



Macclesfield Town Council Full Council Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the on 15th December 2025 at 7pm at
Macclesfield Town Hall.

In Attendance:

Cllr Emma Gilman
Cllr James Barber-Chadwick
Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake
Cllr Sam Hale
Cllr Mike Hutchison
Cllr Sandy Livingstone
Cllr Ruth Thompson
Cllr Mick Warren
Cllr Chris Wilcock
Cllr Fiona Wilson

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr David Edwardes
Cllr Alift Harwood

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Warren declared a non-pecuniary interest in 8.4 as a friend of the Silk Trustee Chair.

Cllr Bennett-Wake declared a non-pecuniary interest in 8.2 as a trustee of the CAB.

Cllr Barber-Chadwick declared a non-pecuniary interest in 8.4 as a trustee if the Silk Museum.

Public Questions

There were no public questions.

3 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 22nd September 2025

Resolved: The minutes were approved.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Resolved: There were no matters arising.

5 Planning Committee

5.1 Planning Committee Minutes 17th September 2025

5.2 Planning Committee Minutes 12th November 2025

The minutes were noted.

5.3 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

6 Finance Committee

6.1 Finance Committee 29th September 2025

6.2 Finance Committee 17th November 2025.

The minutes were noted.

6.3 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

6.4 The spend to date of £547,064 as recommended by the Finance Committee 17/11/25 was approved.

7 Services Committee

7.1 Services committee Minutes 13th October 2025

7.2 Services committee Minutes 1st December 2025

The minutes were noted.

7.3 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes

8 Community Delivery

8.1 Local Police Unit

The LPU gave apologies for the meeting.

8.2 CAB

Will Mckellor, Chief Officer of the CAB attended to deliver the written report to Council for the period September to November 2025. During this period, the service delivered 10 advice sessions per week in Macclesfield, supporting 786 clients with 1,796 issues and achieving financial outcomes totalling £621,963 in income gains. The main enquiry areas were benefits, debt, housing, employment and utilities, with benefits-related issues

remaining the most significant category. Overall demand remained consistent with previous quarters, reflecting ongoing cost-of-living pressures and financial insecurity affecting residents.

Will talked about the wide-ranging impact of the service, illustrated through detailed case studies. These included securing backdated and increased state pension payments, resolving fuel poverty and utility arrears, preventing homelessness through housing advice and rehousing support, assisting with court and legal processes, recovering losses arising from fraud and financial abuse, and significantly increasing incomes through benefit entitlement checks. The case studies demonstrated the value of face-to-face, follow-up support, particularly for vulnerable residents, older people and families, and highlighted the role of Citizens Advice in improving financial stability, wellbeing and access to essential services across the community.

The Council thanked Will, the staff and the volunteers for their continued hard work for the community.

8.3 Silk Museum

Chair Simon Spurell attended to present the report. Firstly, he introduced Dr Clare Harding, the new director of the museum. He then talked to the written report submitted to Council. Visitor data showed strong school engagement with confirmed future bookings, while overall museum visitor numbers were slightly down for the quarter due to fewer coach visits; mitigation measures are in place and December activity is expected to improve figures. Curatorial activity was extensive, including significant collections auditing, new donations, research visits, oral history work, and enhanced interpretation through videos and community displays. Paradise Mill visitor numbers continued to increase, supported by national media exposure and new research and international collaboration projects. A varied programme of exhibitions and events was delivered, attracting positive feedback and strong community participation, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported consultation on the future of the museum is progressing, with a report due in January.

Volunteer hours increased year on year, recruitment of young trustees is underway, and new senior staff appointments were confirmed. Social media reach and engagement increased significantly. Financial performance for Q3 showed improved retail spend, transaction values, and overall income compared with the same period last year. A strong external funding pipeline was highlighted across both the Silk Museum and Paradise Mill, alongside recognition of achievements including a Gold Award from Britain in Bloom and ongoing café improvements. Upcoming activities and exhibitions for Q4 and into 2026 were outlined, with continued emphasis on community engagement, consultation outcomes, and strategic development.

The Mayor, thanked Simon and the Museum on behalf of the Council for the report.

8.4 CCTV

The CCTV staff gave their apologies just before the meeting. A report was submitted.

8.5 Library / VIC

The report was noted and well received by Council.

9 Governance Review

9.1 Assertion 10 Report

The report was noted.

9.2 IT Policy

9.3 Publication Scheme

9.4 FOI Policy

9.5 Direct Debit Change and Policy

Resolved: All policies were approved.

10 Internal Audit

The conclusion of the audit was noted.

11 Investment Position Statement

The report was noted.

12 Disability Information Bureau Grant Request over £2000

This item was updated as the DIB no longer require the grant.

13 Parks and Play Areas

The report was noted.

14 South Park Pavilion Update Report for Council

Resolved: Council approved the delegation to the South Park working group of the tender process for the pavilion build with the outcomes to come to Full Council for approval.

15 Floral Contract

Resolved: The appointment of a Northwich Town Council as contractor for the floral displays in the town centre.

16 Winter Safety

Resolved: Approval was given for costs related to winter gritting and the refilling of grit boxes.

17 Double Devolution

Resolved:

- Approval was given to establish a Double Devolution Working Group.
- Approval was given for Clerk to produce a plan for taking on the Rangers under MTC Management.

18 Budget 26/27

Resolved: The budget for 26/27 was approved.

19 Date/Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on 9th March 2026 at the Town Hall.