

MACCLESFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Macclesfield Town Council held on Monday 25th September 2017 at **7.15pm** at Macclesfield Town Hall.

In attendance: Cllr Beverley Dooley
Cllr Philip Bolton
Cllr Gareth Jones
Cllr Liz Durham,
Cllr Alift Harewood MBE
Cllr Janet Jackson
Cllr Neil Puttick
Cllr Chris Andrew
Cllr Matt Sharrocks

Also in attendance was the Civic Officer and the Town Clerk

The meeting opened with the presentation of the Past Mayor's Medal to Cllr Alift Harewood MBE (Mayor of Macclesfield 2016/17)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Martin Hardy
Cllr Adam Schofield
Cllr Ainsley Arnold

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Dooley declared a pecuniary interest in Item 10 of the agenda, left the meeting for the duration of the discussion and took no part in the decision

Cllr Chris Andrew was appointed by the members present as chair for Item 10 of the agenda.

There were no members of the public in attendance wishing to address the council.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL 19TH JUNE 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 16/06/17

4.2 Minutes of the Planning Committee 07/07/17

4.3 Minutes of the Planning Committee 01/09/17

The minutes were noted

5. MINUTES OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEE

5.1 Minutes of the Services Committee 10/07/17

5.2 Draft minutes of the Services Committee 11/09/17

The minutes and draft minutes were noted

6. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

6.1 Minutes of the Finance Committee 17/07/17

The minutes were noted

7. CADET

Cdt Kieron Forshaw, of Macclesfield Air Cadets 201 Squadron, was received as the Mayor's Cadet for 2017/18 and received his insignia of office.

8. MACCLESFIELD LOCAL POLICING UNIT

Sgt Rob Simpson gave a detailed overview of the new facilities and resources funded by Macclesfield Council. He explained that the new bikes are used daily and have been effective in addressing a number of incidents around the town. These include interventions relation to anti-social behaviour, road traffic issues and improper use of the pavement for cycling.

Sgt Simpson clarified that Operation Shield is due for delivery in the coming weeks, that the covert cameras are ready to be deployed and await a suitably authorise operation and that the schools engagement resources are in regular use in the schools in Macclesfield.

Other work of the Local Policing unit included targeting the supply of drugs in Macclesfield, crimes against works vehicles (theft from tradesman vehicles) and speed limit enforcement. It was clarified that a Community Speed Monitoring project could be established in Macclesfield.

9. CHRISTMAS

9.1 Christmas Lights Switch on

Cllr Dooley gave an overview of the work being carried out to deliver the Christmas Lights and Christmas Lights Switch on event for 2017. Thanking the Civic Officer for her work on this service, the Mayor clarified that much of the planning was already in place and would be in line with previous years.

9.2 Security and safety

The Town Clerk made members aware of the growing commitment to security at events in light of recent attacks on public events around the country. These emerging requirements will impact on resources and the council will need to consider its ongoing commitment of event delivery and how to properly resource this service.

9.3 Heritage Centre Christmas Tree

Clarifying that the lights for the Heritage Centre Christmas Tree were damaged last year, members were asked to consider if the tree should be installed this year and new lights provided.

RESOLVED: That the Heritage Centre Tree is provided as per previous years with new lights purchased and installed by competent professionals.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

Cllr Dooley left the meeting and Cllr Andrew took the chair for this item.

Cllr Andrew read out an email from Cllr Schofield seeking public consultation on the development of a NDP.

Members discussed at length the benefits and constraints of delivering a Neighbourhood Plan, clarifying that the expectations of a Macclesfield NDP may be far in excess of what could be delivered. Members commented that the community has expressed clear objection to green field and green belt development around Macclesfield, but that the vast majority of the designated development sites and safeguarded land are sited outside of the Macclesfield Boundary.

Members also commented on the costs associated with delivering a NDP for Macclesfield, particularly in light of the limited available influence a NDP could deliver. Clarifying that Macclesfield would be the largest council yet to consider the creation of a NDP, the costs for such a plan would be very high (estimated in excess of £100,000).

