

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 30TH JANUARY 2023.

Present: Members of the council. D McGeown Town Mayor, A Younge Deputy Town Mayor, D Wilkinson, A Price, A Jackson, N Maher, L Maher, J Speight, C Kirkman and M Tighe.

Cllr McGeown chairing the meeting.

One member of the public Mr M Kemp.

TC001/23 The Fire Safety information was read out.

TC002/23 Apologies for absence and to accept reasons. G Wroe (ill), R Brennan (ill), C Reilly (Work), L Reilly (work), D Bullock (ill), B Eckersley-Fallon (ill).

TC 003/23 The notice convening the meeting was read by the Mayor.

TC004/23. Declarations of interest. Cllr D Wilkinson declared an interest in item 6 as a member of Bolton Council's Planning Committee.

TC005/23 Public Question Time.

Mr M Kemp asked the following questions: Mr Kemp was asked after the meeting if he could email his questions to the council for confirmation.

A question asked at the meeting was in relation to the minutes of Westhoughton Town Centre Steering Group meetings and are they available for inspection?

Members of the public questions under the Public Question Time are they minuted in the council minutes?

Attendance of councillors at meetings? ( CLLR C KIRKMAN SAID SHE HAD A DOCUMENT OF COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE AND WOULD UPDATE, SO IT COULD BE SHARED TO MR KEMP)

Can Carnegie Hall be hired by members of the public/community groups?

Possible Streaming of the town council meetings?

TC006/23A. Planning and Development Matters.

Discussion of planning applications and to approve any action.

15254/23 34 Green Meadows, No Objection raised. 15222/23 19 Market Street. Objections were raised to the flat element of the application on grounds size of the proposed flats, facilities being proposed for the 3 flats, bin storage, parking arrangements as the nearest street was Victoria Street which has parking restriction and problems.

Also the impacts on the possible resident of living over a food establishment, and 3 adjacent properties serving food/alcohol.

The need issue of another cafe is deemed to be a commercial issue not a planning matter.

A vote was taken on this application.

Cllr's McGeown, Younge, Price, Jackson, N Maher, L Maher and Speight against the application.

Cllr's Tighe and Kirkman for the application.

15266/234 Kerans Drive. No Objections raised.

158282/23 54 Landedmans. No Objection raised.

15255/23 6 Forest Drive. No objections raised.

15238/23 and 15237/23 The town council raised the issues of illuminated signage and lighting at night and this should not impact on neighbouring residents. That there should be a substantial landscaping scene to protect the visual amenity of neighbouring residents from the size and scale of the building.

15168/23 39 Central Drive. No Objections raised

151/23 148 Chorley Road. No objections raised.

B Discussion of planning appeals. None

C Planning Decisions were noted

TC007/23 The minutes of the town council meeting on the 12th December 2022 were approved.

TC008/23 The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes committee on the 16th January 2023 were approved.

TC009/23 The precept for 2023/24 was set at £152,854

TC010/23 The budget as discussed at the FGP meeting on the 16th January 2023 was approved.

TC011/23 Discussion on the levelling up bid for De Haviland Way and the government declining to support the bid.

Resolved: Given the implications of the current levels of traffic in Westhoughton and growth of traffic for the approved extension of Wingates Industrial Estate and the proposal for a larger area in the Places for People proposals that Bolton Council be contacted how future action will be taken in relation to highway issues.

TC012/23 Items on Town Clerk's report were noted.

TC013/23 Date of the next meeting, the Finance and General Purposes will be held on Monday 13th February.

Meeting finished at 7.55pm

Mr Kemp emailed his questions to the town council, it is missing the issue of steering group minutes. Good morning, I attended the council meeting on the above date and asked the following questions. 1: Past public questions asked at council meetings are missing from the minutes as there are no minutes online for date 22/08/2022. Questions asked on this and other dates upto November have still not had any reply's. When can we expect any reply and where will this be made available? 2: I emailed the town parish in November asking for meeting attendance for councillor's for 2022 I have had no reply. 3: Do this parish council know of any interest in the renting of the available spaces in the town hall? 4: Modernising communication with the public. Could the parish council start to live stream the meetings or can any member of the public come in and record/live stream the meetings, Why doesn't the council set up a Facebook page? do this as non political e.g no links to any political party or single members pages or advertising. To be just showing meetings and sharing of results that have been achieved/lost from the collective council. 5: As we are in the Carnegie Hall, is it available to rent as the last I heard it was unavailable for hire due to needing thousands of £'s as stated by Bolton Council representative Adele Warren on various occasions in public meetings ?