

MACCLESFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Macclesfield Town Council held 27th November 2017 at **7.15pm** at Macclesfield Town Hall.

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

Also in attendance was the Town Crier, John Parsons in the role of Sargent at Mace, and the Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Ainsley Arnold
Cllr Martin Hardy

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Janet Jackson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9 as trustee of the CAB

Cllr Beverley Dooley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9 as trustee of the CAB

The meeting was adjourned and the council was addressed by Dorothy Bentley Smith.

Mrs Bentley Smith sought support from the council for the return of two busts, currently housed at the West Park Museum, to the Town Hall, suggesting that they be placed on the stairs, either side of the display cabinet. Mrs Bentley Smith expressed clear concern relating to the risk of damage relating to the two busts.

Mrs Bentley Smith also raised clear concern relating to the display and maintenance of items at both the Silk Heritage Museum and the Old

Sunday School, referencing specific items and visits to both locations when she identified displays in poor lighting and also items toppled over. Mrs Bentley Smith also expressed that she would be happy to provide the council with a presentation or briefing relating to her recent visit to China. Mrs Bentley Smith was thanked.

The meeting was reconvened

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL 25TH SEPTEMBER 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 22/9/17

4.2 Minutes of the Planning Committee 13/10/17

Noted

5. MINUTES OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEE

5.1 Draft minutes of the Services Committee 13/11/17

Noted

6. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

6.1 Minutes of the Finance Committee 18/9/17

Noted

7. MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

7.1 Draft minutes of the Personnel Committee 11/10/17

Noted

8. MACCLESFIELD LOCAL POLICING UNIT

Sgt Rob Simpson of the Macclesfield LPU gave an update on local policing initiatives and the deployment of equipment funded by the council. It was clarified that the Local Policing Unit has moved on to a Christmas Shift pattern to meet the expected seasonal change in town centre night time economy as well as season opportunistic criminals.

Sgt Simpson also gave some information to support the request from the covert police projects team (previously referred to as CID) for specific covert equipment to improve the efficacy of their work to gather evidence to support convictions of drug dealers coming to the town currently.

Members sought to gather as much information as possible, understanding the need for sensitivity relating to the equipment requested. It was identified that it is hard to agree funding for an item as yet not fully described but members expressed support for the local policing unit as well as thanks for a close working relationship with the council.

RESOLVED: That the funding of £13,081.46 requested is approved.

9. CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Members noted the recommendation of the Finance Committee relating to the increase in annual funding. Mr McKellar, the Chief Officer of Macclesfield CAB, gave details to clarify sustainability models being explored, income sources, fund raising and also the internal mechanism of finance with the CAB relating to Cross Charges.

RESOLVED: That council directs the Finance Committee to include £31,061 for the CAB funding within the draft budget for 2018/19

10. CHRISTMAS

10.1 Christmas Lights Switch on

Cllr Dooley gave a brief update on the delivery of the Christmas Lights Switch On Event. It was expressed that the event was delivered and received positively. The hard work of Harriet and Helena was noted for both the preparation for the event and on the day professionalism. It was noted that the event debrief will take place in the coming days and a fuller formal report will be delivered to Council at the next opportunity.

11. SILK FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION PROJECT

The update on progress is noted

12. TOWN CENTRE WIFI

RESOLVED: That the Elephant Wifi proposal is chosen as the delivery option for Town Centre Wifi in Macclesfield

13. SENIOR CITIZENS HALL

The update correspondence from Cheshire East Council is noted

14. TRAIN STATION

Members expressed support for the proposed enhancement, also seeking to consider further enhancements in that area, such as the railway bridge.

RESOLVED: That the council explores the delivery, costs and design of the entrance feature to Macclesfield at the train station

15. CHESHIRE EAST DRAFT BUDGET

Members noted that the 2018/19 draft budget for Cheshire East included investment in the Macclesfield Leisure Centre, which was welcomed. However, it was also noted that reductions in funding for the Silk Heritage Museums and also the reduction in library services in area was concerning. It was commented that such a reduction in funding for the museums would likely create a critical financial situation within the local heritage delivery.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the council responds to the consultation to seek that the funding for the Silk Heritage Trust is not reduced by Cheshire East Council
- ii. That the council responds to the consultation to express disappointment at the perceived reduction of library services in the North and East of the borough, but not in other areas.
- iii. That the Finance Committee is guided to include £10,000 funding for the Silk Heritage Trust in the Macclesfield Council 2018/19 draft budget.

16. CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

The consultation is noted

17. PUBLIC TOILETS

RESOLVED: That the council investigates the costs, permissions and project requirements for the principle of a public convenience unit in the town centre.

18. CAR PARKS

Members discussed at length the opportunities for parking provision to support the town centre economy and regeneration. It was discussed that income surplus could be ring-fenced for Macclesfield town centre regeneration projects. It was also commented that the pay and display mechanism and operation could be improved for greater efficiency, such as barrier systems.

RESOLVED:

- i. That this council requests from Cheshire East that parking is free within and around the town centre of Macclesfield on the six annual bank holidays
- ii. That this council formally requests the transfer of Macclesfield car parks to Macclesfield Council

19. MACCLESFIELD SHOW

Members thanked the Community Engagement Officer and supported the format and branding of the event.

RESOLVED: That Bare Bones Marketing is selected as the promotion and event support agency.

20. PARKS & PLAY AREAS

RESOLVED: That, subject to full cost and project proposals, delegated to be assessed and approved by the Services Committee, the additional provision of play equipment for Hall Grove Tytherington and High Street / St George's Street play areas is approved.

21. SPEND TO DATE

RESOLVED: The Cashbook, Bank Reconciliation and payments are approved

22. GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Action: To review and adopt amended governance documentation

22.1 Finance Committee Terms of reference

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference are adopted.

22.2 Financial Regulations

RESOLVED: That the Financial Regulations are adopted.

22.3 Financial Risk Assessment

RESOLVED: That the Financial Risk Assessment is adopted.

22.4 Procurement Policy

RESOLVED: That the Procurement Policy is adopted.

22.5 Equality Policy

RESOLVED: That the Equality Policy is adopted.

23. TOWN CENTRE

23.1 CEC 5 Year Strategy

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk drafts a response to the consultation for circulation and comment by members prior to submission.

23.2 Master Planning

RESOLVED:

- i. That Macclesfield Council begins a process of town centre master planning, project delegated to the Town Clerk
- ii. That the master planning engages appropriate professionals
- iii. That the master planning ensures detailed community engagement and consultation
- iv. That the ward members and the Chair of the Planning Committee are lead members for the project, overseeing the development of the master plan and reporting back to council.
- v. That an initial budget is set at £30,000

24. MEMBER ITEMS

None

25. CORRESPONDENCE

None

26. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of Macclesfield Town Council is 7.15pm, 22nd January 2018, at Macclesfield Town Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.51pm

Chair Cllr Beverley Dooley
Clerk Pete Turner