



# **WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL**

## **REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 2021 - 2022**

**WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL, WESTHOUGHTON LIBRARY, LIBRARY STREET,  
WESTHOUGHTON, BL5 3AU. TEL: 01942 819802 E-MAIL: [westhoughtontc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:westhoughtontc@tiscali.co.uk)**

# 1. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

From May 2020 to April 2021 the Town Council held 9 Town Council Meetings, 8 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			JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
	AM	P&AM	ATM	P TC	P TC	P TC	P TC	P TC	P TC	P&TC	P TC	P TC	P TC TC	P TC
<b>CONSERVATIVE</b>														
M Cox	1	11	0	0 0	1 1	0 0	1 1	1 1	- -	-	1 1	-	0 0 1	0 0
Mrs AB Eckersley-Fallon	1	00	0	1 1	1 1	0 0	1 1	1 1	- -	-	1 1	-	1 1 0	0 0
T J Hewitt	1	00	1	0 0	1 1	0 0	1 1	1 1	- -	-	0 0	-	0 0 0	0 1
Mrs CJ Kirkman	1	11	0	0 0	1 1	0 0	1 1	1 1	- -	-	0 0	-	1 1 1	1 0
A P Morgan	1	00	0	0 0	1 1	0 0	1 1	0 0	- -	-	0 0	-	0 0 0	0 1
<b>INDEPENDANT</b>														
D J Bullock	1	00	0	0 0	0 0	1 1	1 1	1 1	- -	-	0 0	-	1 1 0	1 1
<b>LIBERAL DEMOCRAT</b>														
Miss R S M Fairhurst	0	00	0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	-	-	0 0	-	Resigned	
N Maher	1	11	0	1 1	1 1	0 0	1 1	1 1	-	-	1 1	-	0 0 1	0 1
Miss D J McGeown	1	11	1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	-	-	1 1	-	0 0 1	1 1
A Price	1	11	1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	-	-	1 1	-	1 1 1	0 1
Mrs A M Seddon	1	11	0	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 1	1 1	-	-	0 0	-	0 0 0	0 0
D A Wilkinson	1	11	1	1 1	0 0	1 1	1 1	1 1	-	-	1 1	-	1 1 1	1 1
A Younge	1	11	1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	-	-	1 1	-	1 1 1	1 1
<b>WESTHOUGHTON FIRST INDEPENDANTS</b>														
R M Brennan	1	11	0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 1	-	-	0 0	-	0 0 0	0 1
Miss M Maley	1	11	0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 1	-	-	0 0	-	1 1 0	0 0
C Reilly	1	11	1	1 1	1 1	1 1	0 0	1 1	-	-	1 1	-	1 1 1	1 1
Mrs L M Reilly	1	11	1	1 1	1 1	1 1	0 0	1 1	-	-	1 1	-	1 1 1	0 1
J Speight	1	01	1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	-	-	0 1	-	0 1 1	0 1

From May, 2019, Cllr J Speight is not a member of the Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee.  
No meetings held in November & December due to office / venue closure

## THE FOLLOWING TOWN COUNCILLORS MAY BE CONTACTED DIRECTLY

### CENTRAL WARD

Cllr R M Brennan (W'hton First Ind)  
Cllr Mrs C H Kirkman (Con)  
Cllr N Maher (Lib Dem)  
Cllr Mrs A M Seddon (Lib Dem – Resigned)

### TELEPHONE

07941114767

### E-MAIL

cllrrichardbrennan@gmail.com  
carolhkirkman@gmail.com  
neil@westhoughton-libdems.org.uk

### CHEQUERBENT WARD

Cllr D J Bullock (Con),  
1 Rushbank, W'hton, BL5 2JF  
Cllr J Speight (W'hton First Ind),  
60 Clough Avenue, W'hton, BL5 2NQ

07732083631

07977262022

derekbullock52@btinternet.com

cllrjackspeight@hotmail.co.uk

### DAISY HILL WARD

Cllr Gillian Wroe elected 5th May 2022  
Miss R S M Fairhurst (Lib Dem – Resigned)  
Cllr Miss D J McGeown, (Lib Dem)  
9 Churnet Close, W'hton, BL5 3LF  
Cllr A Younge (Lib Dem) Co-opted

07764949922

01942811743

gillianwroe@yahoo.com

deirdre@westhoughton-libdems.org.uk  
a.younge@sky.com

### HOSKERS AND HART COMMON

\*\*Cllr T J Hewitt (Con),  
Cllr Mrs L M Reilly (W'hton First Ind),  
1 Ivy Road, Westhoughton, BL5 2NU  
Cllr D A Wilkinson (Lib Dem)  
12 The Crescent, Westhoughton, BL5 2AE

01942819456

cllrlisareilly@gmail.com

david@westhoughton-libdems.org.uk

### WHITE HORSE WARD

Cllr M Cox (Con),  
1 Regent Drive, Lostock, Bolton, BL6 4DH  
\*\*Cllr Miss M Maley, (W'hton First Ind),  
Cllr A P Morgan (Con),  
34 Corner Brook, Bolton, BL6 4GX  
Cllr C Reilly (W'hton First Ind),  
1 Ivy Road, Westhoughton, BL5 2NU

07802935406

01942804080

martyn.cox@bolton.gov.uk

andrew.morgan@bolton.gov.uk

cllrcharliereilly@gmail.com

### WINGATES WARD

Cllr Mrs A B Eckersley-Fallon (Con)  
Cllr Arthur Price (Lib Dem) Co-opted

07500016523

01942790497

eckersleyfallon@gmail.com  
arthurprice54@icloud.com

\*\* Cllr T J Hewitt and Cllr Miss M Maley ceased to be members of the Council in 22/23

## 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.

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 previously 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 resubmitted applications for developments at Bowlands Hey and Hulton Park.

