

MACCLESFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of Macclesfield Town Council held 19th March 2018
at **7.15pm** at Macclesfield Town Hall.

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

Also in attendance was the Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Matt Sharrocks

Cllr Martin Hardy

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Dooley declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10 of the agenda, having been involved as a Cheshire East Council ward member

The meeting was adjourned for public comments and questions.

Liz Welton – Chair – Activity in Retirement (AIR)

Ms Welton gave details of the long service the group has provided at the Senior Citizens' Hall. The value of the volunteer-led activities was highlighted, including physical activity, reduction in isolation, benefits to physical and mental health and overall well being of the 700 registered service users.

John Martin of AIR

Explained that AIR is a charity that delivered 716 attendancies in February 2018 to activities, which extrapolates to around 8500 through a full year of service. Mr Martin expressed that AIR is cost effective and accessible and reinforced the value of tackling loneliness in old age in terms of well being and companionship.

Liz Braithwaite – Macclesfield Town Residents Association

Ms Braithwaite submitted the below statement in writing and expressed that she hoped that the Planning Committee would represent the views in the statement and that she will be attending the next Planning Committee.

“Macclesfield Town Residents Association wishes to request that Macclesfield Town Council Planning Committee discusses Planning Application 18/1198M with Macclesfield Town Residents Association, and any other residents of the town, and uses the outcome of this discussion to inform any observations that MTC makes on the application in its role as a statutory consultee. We would like to request that this meeting is held at a mutually convenient time as morning meetings exclude working residents, and bear in mind that the last date for comments is April 11th.

The main reasons for this request include, but are not restricted to, the following:

- The impact of this application on residential amenity*
- Our belief that this is not a straightforward application e.g. it refers to change of use from A1, A3 and B2 when the applicant does not have A3 or B2 use in the first place (a change of use from A1 to A3 was refused in 2015 15/4703M); there are outstanding complaints about the business with Environmental Health and CEC planning; the applicant has started unapproved work on the premises (the current layout in the application does not reflect the actual layout at the time of submission); it is not clear what the main business is intended to be – the applicant has a FSA food hygiene rating that states it is 'manufacturing and packaging' although this is not in the change of use application etc.*
- Planning application 15/4703M and its outcome is relevant and should be taken into account when considering this application*
- No engagement by the applicant with their neighbours*

Given the complexity of the above we feel that it is necessary for the town council to engage with its residents.

Thank you in anticipation."

Ms Kalini Kent – Bullying 360

Ms Kent delivered a presentation relating to her work tackling the effects and causes of bullying. She explained that this is an holistic approach to the complex issues surround impact and cause of bullying.

The speakers were thanked for their contributions to the meeting.

The meeting was reconvened.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL 22ND JANUARY 2018

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 12/01/18

4.2 Minutes of the Planning Committee 02/02/18

4.3 Minutes of the Planning Committee 23/02/18

The minutes were noted

5. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

5.1 Minutes of the Finance Committee 15/01/18

The minutes were noted

6. MINUTES OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEE

6.1 Draft minutes of the Services Committee 05/02/18

The minutes were noted

7. COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY

7.1 Macclesfield Local Policing Unit

The written submission by the Local Policing Unit was noted

7.2 Disability Information Bureau (DIB)

Members discussed at length the submission for funding from DIB, taking the opportunity to ask the offices of DIB in attendance questions relating to financial sustainability. It was clarified that Macclesfield Council does not as a matter of practice generally fund salaries and the DIB was asked to consider other aspects of service that could be funded that might free up their own funds to deliver this approach to financial sustainability.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the funding is approved for 1 year for £17,000
- ii. That the detailed agreement relating to the funding allocation is delegated to the Town Clerk

7.3 Active Macclesfield

Members sought clarification relating to what facilities the funding would pay for. It was clarified that the project sought to engage those residents that do not engage with physical activity through trusted community motivators, that this project did not relate to equipment. It was also clarified that a pilot project of this nature had delivered lasting engagement with active lifestyle choices among individuals who had previously not been engaged with physical activity.

