

WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

29TH JULY 2019

PRESENT: Town Mayor Cllr D A Wilkinson and Councillors R M Brennan, D J Bullock, N Maher, Miss D J McGeown, A P Morgan, Mrs J M Nicholson, C Reilly, Mrs A M Seddon, J Speight. Town Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT:

Members of the public.

TC117/2019 FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

The Chairman, Cllr D A Wilkinson, explained the Fire Safety Procedure.

TC118/2019 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 M Cox, T J Hewitt and Mrs L M Reilly– meetings. Councillors Miss R S M Fairhurst, Mrs C H Kirkman and Mrs M E M O’Riordan – Personal Commitments. Cllr Miss M Maley – sick.

TC119/2019 TO READ THE NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING

The Chairman, Cllr D A Wilkinson, read the notice convening the meeting.

TC120/2019 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED

Cllr D A Wilkinson declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 7 – 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.

Cllr D J Bullock declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 7 – 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.

Cllr J Speight declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 13 – Discussion on inviting a Fairtrade representative to a Town Council Meeting and to approve any action because he is the Chair of the Fairtrade Steering Group (this is not a Town Council Appointment).

Cllr N Maher declared an interest in Planning Application No. 06485/19.

TC121/2019 ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW PUBLIC QUESTION TIME RELATING TO TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND ITEMS WITHIN ITS POWERS

There were no questions.

TC122/19 THE ATTENDANCE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PLACE RE THE WESTHOUGHTON TOWN CENTRE STEERING GROUP

The Director of Place explained the work of the Westhoughton Town Centre Steering Group and the possible benefits to Westhoughton, and answered questions from the Town Council.

TC123/2019 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:

- 06335/19 The Town Council raised no objections
- 06366/19 The Town Council raised no objections
- 06307/19 The Town Council requested that the Bolton Council Planning Committee or the Planning Officer determine the application because there was insufficient information on the Planning Portal
- 06253/19 The Town Council requested that the Bolton Council Planning Committee or the Planning Officer determine the application
- 06410/19 The Town Council raised objection because of the detrimental impact on wildlife and Pennington Brook, additional traffic from the dwellings on the already congested highways, insufficient places at Doctors and Schools, and a similar application has been refused before
- 06443/19 The Town Council requested that the Bolton Council Planning Committee or the Planning Officer determine the application
- 06447/19 The Town Council requested that the Bolton Council Planning Committee or the Planning Officer determine the application
- 06324/19 The Town Council requested that the Bolton Council Planning Committee or the Planning Officer determine the application. The Town Council is concerned at the possible impact on the rear unadopted street and the ability of the refuse wagons to access the rear street

- 06413/19 The Town Council would prefer to be consulted on the Planning Application for the complete renovation of Westhoughton Town Hall rather than separate, small applications. However, if the application is approved, the Town Council requests the retention of the historical features and asks that the glass/stained glass is removed and replaced in the new windows
- 06503/19 The Town Council requested that the Bolton Council Planning Committee or the Planning Officer determine the application and is concerned at the impact on the neighbouring properties because of the length of the proposed extension
- 06485/19 The Town Council raised objection because of the number of dwellings, the increase in traffic from the dwellings on the already congested highways, the detrimental impact on wildlife and the Hall Lee Brook nature reserve, and there are insufficient places at Doctors and Schools

(b) DISCUSSION ON PLANNING APPEALS

Nil.

(c) TO NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS

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

TC124/2019 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 24TH JUNE, 2019

Resolved that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday, 24th June, 2019, as circulated, be approved by the Town Council.

TC125/2019 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 8TH JULY, 2019

Resolved that the minutes of the Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 8th July, 2019, as circulated, be noted by the Town Council.

The Town Clerk informed the Town Council of illegal acts and explained that she had been unable to correct the matter at the meeting because she had not been consulted beforehand and it was inappropriate to stop the meeting to check legalities because guests were present:

PFGP94/2019 – Resolved that the Town Council suspend non-mandatory Standing Orders in accordance with Standing Order No. 32a in order to allow Cllr Speight – the member of the public to take part in the Agenda Item:

- (a) This was illegal as suspending non-mandatory Standing Orders does not allow a member of the public to take part in an Agenda item

- (b) Cllr Speight is sanctioned for lying about the Town Clerk in the Bolton News and for harassing her for more than 4 years and as a result of the sanctions he cannot take part in Committee or Sub-Committee Meetings. The sanctions link in to Duty of Care to an Employee - National Employment Law, which is paramount to Town Council Standing Orders/Agenda Items
- (c) Councillors who voted for this course of action had breached the sanctions – Duty of Care to Employee – National Employment Law and Code of Conduct 2.9 – Duty to uphold the Law. Cllr Speight knows that he is sanctioned and should not have taken part in the Agenda item.

