



WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Westhoughton Town Council on Monday 26 June 2023 at 7pm in Carnegie Hall

Present: Councillors Derek Gradwell, Alison Jackson, Alan Kaufman, Neil Maher, Deirdre McGeown, Arthur Price (arrived 19.08), Christine Strawbridge, John Strawbridge, Jack Speight, David Wilkinson and Gillian Wroe

Members of the public: Alvis Younge, Michelle O'Riordan, James Copper

TC81/23 Fire Safety Information (Chair)

The fire safety information was read out by the Chair.

TC82/23 To read the notice convening the meeting

The notice convening the meeting was read out by the Chair.

TC83/23 To receive apologies for absence and record reasons

Councillors David Chadwick (Bolton Council meeting), Sarita Chohan (personal), Anna Homfray (personal), Ryan Hough (work), Linda Maher (work), Martin Tighe (Bolton Council meeting)

TC84/23 To record declarations of interest from members in any item to be discussed

Cllr David Wilkinson on planning issues as a Member of Bolton Council's Planning Committee and on item 10 for a personal connection. He left the room for this item.

TC85/23 Adjournment to allow public question time, relating to Town Council activities. This is the only opportunity for members of the public to speak at the meeting unless the question/statement relates to a planning application.

- A reply by email was given to written questions received from Mr Richard Bates.

TC86/23 To discuss Planning and Development matters and to approve any action

a. Planning Applications:

15741/23	Land on Church Street, Westhoughton, BL5 3QT (former Hardman and Cain fencing depot)
<p>Town Council objects to this proposed development as it did so at its meeting on 24 April 2023 as it believes there is insufficient car parking for the development, which could lead to off site parking. Any vehicles parked on Church Street could create a traffic problem as it is a busy radial route with traffic going to the motorway and industrial estate. Off site parking could take place in James Street and at the access to Railway Motors, causing difficulties for other residents. The council also has concerns about the increase in residents and the impact on doctors, medical facilities and the availability of school places.</p>	

16131/23	17 Anderby Walk, Westhoughton, BL5 3BW
No objection.	

16125/23	Mercury Filling Station, Manchester Road, Westhoughton, BL5 3JB
No objection.	

16128/23	18 Dalton Fold, Westhoughton, BL5 2QN
<p>Recommended to be referred to Planning Officers due to size of development and possible impact on neighbouring properties.</p>	

- b. Planning Appeals - none
- c. Planning Decisions - lists were circulated

TC87/23 To approve the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes committee meeting on Monday 12 June 2023.

The minutes were approved.

TC88/23 To approve the minutes of the Westhoughton Town Council meetings on Tuesday 9 May and Monday 15 May 2023.

The minutes were approved.

TC89/23 Public benches and to approve any action.

This was a deferred item from 24 April 2023 (TC53/23). There are a number of public benches that are in disrepair. The town council agreed to liaise with Bolton Council's highways department regarding repairs, renewal and replacement of public benches across Westhoughton.

TC90/23 Improving the Town Council's communications

The council approved the communications proposal as a basis for further development and established a working party consisting of Councillors Kaufman, Gradwell, McGeown, J Strawbridge and Speight, together with one Conservative.

TC91/23 Proposed date for attendance of Bolton Transport Strategy Group - 31 July

We will await to see if this date is suitable.

TC92/23 Update from CCTV working group and to approve any action.

Councillor Wroe informed council that 4 dates had been agreed for a visit with Emersons. Some members had yet to reply with their availability, but the visits will take place on these dates. It will give members an opportunity to see the amount of screen space for monitoring purposes. Following this, an on site visit in Westhoughton town centre will be arranged to look at the possible positioning of cameras, including car parks.

TC93/23 Creation of Play and Youth grant budget.

All members agreed to the creation of a £20,000 fund for the 2023/24 financial year.

TC94/23 Play and youth services grant application form - for approval.

All members agreed to the draft grant application form. The grant form had been circulated to Bolton Council officers who said that the form was acceptable for the level of grants on offer.

TC95/23 Items for reporting.

The premises application list was noted.

Date of next meeting: Finance and General Purposes committee on Monday 10th July 2023

The meeting finished at 7.50pm.