Members expressed that the cost of the project did not demonstrate value for money as it would engage a relatively low number of residents.

RESOLVED: That the request for funding was declined.

7.4 Town Maintenance

RESOLVED:

- i. Options Appraisal Consultation - Provide an options appraisal in accessible terms, phrases and forms that can be the basis for consultation with the community, visitors and businesses that will seek their views on littering, dog fouling and gully clearance and whether additional provision/investment is supported.
- ii. Partner engagement
Gain clear insight of existing provision as commissioned by CEC to fully understand opportunities for enhanced services
- iii. Subject to the responses to consultation and partner engagement, MTC will be asked to consider the provision of additional services, through direct delivery and/or commissioning, and to make appropriate provision within the budget setting process for 2019/20.

8. TOWN CENTRE

8.1 Master Planning

The update was noted

8.2 Town Centre Wifi

The update was noted

8.3 Notice boards

RESOLVED: That the digital notice board project is ceased

8.4 Train station

RESOLVED: That a budget of £15,000 is set for the delivery of this project

8.5 Licencing

RESOLVED: That adopting responsibility for public realm licences is approved.

8.6 Toilet

Members discussed multiple options for the provision of public toilets within the town centre, identifying that past attempts to adopt a comfort scheme had not been successful due to lack of support from businesses.

RESOLVED: That the owners of Craven House are approached to see if the existing facilities can be reopened through leasing or purchasing of the facilities.

9. SILK FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION PROJECT

The update was noted

10. SENIOR CITIZENS HALL

RESOLVED:

- i. That council agrees the principle of accepting the transfer of the Senior Citizens Hall
- ii. That the Town Clerk continues to negotiate with CEC with regard to the transfer of the Senior Citizens Hall, in consultation with ward members.
- iii. That council consideration of any final agreement is sought prior to finalising any transfer of asset or other action.
- iv. That future consideration for alternative operating models is put before council at the earliest opportunity.

11. WESTON BENCHES

Members agreed that the installation should go ahead as planned, noting that consultation with neighbours had highlighted their concerns relating to potential for anti-social behaviour.

12. COMMUNICATIONS TOURISM

The update was noted

13. CAR PARKS

(Cllr Durham took no part in this discussion, having had involvement with parking within Cheshire East Council)

RESOLVED: That members will submit their comments relating to the strategy to the Town Clerk, who will collate a corporate response on behalf of Macclesfield Council.

14. PARKS PLAY AREAS

RESOLVED:

- i. That council approves £100,000 spend on the Hall Grove and High Street play areas
- ii. That selection of preferred tender submission is delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with ward members

15. INTERNAL AUDIT

RESOLVED: The Interim Internal Audit is approved

16. SPEND TO DATE

RESOLVED: The payment schedules totalling £160,946.99 for the months of December 2017, January 2018 and February 2018 are approved

17. GOVERNANCE REVIEW

17.1 Quality Policy

The policy was reviewed and accepted

17.2 Procurement Policy

The policy was reviewed and accepted

17.3 ICT Policy

The policy was reviewed and accepted

17.4 Information and Data Protection Policy

The policy was reviewed and accepted

17.5 Investment Policy

The policy was reviewed and accepted

17.6 Publication Scheme

RESOLVED: The policy is approved and adopted

18. MEMBER ITEMS

18.1 Macclesfield Town FC Promotion Celebrations

RESOLVED:

- i. That provision is made for an open top bus parade through the town centre and a civic reception, should Macclesfield Town Football Club be promoted to League 2 in 2018.
- ii. That Menna Fitzpatrick and Jennifer Kehoe are invited to attend a civic reception in recognition of their medal winning performance in Pyeonchang.
- iii. That consideration for a permanent tribute to the achievements of Menna Fitzpatrick is considered in consultation with Menna.

19. CORRESPONDENCE

19.1 Oil Painting

RESOLVED: That the offer is accepted subject to a limit on costs of transport.

20. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of Macclesfield Town Council is 7pm, 14th May 2018, at Macclesfield Town Hall, this will be the Annual General Meeting of the council.