

Macclesfield Annual Town Meeting

6pm 17/5/16

Minutes of the meeting

Declared in attendance:

Liz Braithwaite

Ann Ross

Cllr Janet Jackson

Cllr Chris Andrew

Cllr Liz Durham (Mayor & Chair of the meeting)

Cllr Matt Sharrocks

Cllr Adam Schofield

Cllr Beverley Dooley

Cllr Gareth Jones

Joining the meeting part way through item 2 of the agenda:

Cllr Neil Puttick

Cllr Alift Harewood

Also in attendance was the Town Clerk, Pete Turner

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Philip Bolton

Cllr Martin Hardy

2. Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 21/5/15

The minutes, having been shared with Full Council and available for inspection, were noted.

3. To consider resolutions of which written notice has been given.

- 3.1 The Town Council commissions an independent study/report on the impact of developing Churchill Way car park, including the wellbeing of local residents, street parking, pollution, shoppers/local businesses etc. etc.

The proposal, submitted in writing by Carole Waugh, was seconded by Liz Braithwaite.

Those present discussed the proposal at length identifying the opportunity to gain an alternative source of information for consideration relating to the proposed development of Churchill Way Car Park, there being concerns

relating to the impact on residents, parking, amenity and anti-social behaviour. It was also discussed that some at the meeting were unclear of the benefits of this approach at this stage.

It was suggested that a better time to address this would be during the pre-application and consultation phase of the planning application process.

The proposal was defeated
 3 votes for
 4 votes against
 2 abstentions

- 3.2 The Town Council to arrange a Public Meeting as soon as practicable where CEC and Ask Real Estate will repeat the presentation that they are to give to the Make it Macclesfield group on May 20th on their proposed development. This meeting is to be held at a time and location that is accessible to most people e.g. a weekday evening at the Town Hall or St. Michael's church.

The proposal was submitted in writing by Liz Braithwaite

Proposed by Cllr Adam Schofield and seconded by Cllr Gareth Jones

Those present discussed the benefit of public meetings, highlighting the success of recent Macclesfield Town Council engagement on local planning issues.

The proposal was successful

11 votes for

- 3.3 The Town Council attempts to raise awareness and to engage with the electorate by sending a letter to each household in the Macclesfield wards, clearly marked 'This is not a circular', that explains in layman's terms what the role of the town council is, how it differs from CEC, what wards are covered, what the web address is, where meeting notices are displayed, what a statutory consultee is, an invitation to sign up to the newsletter etc. This would be a one-off exercise.

It was commented that the Macclesfield Town Council web site was much delayed and should have been in place sooner, although it was clarified that the complexities of securing a government web domain are involved and protracted.

Those present discussed the benefits and costs associated with such an exercise and concern was raised that it would not be cost effective. It was expressed that a mechanism for engagement is events and projects, which members of the Town council had embarked on.

The submission was proposed by Liz Braithwaite but did not receive a seconder.

The proposal failed

4. To receive reports from parishioners

Ann Ross raised the suggestion that the two flagship parks of Macclesfield were in a poor state and should be invested in, seeking clarification as to the position of the Town Council with regard to ownership and investment.

It was clarified that the parks were in the ownership of Cheshire East Council and that significant investment was approved for South Park in the coming months, to include works to the tennis courts, lake, running track and consideration relating to the Pavilion

It was clarified that the Town Council, although not responsible for the parks, was able to consider providing support funding for projects in the parks.

The meeting closed at 6.41pm

Chair	Cllr Liz Durham
Clerk	Pete Turner