items of business over several years, which is not working for the community of Westhoughton and its residents. The Town Council deplores this action. Cllr Speight attends meetings but regularly abstains or votes against items, and quite often leaves early, which is not the expected action of a Town Councillor.
33. Thanks are due to the retiring Town Mayor and Town Mayoress, Councillor Arthur Price and Mrs Lynne Price for their efforts on behalf of the town in the past year.
 The Town Mayor's charity fundraising will see the presentation of funds to Breast Cancer, Firwood School and the Parish Church of St Bartholomew's tower re-building fund.

34. Town Council Officers:
Mrs C Morris, Town Clerk, Town Hall, Market Street, Westhoughton, BL5 3AW.
Tel: 01942 819802 E-Mail: westhoughtontc@tiscali.co.uk

Mr K Jackson, Homewatch Liaison Officer, Tel: 0790 403 8176.

SECTION 137 PAYMENTS

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables Parish Councils to spend up to the product of £7.86 per head of electorate in 2018/19 for the benefit of people in the Westhoughton Parish area on activities or projects not specifically authorised by other powers. (Electorate approximately 18,718)

The following payments were made in 2018/19:

GENERAL GRANTS

12.06.18	Central Park Veterans	271.35
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SENIOR CITIZEN GRANTS

15/01/19	Tuesday Club	500.00
15/01/19	Wingates Tenants & Residents	500.00
15/01/19	Westhoughton Sports & Social Club	500.00
25/02/19	Senior Solutions	500.00
25/02/19	W.A.S.P.	500.00

CIVIC MEDALS & REGALIA

21/05/18	Civic Medals	1,269.31
12/06/18	Past Mayoress's Stick Pins	1,018.41

CENTENARY ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WW1

12/11/18	Remembrance Plaque	209.00
12/11/18	Donation R.B.L.I.	200.00
11/12/18	WW1 Benches	1,515.00
25/02/19	Siting of WW1 benches	373.90

NET TOTAL:	£7,356.97
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BANK RECONCILIATION AT 31ST MARCH 2019

CURRENT ACCOUNT	3,926
UNCLEARED PAYMENTS	
Bacs	716 -
Chq 178	56-
Chq 179	57-

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	3,097
LIQUIDITY MANAGER RESERVE ACCOUNT	25,980
LIQUIDITY MANAGER CAPITAL FUND	28,036

TOTAL:	57,113

GRANTS 2018-19

11.06.18	Park Veterans Bowling Club	Plants	271.35
14.01.19	Tuesday Club	Christmas Party	500.00
14.01.19	Wingates Tenants & Residents Association	Christmas Party	500.00
14.01.19	Westhoughton Sports & Social Club	Christmas Party	500.00
25.02.19	Senior Solutions	Christmas Party	500.00
25.02.19	W.A.S.P.	Christmas Party	500.00
25.02.19	Eatock Primary School	Pupils' trip to The Globe	545.00

BALANCE SHEET 2018– 2019

Total Assets	65,928.10
Funds:	
Prepayments	6,305.83
Liquidity Manager Reserve Account	28,035.87
Liquidity Manager Capital Fund	25,979.80
Current Account	3,097.16
VAT to be reclaimed	2,993.29

	66,411.95
Creditors (outstanding invoices)	483.85-

	65,928.10

CHARITIES ACCOUNT

BANK RECONCILIATION AT 31ST MARCH, 2019 CONFIRMED BANK BALANCES

Instant Access Current Account	4,046
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SUMMARY 2018-19

Balances Forward	
Instant Access Current Account	200
Add Total Receipts	6,655 +
Less Total Payments	2,809-

Balance shown in Receipts & Payments	4,046

TOWN MAYOR'S CHARITY 2018/19

The former Town Mayor, Councillor Miss S Watkin has made the following charitable donations from the funds which she raised during her Mayoral Year 2017-18:

Bolton Samaritans	£936.29
Hope for Homeless	£936.29
Bolton Neighbourhood for Enterprise	£936.29

