

MACCLESFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of Full Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2016 at 7.00pm at Macclesfield Town Hall.

In attendance: Cllr Alift Harewood
Cllr Beverley Dooley
Cllr Chris Andrew
Cllr Liz Durham
Cllr Adam Schofield
Cllr Gareth Jones
Cllr Ainsley Arnold
Cllr Philip Bolton
Cllr Martin Hardy
Cllr Neil Puttick
Cllr Janet Jackson
Cllr Matt Sharrocks

Also in attendance was Mr Will McKellar (Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB)), the Civic Officer and the Town Clerk.

The Mayor opened the meeting with a short address thanking residents, members and the community for the overwhelming positive engagement with the Armistice and remembrance events in Macclesfield, with particular thanks to Cllr Hardy. The Mayor went on to thank those involved in arranging and those attending the Christmas Lights Switch on, in particular Cllr Dooley, Harriet Worrell, those who helped with charity collections and Father Christmas. The Mayor also thanked those who attended her Civic Sunday and Mayor's Dinner events.

Presentation by Peter Nash of Macclesfield Magistrates of the Magistrates Court's gavel and golfing trophy. Mr Nash was thanked and the gifts were formally received.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

[It was noted that Cllr Hardy had given notice that he would be late due to work commitments]

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Dooley declared an interest in agenda item 7 as a Cheshire East Council representative at CAB.

Cllr Jackson declared an interest in agenda item 7 as a member of the board of CAB

Cllr Harewood declared an interest in agenda item 14 as patron of Macclesfield Fair Trade Group.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting to allow comments from the public. There were no requests to speak. The meeting was re-convened.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL AGM 12TH SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes are approved as true record of the meeting

4. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

4.1 Minutes of the Planning Committee 02/09/16

4.2 Minutes of the Planning Committee 23/09/16

4.3 Minutes of the planning Committee 04/11/16

The minutes were noted.

5. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

5.1 Minutes of the Finance Committee 05/09/16

5.2 Draft minutes of the Finance Committee 07/11/16.

The minutes were noted.

6. MINUTES OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEE

6.1 Draft minutes of the Services Committee 26/09/16

The minutes were noted.

7. CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU (CAB)

Mr McKellar gave a detailed overview of the submitted report and supporting information. [Cllr Hardy arrived]

Members asked detailed questions to gain further understanding. Members sought clarification relating to how the figure of £40,000 was arrived at due to perceived inconsistencies with the figures within the report. This was clarified to satisfaction.

Members sought further insight in to actions to ensure efficiency savings had been progressed. It was explained that CAB had considered other premises, sharing premises and resources, sharing central services and procurement and seeking annual revenue savings eg parking.

Members sought progress with securing funding from neighbouring parish authorities (Bollington and Prestbury). It was clarified that work had begun on this.

Mr McKellar was thanked for his detailed responses.

Members discussed the information in detail, highlighting the office facilities being used by CAB, the per capita comparison with other funding councils and expressing a view of value for money.

It was proposed that the full amount requested was approved. The proposal was not successful.

RESOLVED: That further information is sought from CAB to inform the budget-setting meeting of the Finance Committee on 16/1/17.

8. AUDIT

8.1 To approve and accept the 2015/16 Annual Return and External Auditors' (BDO LLP) Certificate for Macclesfield Town Council

RESOLVED: That the 2015/16 Annual Return and External Auditors' (BDO LLP) Certificate for Macclesfield Town Council is approved and accepted.

8.2 To approve and accept the 2015/16 Annual Return and External Auditors' (BDO LLP) Certificate for Macclesfield Charter Trustees

RESOLVED: That the 2015/16 Annual Return and External Auditors' (BDO LLP) Certificate for Macclesfield Charter Trustees is approved and accepted.

9. ST GEORGE'S DAY

Members expressed clear support for the celebration and marking of St George's day in the town's calendar of events

RESOLVED: That a St George's Day event is delivered by the Town Council, as outlined within the submitted report, including the provision of the budgeted funds.

10. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Cllr Dooley was presented with a bouquet of flowers as thanks for her work as lead member for the Christmas Lights projects. Cllr Dooley gave a brief review of the switch on events and identified the general perceived success of the event, thanking those who delivered, took part, supported

and attended the event. Members expressed their thanks and support for the event. (It was noted that Flopsy #LostBunny had been returned to her owner after a brief social media campaign).

11. LIVE AT HOME

The report was noted.

12. POLICY

12.1 Grants

RESOLVED: That the submitted amended Community Grants Scheme Policy and application forms are approved and adopted.

13. SPEND TO DATE

RESOLVED: That the schedule of expenditure is approved.

14. TOWN ENTRY SIGNS

The options were discussed at length. It was also noted that the Town Clerk had today received an email from Cheshire East Highways to explain why they would not allow the Fairtrade signage to be allowed to the installed town entry signage.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Schofield circulates draft designs for over arches to all members to confirm consensus for wording prior to procurement and installation.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

None

16. MEMBER ITEMS

16.1 Town Crier

Members discussed at length the proposal for a Town Crier, identifying the potential opportunity to generate income as well as raising concerns relating to best use of funds. Members also highlighted the positive relations benefit of such a role. It was highlighted that the role would be a figure to promote activities in the town, attend and add value to events and also perform some civic duties at appropriate occasions.

RESOLVED:

- i. That Macclesfield Town Council supports the role of a Town Crier for Macclesfield.
- ii. That the role will seek to be cost neutral through income generation.
- iii. That an appointment panel of Cllrs Jackson, Puttick and Arnold is delegated to recruit a Town Crier for Macclesfield.

16.2 Notice Board for the Weston Estate

Members expressed the need to consider such requests strategically, rather than in a piecemeal approach.

RESOLVED: That the item is delegated to the Services Committee to consider and, if approved, direct its delivery.

16.3 Benches and exercise equipment for public land at Tenby Road, Weston

The item was discussed at length, with members expressing support for the benches but some concern relating to the proposed cross trainer.

RESOLVED: That, subject to detailed agreements with the land owner (Peaks and Plains Housing Association) relating to maintenance and liabilities, the provision of 3 benches is approved at the site detailed in the report.

17. MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMITTEES

17.1 Resolution of Planning Committee 4/11/16

During extended discussions on this items members expressed the aim to support Cheshire East Council's defence of the submitted appeal, the opportunity to add value to that appeal and for Macclesfield Town Council to take a strategic position with the planning authority on local planning issues. Members also expressed clear concern relating to local opinion in favour of development, financial management through virement of funds and the duplication of costs should the Town Council engage senior legal advocacy services.

RESOLVED: That the item is returned to the Planning Committee for further consideration

CLOSED SESSION

Due to the confidential nature of business, public and press were excluded from the meetings under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

17.2 Asset Transfer – Weston Community Centre

RESOLVED:

- i. That the formal agreement over tenancy is agreed with ECHC based on the attached draft Heads of Terms
- ii. That the Chair and Vice Chair of the Services Committee are delegated by Council to agree and complete the lease contract
- iii. That, subject to agreeing a lease with ECHC, the associated staff position is transferred to the tenant with the protection of TUPE as the preferred option.
- iv. That negotiation regarding this transfer and potential consideration of the strategic suitability of TUPE or secondment is delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Services Committee.

18. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of Macclesfield Town Council is 7pm, 23rd January 2017, at Macclesfield Town Hall.