

# **Macclesfield Town Council Full Council Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7pm at Macclesfield Town Hall.

## **In Attendance:**

- Cllr Sandy Livingstone
- Cllr Emma Gilman
- Cllr David Edwardes
- Cllr Mick Warren
- Cllr Chris Wilcock
- Cllr Alift Harewood
- Cllr James Barber
- Cllr Mike Hutchison
- Cllr Sarrah- Bennett-Wake
- Cllr Sam Hale
- Cllr Ruth Thompson

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Fiona Wilson

## **2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **Public Questions**

The meeting was adjourned to invite comments and questions from the public.

There were no public speakers.

The meeting was then reconvened.

## **3 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**Resolved:** The minutes were approved.

## **4 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**Resolved:** There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## **5 Planning Committee**

### **5.1 Planning Committee Minutes 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

### **5.2 Planning Committee Minutes 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

### **5.3 Planning Committee Minutes 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

The minutes were noted.

### **5.4 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

## **6 Services Committee**

### **6.1 Services Committee Minutes 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

The minutes were noted.

### **6.2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

## **7 Finance Committee**

### **7.1 Finance Committee Minutes 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

The minutes were noted.

### **7.2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**7.3 Resolved:** The spend to date of £723,375 was approved by the Finance Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

## **8 Community Delivery**

### **8.1 Local Police Unit**

Chief Inspector Zoe Bowden attended from the Local Police Unit.

HMIC Inspection: She updated response times & performance as follows:

Cheshire as a whole non-emergency response time: 4 min 14 sec – improvement.

999 calls: 93% answered within 10 seconds (Macclesfield).

Grade 1 incidents: 93% attended within 15 mins (previously 88%-92%).

Grade 2 incidents: 90% attended within 60 mins (previously 88%).

20% of crimes in Macclesfield result in charges.

- Sexual offences charges are the 2nd highest charge rate nationally,
- Robbery charges are the 11th nationally.
- Racial crimes charges are 9th nationally.

They are in the top 5 for crimes being brought to justice.

Arrests have increased this quarter – 18,000 incidents (Oct-Dec 2024). Incident Data is Grade 1 calls: 441 per month and Grade 2 calls: 437 per month.

Macclesfield Central make up 33% of reports.

Middlewich custody suite upgraded and prisoner booking now takes 4 minutes, which is much improved.

Upcoming:

- Roads Crime Units increasing focus on vehicle crime.
- Operation Fierce targeting burglars using footwear impressions as forensic evidence and they now have footwear scanners.
- Facial recognition is being expanded for shoplifting, vehicle stops, and CCTV – working well with Ring doorbells.
- Day of Action (June): Addressing resident concerns through community engagement.
- Operation Sidelines: Extra policing in hotspot areas which is government funded.
- Multi-agency Beat Managers Meetings taking place collaborating with statutory partners.
- Community cohesion groups are expanding into high schools.

Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake asked about the numbers of domestic abuse crimes. CI Bowden did not have them to hand but can provide them.

Cllr David Edwardes asked if they could have the PCSO mobile phone numbers, CI Bowden replied yes and that the Cheshire Police Website: Includes team details. However this does need to be updated due to changes,

Cllr Edwardes asked if they could continue to receive local incident updates and continue to get the newsletter.

Cllr Edwardes also brought up concerns of the Silk Road Noise. CI Bowden said that the police provide speed and accident data to Highways and Cheshire East Council, who would ultimately make the changes,

Cllr Mike Hutchison asked about how shoplifting was dealt with, CI Bowden replied that first-time offenders may receive community resolution (apology & repayment), and repeat offenders are prosecuted.

They encouraged use of CCTV in shops but said quality remains an issue; facial recognition is being utilised to good effect.

Cllr Alift Harewood asked who the PCSO was on the Weston, CI Bowden said she would email the Councillor.

## **8.2 CAB**

Chief Officer, Will McKellar attended to update on the Citizens Advice Bureau.

He said figures were down last quarter due to Christmas, but income gained for residents increased by £10,000. 80% of their contact with clients

is face-to-face, unlike many other CABs this branch priorities in-person support as many clients struggle with self-help and online searches.

The top issues they have dealt with in the last quarter were debt, relationship issues and housing. This is rising and there are concerns this is due to lack of affordable social housing.

They have developed their service and increased their capacity to support families through partnerships with Children's Hubs and the Local Authority.

They also now offer support at The Core in the Upton to improve accessibility.

Cllr Sandy Livingstone congratulated CAB on their success in income maximisation and quality of information.

Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake thanked Will and emphasised that people should seek help rather than struggle. She highlighted the report's indication of a greater need for social housing.

She also asked about switching utilities and the benefit of smart meters.

Will said that the benefits of smart meters include monitoring and controlling usage, but CAB does not formally recommend them.

Cllr Edwardes asked about enquiries related to potholes and car issues and Will confirmed that only a small number of people seek advice on these matters.

### **8.3 CCTV**

CCTV representatives did not turn up to the meeting.

### **8.4 Silk Museum**

Emma Anderson, director of the Silk Museum Trust attended to give updates. She described the situation as positive but acknowledged ongoing challenges. Fundraising efforts continue with plans to convert the old café into a community hub. The museum also aims to offer more space for community use. Some resources have been allocated towards the Tunncliffe Garden and Britain in Bloom, and they are currently awaiting a response from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The exhibition program remains active, providing a much-needed space for people to showcase their events. A US company has offered sponsorship to repair some of the looms, which will enable the museum to restore part of the site into a working mill.

Financially, there have been difficulties as some partner organisations have folded, including SUSO and IDST, both of which previously used rooms at the Heritage Centre. However, Pink College will be taking over the space. In response to these changes, the museum is looking to expand the availability of spaces for hire.

Emma announced that Chair John Varney is stepping down, with Hannah Williamson appointed as interim Chair and Cllr James Barber-Chadwick as Vice Chair. The museum is still seeking new trustees to support its work.

Cllr David Edwardes asked about potential collaboration with the Silk Road CIC and mentioned that two groups of Chinese schoolchildren would be visiting Macclesfield. Emma welcomed the idea and expressed enthusiasm for engaging with young visitors. Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake raised the

possibility of working with other museums in the region, particularly in partnership with educational institutions such as universities and colleges. She believed there was a valuable opportunity for long-term collaboration. The Mayor concluded the discussion by publicly thanking John Varney for his dedication and service as Chair of the Trust.

## **9 Governance Review**

### **9.1 Retention Schedule**

### **9.2 Access Control Policy**

**Resolved:** The above policies were approved.

## **10 Calendar of Meetings**

**Resolved:** The calendar of meetings for 25/26 was approved.

## **11 South Park Pavilion Update Report for Council**

**Resolved:** The proposal was approved.

## **12 Town Centre Regeneration Working Group**

The report was noted.

## **13 Parks and Play Areas**

The report was noted.

## **14 Library Funding**

**Resolved:** The funding for the library and the VIC was approved.

## **15 Date/Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at the Town Hall.

Meeting closed: 8.35pm

Chair: Cllr Sandy Livingstone

Clerk: Laura Smith