

MACCLESFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of Full Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2017 at 7.00pm at Macclesfield Town Hall.

In attendance: Cllr Alift Harewood MBE
Cllr Beverley Dooley
Cllr Chris Arnold
Cllr Liz Durham
Cllr Adam Schofield
Cllr Philip Bolton
Cllr Ainsley Arnold
Cllr Neil Puttick
Cllr Matt Sharrocks

Also in attendance was the Civic Officer, Richard Christopherson of Cheshire East Council and the Town Clerk.

The Mayor opened the meeting with a short address thanking the support of councillors and the council office, informing council of the over 100 engagements she has attended and expressing support for the youth activities and groups in and around Macclesfield.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Janet Jackson
Cllr Gareth Jones
Cllr Martin Hardy

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Dooley expressed a non-pecuniary interest in Item 8, as a member of Cheshire east Council currently engaged in discussions with a user group of the Senior Citizens' Hall.

There were no members of the public present, therefore no comments or questions from the public.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL AGM 28TH NOVEMBER 2016

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

4.1 Minutes of the Planning Committee 25/11/16

The minutes were noted.

5. MINUTES OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEE

5.1 Draft minutes of the Services Committee 5/12/16

The draft minutes were noted

6. VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The Town Clerk introduced the item and gave an overview of the circulated report statement.

Members discussed the issues and the services of the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) at length. Members expressed both support and caution for a more Macclesfield-focussed, being that more attention could be paid to the promotion of Macclesfield but that drawing on the surrounding areas attractions would support the Macclesfield offer. Members also expressed the view that the VIC service benefited from the significant capacity and broader influence of Cheshire East Council (CEC); that collaboration with the larger authority is a positive step; that should the service transfer there would be issues associated with premises; and that the VIC service should be reviewed in light of the town centre regeneration projects and the VIC retail offer.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the Town Clerk is delegated to continue negotiations with CEC with regard to the future of the VIC services and funding
- ii. That the Town Clerk reports the ongoing negotiations with CEC to the Services Committee for direction.
- iii. That Council supports the principle of CEC retention of the VIC services with consideration for funding from Macclesfield Town Council

7. CHESHIRE EAST HEALTHBOX

Members discussed the submitted funding request. Members expressed concern at the lack of detail associated with outputs, such that Healthbox has held good events, but numbers of those engaged are less encouraging. Members sought more specific detail on the results so far and the expected results with concerns expressed that no significant achievements of the previous 12 months had been detailed in the submission. It was also expressed that there is a perceived duplication of services and activities

The item was deferred pending more details on results and achievements of the project so far, the expected outcomes of further funding and greater detailing of the mechanism of operation of the funding model.

8. SENIOR CITIZENS' HALL

The Town Clerk introduced the item and gave an overview of the circulated report. Members expressed support for the building, its accessibility and the activities held there. It was clarified that ongoing discussions with third sector operators have been positive and CEC hope to agree terms for the future sustainable delivery of activities and services at the facility with a third sector organisation or organisations.

RESOLVED:

- I. That Macclesfield Town Council seeks to clarify to CEC that the Senior Citizens' Hall must be retained in public ownership as an asset of community value for Macclesfield.
- II. That Macclesfield Town Council supports CEC seeking a sustainable third sector partner to retain the facility in public ownership through leasing and to maintain activities and services at the centre.
- III. That Macclesfield Town Council is given "first refusal" should no alternative sustainable model be available to CEC for keeping the facility in public ownership and continuing to provide a community resource.
- IV. That the Town Clerk is delegated to continue negotiations with CEC on this issue, in consultation with ward members and reporting to the Services Committee for direction as required.

9. SPEND TO DATE

RESOLVED: That the spend is authorised

10. 2017/18 BUDGET

RESOLVED: That the 2017/18 is approved and adopted, as submitted to this meeting and recommended by the Finance Committee

11. CORRESPONDENCE

12. MEMBER ITEMS

13. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of Macclesfield Town Council is 7pm, 20th March 2017, at Macclesfield Town Hall.

Meeting Closed at 7.43pm

Chair Cllr Alift Harewood MBE
Clerk Pete Turner

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