

MACCLESFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Macclesfield Town Council held 22nd January 2018
at **7.15pm** at Macclesfield Town Hall.

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

Also in attendance was Chief Inspector Laura Marler of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit (LPU), Mr John Parsons, Town Crier of Macclesfield acting as the Sargent at Mace and Pete Turner, the Town Clerk of Macclesfield.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Philip Bolton

Cllr Matthew Sharrocks

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

The meeting was adjourned for public comments and questions. Questions were submitted in writing by Mrs Braithwaite of Macclesfield, who was unable to attend in person.

Members were provided with a copy of the questions, which were also read out for clarity.

Question 1. Re. Agenda Item 11 on car parks, does the request to transfer car parks include Churchill Way car park? If not, please advise how local residents can nominate it as an asset of community value and have it added to the list.

Response: The request to consider transfer was issued as a request for all car parks, but we have received a very clear response from CEC that this is not going to be progressed. To nominate an asset of community

value, it is understood that this falls under the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012.

Question 2. How did the Town Council consult with its constituents before deciding to request the transfer of car parks from CEC? In a similar vein, how does MTC intend to consult with its constituents when acting as a statutory consultee on major planning applications that impact the whole community, particularly town centre redevelopment?

I refer to Section 3 of 'The good councillors guide' which states:

"As a councillor, you have a responsibility to be well-informed, especially about diverse local views. You cannot assume that you represent the interests of all your electors without consulting them." In addition the MTC Corporate Values 2.1.3 refers to Inclusion, and 11.1 refers to lack of consultation with the community as a risk/impact factor"

Response: The council did not consult prior to issuing the request to consider the transfer of the car parks. This is understandable in the context that CEC had not offered or considered to transfer these assets at this point and as such the consultation would have led to a point of non-deliverability without the prior or existing consent from CEC.

The town council holds open public Planning Committee meetings throughout the year, at which the public can engage in the consultation process, as well as the consultation led by the local planning authority regarding all planning applications. Macclesfield Town Council has held additional consultation events relating to large town centre development applications in the past. Consideration for Town Council-led consultation will take place once notice of a planning application is received. It is not appropriate to put in place a consultation process without the necessary information on which to consult.

The quote referred to (Section 3 of the Good Councillor Guide), is not quoted in completeness as that section goes on to identify large-scale consultations. The Town Council has progressed such consultations in the past and is in the process of developing consultations relating to town-specific planning issues and strategies as well as town centre master planning.

We welcome your comments and the reminder that consultation is important and the Town Council will continue to consider and identify appropriate opportunities for consultation and engagement with the community of Macclesfield.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL 27TH NOVEMBER 2017

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 24/11/17

4.2 Minutes of the Planning Committee 15/12/17

The minutes were noted

5. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

5.1 Minutes of the Finance Committee 20/11/17

The minutes were noted

6. MACCLESFIELD LOCAL POLICING UNIT

Chief Inspector Laura Marler of the Macclesfield LPU spoke to the council regarding her new position and the work of the LPU. Members requested that the police community surgeries are well advertised locally and that the smart water / Operation Shield engagement with councillors is clarified to ensure Town Councillors are engaged.

Members also expressed interest in the speed watch campaigns in South Macclesfield and the night time economy partnerships. Clarity was also sought relating to the demographics associated with drug dealing in the area.

Chief Insp Marler was thanked and was asked to pass the council's thanks on to the LPU.

7. CHRISTMAS

7.1 Christmas Lights Switch on

Members were updated on the successful delivery of the 2017 event as well as the development of plans for the 2018 event which may include more day time attractions such as market stalls and children's attractions.

8. SILK FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION PROJECT

An update relating to the early work of the group was received, with particular mention of aims to initiate arts projects with schools as well as the hope to have a Chinese New Year event in 2019.

9. TOWN CENTRE WIFI

Members were updated that the site surveys were complete and we are awaiting the findings. Agreement will be required by the asset owners prior to installation of infrastructure.

10. SENIOR CITIZENS HALL

The correspondence was noted.

11. CAR PARKS

The correspondence was noted.

12. SPEND TO DATE

RESOLVED: That the cash book was approved and spend authorised.

13. TOWN CENTRE

13.1 Master Planning

Members were updated that the project is now out to tender.

14. BUDGET SETTING 2018/19

RESOLVED: That the budget for 2018/19 as displayed in the circulated draft version 8 is approved and adopted.

15. CIVIC AWARDS

RESOLVED: That the amended policy is approved

16. PROCUREMENT POLICY

RESOLVED: That the amended policy is approved

17. MEMBER ITEMS

None

18. CORRESPONDENCE

None

19. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of Macclesfield Town Council is 7.15pm, 19th March 2018, at Macclesfield Town Hall.

Meeting Closed at 8.03pm

Chair Cllr Beverley Dooley

Clerk Pete Turner