

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 13th February 2023 in the Carnegie Hall, Westhoughton at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs N. Maher, D McGeown, D. Wilkinson, A Younge, L.Maher, A. Jackson,G Wroe, J Speight, C. Kirkman, M. Tighe and D. Bullock left 19.45.

3 members of the public Mrs A Watters, Mr M Kemp and Mr N Harris

Cllr. N. Maher chaired the meeting.

FGP 14/23 Fire Safety Information:  
The chair stated the fire safety information

FGP 15/23 Apologies for absence:  
A.Price (meeting), C Reilly (work), L Reilly (work),A Morgan, M Cox, and B Eckersley-Fallon all at another meeting.

FGP 16/23 Notice conveyancing the meeting.  
The chair read the notice conveying the meeting

FGP 16/23 Declarations of Interests by members.  
Item 7 Cllr David Wilkinson as member of Bolton Planning Committee  
Item 9 Accounts for payment, reimbursement of postage to D Wilkinson.

FGP 17/23 Public Question Time

Mr Kemp asked two questions.

- 1: Regarding Bolton lads and girls club, Do this council know anything about when Bolton lads and girls are returning to Westhoughton as there is rumours and confusion if they have left their building due to a leaking roof.
- 2: When was this parish council informed of the recent plans and changes that have been announced, as at the last meeting 30/1/2023 you had no idea that there was interest in any part of the town hall space.

Mrs Watters, who was in attendance, stated that BLGC had left the building due to collapsing internal ceilings.

Agreed that the council would contact BLGC

In relation to Mr Kemp's 2nd question, Westhoughton Town Council had not been officially informed of the changes to Westhoughton Town Hall.

Mrs Watters question:

What arrangements will be available by the town council for commemoration of the coronation of King Charles III  
This issue was Item 17 on the agenda.

FGHP 18/23 Discussion on questions raised at Public Question Time at the Town Council meeting on the 30th January 2023.

Westhoughton Town Centre Steering Group minutes.

Bolton Council had replied.

The minutes of the Westhoughton Town Centre Steering Group from its next meeting will be made available for inspection, however the previous minutes will not,

Are Questions raised by members of the public under public question time minuted?

Yes they are.

Attendance of councillors at meetings?

Cllr C Kirkman said she was in the process of updating the document of attendance.

Hire of Carnegie Hall: The town council is still awaiting a response on this issue.

Streaming of meetings.

Due to the current vacancy of a town clerk and a new council to be elected in May that this issue be deferred to the new council.

The council does have in its a action plan a wish to have a stand alone website from the current arrangements with Bolton Council

FGP 19/23 Discussion of planning of planning

7 A Planning and Development Matters.

No objections were raised in relation to planning applications 15411/23, 15408/23, 15352/23, 15335/23 and Aldreds Farm.

7 B Planning Appeals: None

7 C Planning Decisions: Noted

FGP 20/23 Minutes of the Planning and Finance and General Purposes Committee held on the 16th January were noted.

FGP 21/23 9 Accounts for payment were approved

Bolton Council for work to definitive footpaths £4,000

Bolton Council erection and dismantling of the Christmas Crib £883.85

Reimbursement of postage to D Wilkinson £15.20

FGP 22/23 10 Town Clerk Job Description.

This was approved subject to any changes proposed by Bolton Council HR

FGP 23/23 11 Town Clerk Job Advert

This was approved subject to any changes proposed by Bolton HR

FGP 24/23 12 Deputy Town Clerk Job Description ( draft)

This was approved as a draft document with consultation with Bolton HR

FGP 25/23 13 Home Watch/Speed Watch Coordinator job description ( draft)

This was approved as a draft document with consultation with Bolton HR

FGP 26/23 14 Appointment of interview panel.

Cllr C Kirkman, Cllr J Speight, Cllr D McGeown as Chair of the council and either Cllr. A Younge or Cllr. A Price.

If any member of the panel was unavailable for the interview meetings that they send a deputy.

Cllr D Bullock left the meeting at 19:45.

FGP 27/23 15 Review of Standing Orders.

It explained that there is some wording which is outdated. Agreed that members review the current standing orders and that matter be placed on the agenda of the 27th February to recommend any changes.

Cllr C Kirkman offered to convert the document into a WORD document.

FGP 28/23 Response of Bolton Council regarding the levelling up bid for De Havilland Way.

Mr Dyson, Director of Place replied to state that Bolton Council was looking at available options to carry out the proposals in the levelling up bid.

FGP 29/23 Coronation Events.

A Westhoughton Town Council. It was explained that there is a potential budget of £4,000 for the funding of grants etc for the coronation.

B Bolton Council: A request for information had been sent to the Chief Executive of Bolton Council.

Approved to await information from Bolton Council on their intentions to avoid any duplication.

Approved to defer the budget until the 27th February meeting and set possible limits on grant applications,

FGP 29/23 Big Clean Event in March.

This was to create an event to encourage community involvement and pride in the town and if possible to become an annual event.

Approved to arrange over the 17th,18th and 19th March. To encourage all community groups to share on their social media.

Cllr Wroe, Jackson, L Maher and J Speight to liaise with other in Westhoughton and to spread information about the event.

FGP 30/23 Big Clean Thank You event.

Approved to arrange a "Thank You" event for those involved throughout the year in litter picks, placing green litter bags and tidying up activities to a thank you on the following weekend 25th/26th.

FGP 31/1/23 CIVIC AWARDS,  
APPROVED THE NEW FORM BE USED FOR THE CIVIC AWARDS

FGP 32/23 Items requested by Cllr C. Kirkman.  
Town Clerk issues this was dealt under item 10 and 11

Driver Feedback Signs. Approved to request that Bolton Council provide information on all the Driver Feedback Signs in Westhoughton both Bolton Council and Westhoughton Town Council signs to assess the traffic issues in Westhoughton.

FGP 33/23 22 World War II memorial board.

The Town Council requested that Bolton Council make safe and secure the World War II memorial board in the foyer of Westhoughton Town Hall and that it be put on public display in Westhoughton Library.

FGP34/23 23 Issues arising from WES105.

Cllr Wilkinson informed council that in a conversation with the PROW officer regarding the invoice for PROW work funding (including WES 173) by the town council that it was proving difficult to carry out the proposed work on WES105.

The PROW officer stated that it would be possible to complete works on WES173 including new stone surface and he would provide costings to the council for such works for the council's consideration.

FGP 35/23 24 Items for reporting.

FGP 36/23 Date of Next Meeting

Town Councillor the 27th February 2023 in Carnegie Hall

Meeting ended at 20:37

Items were noted