It was also expressed that members had not been able to identify any examples of a NDP preventing development. Also that the Local Plan for Cheshire East is the primary development document for Macclesfield and any NDP would need to fit in with the Local Plan and its policies and designations.

Members discussed the opportunity to consult on the option to create a NDP for Macclesfield, raising concern that the community may have greater expectations of the possible influence of a NDP than is achievable.

RESOLVED:

- i. That Macclesfield Council engages consultants to draft the content and questions of a NDP public consultation project
- ii. That a budget of £25,000 is set for the consultation
- iii. That the proposed form and content of the draft consultation is approved by Council prior to consultation commencing

11. SILK FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION PROJECT

RESOLVED:

- i. That Macclesfield Council initiates a new project to promote cultural links with Xi'an
- ii. That the project is delivered by a Working Group of Macclesfield Council
- iii. That the governance and terms of reference for this working group form an early item on the agenda of the group's first meeting
- iv. That the working group is open to non-elected members
- v. That the working group reports to council on its progress
- vi. That the working group aims to contact communities with links to Xi'an living in the UK
- vii. That the initial working Group membership is Cllrs G Jones, M Sharrocks, B Dooley, J Jackson and that Mr G Barlow is invited to join (Note: Cllr A Arnold has previously been involved and may express interest to join)

12. TOWN CENTRE WIFI

RESOLVED: That the recommendation of the Services Committee is approved, such that the self-managed proposal from Inkspot Wifi is the chosen delivery option

13. TOWN CENTRE WASTE AND RECYCLING

Members discussed at length the provision of recycling bins for the town centre, identifying the sustainability benefits of the pilot, should it prove to be successful. Members also identified that the proposed dog fouling bag dispensers should be located around the town at locations prone to on going dog fouling issues and popular with dog walkers.

RESOLVED:

- i. That 2 recycle bins are funded in the town centre for an initial pilot project and their efficacy and appropriateness to be reviewed after 13 weeks

- ii. That dog fouling bag dispensers are installed at points advised by ANSA around the town and their efficacy and appropriateness to be reviewed after 1 year.

14. SENIOR CITIZENS HALL

The communication was noted

15. PROMOTING MACCLESFIELD

RESOLVED: That Council approves the recommendations of the Services Committee, such that:

- i. The website is reviewed and redesigned to meet the changing needs and varied expectations of its users, with a proposed budget of £10,000
- ii. The new website is supported with back-office resources (templates) to ensure consistency of branding.
- iii. A project to deliver the promotion of Macclesfield as a destination for activity breaks is commissioned
- iv. The promotional project is committed to for 6 months and its value measured and reported for review of its success.
- v. The proposed redesigned website and promotion of Macclesfield as a destination are linked in terms of branding and user recognition, such that the two projects are delivered in tandem.

16. SPEND TO DATE

RESOLVED: That the council's spend to date and bank reconciliation are authorised and received.

17. AUDIT 2016/17

RESOLVED: To accept and approve the conclusion of audit 2016/17

18. PROJECT DELIVERY

RESOLVED: That Council approves the recommendations of the Services Committee, such that:

- i. That this committee recommends the creation of a project support officer role to consolidate the service delivery capacity of the council
- ii. That this committee advises council of its recommendations
- iii. That, subject to council approval, the Personnel Committee is instructed to define the job description and scaling of the proposed support post and to progress the process of recruitment and appointment

19. MEMBER ITEMS

19.1 Recording meetings

Members discussed the benefits of recording all meetings for administrative clarity when reviewing minutes as well as transparency.

RESOLVED: That Council and Committee meetings are recorded and the recording saved for the benefit of future referral for clarity when approving minutes.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

20.1 Lord Mayor of Manchester

The correspondence was noted.

21. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of Macclesfield Town Council is 7pm, 27th November 2017, at Macclesfield Town Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.17pm

Chair: Cllr B Dooley (Cllr C Andrew for Item 10 only)
Clerk: Pete Turner