The Town Clerk pointed out that the above action was unnecessary as Cllr Speight, the member of the public, could have asked his questions under the Agenda Item – Adjournment to Allow Public Question Time and answers would have been given during the Agenda Item PFGP94/2019.

The Town Clerk requested that any Councillor who wishes to suspend a Standing Order consult her first, so that she can check the legality.

TC126/19 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE DAISY HILL IN BLOOM COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON MONDAY, 15TH JULY, 2019

Resolved that the minutes of the Daisy Hill in Bloom Committee Meeting, held on Monday, 15th July, 2019, as circulated, be approved.

TC127/2019 DISCUSSION ON THE ACTION PLAN 2019-2020 AND TO APPROVE ANY ACTION

Resolved that The Action Plan 2019-2020, as circulated, be approved with the following addition:

The Town Council will encourage and co-operate with any voluntary group or organisation which aspires to re-instate Westhoughton Carnival.

Cllr Mrs A M Seddon left the meeting.

TC128/2019 DISCUSSION ON PREFERRED PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY TO BE RENOVATED AND FUNDED BY TOWN COUNCIL'S £4000 BUDGET AND TO APPROVE ANY ACTION

Resolved that the Town Clerk check if the costing for renovating footpath Westhoughton 001 is correct and request a costing for the renovation of the footpath from Cornerbrook – the old football field, Slack Lane.

Cllr Mrs J M Nicholson left the meeting.

TC129/2019 DISCUSSION ON INVITING A FAIRTRADE REPRESENTATIVE TO A TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND TO APPROVE ANY ACTION

The Town Clerk had produced a report explaining that the Town Council has no powers to spend money on Fairtrade or legally finance or award a grant for Fairtrade as it does not benefit Westhoughton or its residents. Also, the Town Council cannot comply with Goal 1. The Town Council has no powers to influence whether or not shops sell Fairtrade products, businesses, organisations and residents purchase Fairtrade products.

The meeting was adjourned whilst a Fairtrade representative explained the work of the Fairtrade Foundation in Westhoughton and she believed that a simple resolution would be sufficient. The meeting was re-convened.

Resolved that the Town Clerk compile a simple resolution supporting the Fairtrade Foundation.

TC130/2019 DISCUSSION ON THE AUDIT REPORT FOR THE AUDIT OF THE QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1.4.19 – 30.6.19 AND TO APPROVE ANY ACTION

Resolved that the Audit Report for the audit of the Quarterly Accounts for the period 1.4.19 – 30.6.19, as circulated, be approved.

TC131/2019 TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1.4.19 – 30.6.19

Resolved that the Quarterly Accounts for the period 1.4.19 – 30.6.19, as circulated, be approved.

TC132/2019 DISCUSSION ON THE BOLTON ROAD PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING FACILITY CONSULTATION AND TO APPROVE ANY ACTION

Resolved that the Town Council supports the Bolton Road proposed traffic calming measures and the Town Clerk is to ask the Highways Department to look at improving highway safety at the Bolton Road/A6 traffic light junction.

TC133/2019 DISCUSSION ON THE HIRE OF GREENFIELD BAND FOR THE MAYORAL SUNDAY SERVICE AT A FEE OF £300 AND TO APPROVE ANY ACTION

Resolved that the Town Council approve the hire of Greenfield Band for the Mayoral Sunday Service, at a fee of £300.

This is in accordance with Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972.

TC134/2019 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 £3,423.44.

		£
Salaries & H.M.R.C. Payments		2,477.69
AP28 Canon	Photocopy Fee	86.74
AP29 Parsons Royle & Co	Audit Fee	132.00
AP30 C Morris	Re-imbusement – Parking Permit	7.15
077 Central Park Veterans	Grant	488.11
078 Cash	Postage	200.00
DD Talktalk	Internet & telephone	23.95
Bank Charges		7.80
TOTAL:		----- 3,423.44 -----

The payment to the Central Park Veterans is in accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

TC135/2019 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK

1 x Premises Licenses

TC136/2019 DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, 19th August, 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.