

MACCLESFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of Full Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7.00pm at Macclesfield Town Hall.

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

Also in attendance was the Town Clerk, Pete Turner, The Civic Assistant, Harriet Worrell, Mr Trevor Langston of The Macclesfield Pledge and Mr Will McKellar of Macclesfield Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB).

The Mayor opened the meeting with a short address.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Matt Sharrocks
Cllr Philip Bolton

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Janet Jackson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 as a volunteer trustee of Macclesfield CAB.

Cllr Beverley Dooley declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 as a volunteer trustee of Macclesfield CAB.

Cllr Gareth Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in items relating to allotments, as an allotment holder in Macclesfield.

Cllr Alift Harewood declared a non-pecuniary interest in issues relating to grants as a member of the Finance Committee.

The mayor adjourned the meeting to invite questions and comments from members of the public. There being no requests to speak from the public present, the meeting was re-convened.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL 10TH NOVEMBER 2015

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

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

4.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee 9th November 2015

The minutes were noted

4.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee 30th November 2015

The minutes were noted

4.3 Draft minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee 21st December 2015

The minutes were noted

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

5.1 Draft minutes of the meeting of Finance Committee 24th November 2015

The minutes were noted

6. THE PLEDGE

Mr Trevor Langston gave a detailed presentation on the work of The Pledge and the launch of the project in Macclesfield. Members sought clarification as to the numbers of young people who have been placed through the pledge since its launch in March and were informed that there had been 10 placements so far. It was also stated that in Macclesfield there were currently more placements available than young people to fill them.

Members supported The Pledge's aim to develop employability skills for young people and spoke on the low wages associated with apprenticeships, which may be an obstacle to independent living.

Mr Langston was thanked for his presentation.

RESOLVED: That Macclesfield Town Council supports the work of The Macclesfield Pledge in principle.

7. CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU

Mr Will McKellar, Chief Officer of Macclesfield CAB, gave a detailed presentation on the work and financial position of the CAB in Macclesfield.

Members sought clarification on the work being done to ensure CAB was having a full review of its service provision and efficiency, which Mr McKellar confirmed was ongoing. It was also clarified that other nearby town councils support the work of this CAB office financially.

Councillors requested that greater detail associated with the finances of the organisation should be supplied, but also discussed the risk to the delivery of quality local services.

It was clarified that the majority of service users are Macclesfield residents and that moving offices to save money was an option but could impact on accessibility to the services of CAB.

Members asked if there was a sustainable model for combined services with similar organisations, such as Age Concern and the Disability Information Bureau and it was confirmed that this was possible and being explored.

Mr McKellar was thanked for his presentation.

8. COUNCIL SPEND TO DATE

The spend schedule was noted.

9. BUDGET SETTING 2016/17

RESOLVED: That the draft budget as presented to this council for 2016/17 is approved.

10. DRAFT CORPORATE STRATEGY

Members discussed at length the circulated draft strategy. It was suggested that the council might prioritise the strategy to target delivery and that the process might benefit from public consultation. It was clarified that public comments received had been included and that councillor surgeries could be used to further inform the strategy. Members reflected that a recent public meeting had received positive feedback from the community.

Through the communications group (Website and Communication Strategy Working Group WCSWG)), further detail regarding a draft consultation schedule will be shared with members for comments, prior to commencing consultation on the draft strategy.

The draft strategy document was noted.

11. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

RESOLVED: That the draft Health Safety Policy as presented to this council is approved.

12. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Town Meeting is set for Tuesday 17th May at 6pm

13. CORRESPONDENCE

13.1 Macclesfield Disability Information Bureau (DIB)

Members discussed the correspondence but reflected that they felt too little information was included to enable members to give proper consideration to the needs of the organisation.

It was also considered that the funding issues being reflected by both CAB and DIB may well be affecting other service providers in the town. Members again discussed that consideration should be given to the consolidation of services from different organisations in the town where possible to save operational costs over all and that any funding opportunities the Town Council might identify should be open to as many third sector service providers in the town as possible.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council convenes a special meeting with a view to reviewing and potentially supporting at risk services in Macclesfield.

14. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of Macclesfield Town Council is yet to be confirmed following the resolution associated with agenda item 13.1. The next scheduled meeting is 7pm, 8th March 2016, at Macclesfield Town Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.06pm

Chairman - Cllr Liz Durham

Clerk – Pete Turner