

MACCLESFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes for the meeting held on Tuesday, 9th June 2015 at 7.00pm at Macclesfield Town Hall.

In attendance:

Cllr A Arnold

Cllr P Bolton

Cllr B Dooley

Cllr L Durham (Mayor)

Cllr M Hardy

Cllr J Jackson

Cllr G Jones

Cllr N Puttick

Cllr M Sharrocks

Also in attendance was the clerk, Pete Turner and CEBC Town Centres Manager Diane Smith.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr G Jones declared a disclosable non-pecuniary interest in item 7, being an allotment tenant in the town.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There being two members of the public present interested in item 7, it was agreed that they could speak at that point in the agenda.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk highlighted the details of the circulated report, such that there being 8 nominated members for the committee and committees being restricted to 7 members. This meant members needed to agree the 7 members of the committee.

Each member gave a brief verbal overview of their experience and suitability for the committee.

The clerk gave the members the opportunity to discuss the issue and consider the opportunity for a proposal. The clerk clarified that if no agreement for membership could be achieved at this meeting then the meeting would be closed without considering the remainder of the agenda and the membership of this committee would be considered at the next full council meeting.

The clerk circulated a voting paper with the eight members' names and requested that each member vote for seven of the names on the paper.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.18 whilst the voting was counted and reconvened at 7.20.

The clerk informed the meeting of the three names with equal fewest votes (Cllrs Jackson, Puttick and Sharrocks) and there being no proposal from the members the meeting was again adjourned at 7.22 for members to take a moment to discuss a solution.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.25.

Resolved:

- i. That Cllr Sharrocks step down from membership of the committee and Cllrs Jackson and Puttick be confirmed as members of the committee.
- ii. That Cllr Sharrocks is not co-opted to this committee.

4. CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

4.1 Elect the Chairman of the Services Committee

Resolved:

That Cllr Hardy is elected as Chairman of this committee

4.2 Elect the Vice Chairman of the Services Committee

Resolved:

That Cllr Bolton is elected as Vice-Chairman of this committee

5. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (21/5/15)

5.1 Website and Communications Strategy Working Group

Members discussed at length the opportunities and options for clear and effective communication, Members were enthusiastic and committed to ensuring the Town Council achieve a suitable communications strategy that encompassed traditional and modern media.

The clerk clarified that the group is a formal aspect of the Town Council and as such must have meeting agendas, notes, a chairman and provide reports to the committee as a standing item on the agenda.

Resolved:

- i. That the Website and Communications Strategy Working Group (WCSWG) be established.

- ii. That it have up to 5 members
- iii. That it reports to the Services Committee
- iv. That it considers the creation of a Town Council website and all aspects associated with that
- v. That it secures a suitable domain name
- vi. That it considers fully all appropriate forms of communication, including the provision of councillor and officer email addresses and the branding of the council.
- vii. That it works within current and informs future budgets
- viii. That accessibility of information be a core aim
- ix. That the initial membership of the group includes Cllrs Puttick, Sharrocks, Schofield and CEBC Town Centres Manager Diane Smith

5.2 Town Entry Signs

Diane Smith gave a detailed insight in to the work already carried out by her and groups in Macclesfield with regard to town entry signs. The current signage is considered in poor order and renewal of the signage would benefit the town.

Members commented on the need for the signage to be eye catching, to include the town council's crest/logo. Concerns were raised with regard to the costs associated with creating and installing new signage and members considered options for sponsorship.

Resolved:

That the issue of town entry signs be delegated to the WCSWG.

6. ASSET AND SERVICE DEVOLUTION FROM CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

The clerk gave a brief overview of asset transfer from Cheshire East Council, however, despite having attempted to progress the matter with Cheshire East, there was no information available as yet. The clerk is meeting with the relevant Cheshire East officer on 11th June 2015.

Cllr Dooley was keen to clarify the costs associated with the Christmas Lights and is to seek clarification from Cheshire East Council officers.

Resolved:

That the item be deferred to the next meeting of this committee.

7. ALLOTMENTS

This item on the agenda was opened with a question from the members of the public at the meeting.

Ms Mandy Berry, representing South Park Allotments Association commented that the group she represents has been effectively running the allotments site at South Park for around a year, including allotment finances. That the committee

established there had been working on improvements on the site, with no help from the current operating authority.

Ms Berry indicated that around 50% of the site is effectively unoccupied, although the operating authority suggest that most plots are occupied, even though the plots appear abandoned.

Ms Berry asked if the new Macclesfield Town Council, as the new owners of the allotments will be treating allotment tenants any better than they feel they have been treated by Cheshire East Council.

Ms Berry also asked how the town council might manage the sites, such operating each site with direct management, or through allotment associations and/or a federation of associations.

The clerk clarified that the current ownership of the allotments is not yet finalised as no legal transfer through the Land Registry has been effected. There is also the requirement for the town council to be fully informed with regard to condition surveys, existing liabilities, details of occupancy and tenures as well as outstanding operational issues.

Members expressed their support allotments and thanked Ms Berry for speaking to the council.

The item was deferred to the next meeting of this committee.

8. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Services Committee will be at Macclesfield Town Hall on Tuesday 21st July 2015 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 8.27pm

Chair MH

Clerk PT