4. The Town Council has approved 2 grant applications.
5. The Town Council repeated its successful Christmas Lights initiative along Market Street, with a donation of £250 from Bolton Council and donations from local businesses.
6. The Westhoughton Town Council web site address is: [www.bolton.gov.uk/westhoughton](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/westhoughton)
7. The Town Council has had meetings with the Police.
8. The Town Council has funded 3 additional Driver Feedback Signs on Manchester Rd, Park Rd and Wigan Rd in addition to those provided by Bolton Council.
9. The Town Council provided a £3,000 donation to Westhoughton Lions to assist in the completion of the clubhouse.
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 regular Newsletter. Fewer Newsletters have been produced this year due to staffing and premises issues.
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 Mrs Christine Morris in recognition of her many years of service to Westhoughton.

A Certificate of Achievement was awarded to Mr Gareth Mason  
A Certificate of Achievement was awarded to Mr George Davies  
Members of the public nominated the recipients.

20. The Town Council was very proud to confer the title of Honorary Freeman to the former Town Clerk of Westhoughton, Mrs Christine Morris, in recognition of her longstanding and devoted service to Westhoughton.
21. The Westhoughton with Chew Moor Area Forum has not met since the Covid pandemic and new area working methods are under consultation by Bolton Council.
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 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1910.

Each year the Town Council organises 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 2021-22 are yet to be completed and signed off by the auditor, this is due to no or limited access to the office and staffing issues.
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.

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.
- During the Covid pandemic the council moved to electronic documents to Councillors to reduce the use of postage and paper.
27. In order to support the Police the Town Council has previously funded a hire car which was used as a Policing Team vehicle in Westhoughton. Senior officers in GMP declined to take up this option this year.
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. Since 2015 the Town Council has ensured the funding for 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. The Town Council has funded the purchase and the siting of a commemorative bench in memory of Tony Berry, deceased, who was the former lead vocalist of the Houghton Weavers. Tony raised thousands for charity and was always willing to support local causes. The bench is sited outside Ditchfield Garden.
- The council also purchased a memorial bench in recognition of the efforts and sacrifices of members of the NHS, this is situated in Ditchfield Gardens.
33. Thanks are due to the retiring Town Mayor, Councillor Lisa Reilly and her Consort Cllr C. Reilly for her efforts on behalf of the town in the past year.
34. Town Council meetings have taken place in Westhoughton Library until October 2021 and John Holt Community Centre since January. The Town Clerk has an office in Westhoughton Library, there has been limited access to the office since October 2021 due to building works.
35. Town Council Officer:  
Mrs C Morris since October 2021 was on sickness leave and retired at the end of March 2022. Mrs A Hopkins, Deputy Clerk, has fulfilled the role of Town Clerk since October 2021.

Town Clerk, Westhoughton Library, Library Street, Westhoughton, BL5 3AU.

Tel: 01942 819802

E-Mail: [westhoughtontc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:westhoughtontc@tiscali.co.uk)

The Town Council is currently in process of recruiting a new Town Clerk.

## SECTION 137 PAYMENTS

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables Parish Councils to spend up to the product of £8.41 per head of electorate in 2021/22 for the benefit of people in the Westhoughton Parish area on activities or projects not specifically authorised by other powers. (Electorate approximately 19,189)

The following payments were made in 2021/22:

<b>GENERAL GRANTS</b>	<b>£</b>	
Westhoughton Park Bowling Club	312.48	(part payment of grant)
<b>CIVIC MEDALS &amp; REGALIA</b>		
Civic Medals	1,425.85	
<b>SUNDRIES</b>		
Donation St Bartholomews Church	200.00	
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<b>NET TOTAL:</b>	<b>1,938.33</b>	
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## BANK RECONCILIATION AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022

<b>CURRENT ACCOUNT</b>	59,240.94
<b>UNCLEARED PAYMENTS</b>	
Bacs	31,577.19
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<b>CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE</b>	27,663.75
<b>LIQUIDITY MANAGER RESERVE ACCOUNT</b>	16,054.63
<b>LIQUIDITY MANAGER CAPITAL FUND</b>	50,068.78
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<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>93,787.16</b>

## GRANTS 2021-22

Westhoughton Park Bowling Club      Tubs & Plants      312.48

### BALANCE SHEET 2021– 2022

Total Assets	108,141.53
Funds:	
Prepayments	7,851.25
Liquidity Manager Reserve Account	16,054.63
Liquidity Manager Capital Fund	50,068.78
Current Account	27,663.75
VAT to be reclaimed	6,503.12
Debtor	0.00
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	108,141.53
Creditors (outstanding invoices)	0.00
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	108,141.53

### CHARITIES ACCOUNT

#### BANK RECONCILIATION AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2022 CONFIRMED BANK BALANCES

Instant Access Current Account      100.01

#### SUMMARY 2021/22

Balances Forward	
Instant Access Current Account	100.01
Add Total Receipts	3,105.04
Less Total Payments	3,105.04
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Balance shown in Receipts & Payments	100.01



## **TOWN MAYOR'S CHARITIES**

**The former Town Mayor, Councillor D Wilkinson has made the following charitable donations from the funds which he raised during his Mayoral Years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021:**

<b>Bolton Lads + Girls Club</b>	<b>£1,552.52</b>
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<b>Senior Solutions</b>	<b>£1,552.52</b>
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**The Former Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs LM Reilly (2021/2022) has not yet paid her charity fund.**