

MELTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7 JANUARY 2019

Present: Councillor Haigh (Chair), Councillor Bampton, Councillor Buchanan, Councillor Keighley, Councillor Lyons, Councillor Maxfield, Councillor Noon and Councillor Wrathall

PUBLIC SESSION: 3 members of the public had attended in connection with the item 'Speeding in the Township' and one member of the public had attended in connection with the item 'Land at Meltham Hall Park'. Also, in attendance were two police officers invited by the Council in respect of the item on speeding. The Chair summarised the areas where the Council believed speeding to be a problem and invited the members of the public to speak. Representations were heard in relation to Acre Lane which was described as a 'rat run' because of congestion in the village and a request for speed bumps to slow drivers down. Another member of the public referred to issues on Slaithwaite Road where the traffic was doing speeds of 60 - 70 MPH. It was noted that the speed sign there has not been set up to work correctly and the resident questioned why it still was not working. It was suggested that Slaithwaite Road deserved a speed camera at the very least due to the problems there. Councillors Lyons confirmed the speed sign was not working properly and Kirklees Council were in the process of sorting this with their contractor. A discussion took place regarding speed bumps with a mixture of views on whether the public wanted them or not. The Chair highlighted the need to gather evidence and asked about community groups using hand held speed detection devices. The police confirmed that the Meltham PC does go out with a speed gun but that resources are limited. The police reported that currently there are no community speed watch groups in West Yorkshire, but this is being looked at. Members of the public present expressed an interest in volunteering for such groups / activities. The police suggested 'Brake' road safety charity had a lot of useful resources including campaign kits. Councillors asked about the criteria for having a speed van sited and the police agreed to find this out. Councillors asked about the criteria for obtaining speed camera signs and the police agreed to find this out. It was agreed to invite a representative from Brake to a later Council meeting. The member of the public who had attended about the agenda item 'Land at Meltham Hall Park' said that they just wanted an update on what was happening. The Chair explained that this item was likely to be held in private but that the Council were taking steps to resolve the issue of the boundary line between the Council's land and that of the developer. All the members of the public then left the meeting.

19/01 NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Taken as read.

19/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brook, Councillor Holroyd-Doveton and Councillor White and accepted

19/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19/04 ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That item 11 142 Huddersfield Road update be held in private as publicity may prejudice the legal position of the Council

RESOLVED: That item 14 Town Hall update be held in private as it would divulge commercially sensitive / confidential information

RESOLVED: That item 15 Land at Meltham Hall Park be held in private as publicity may prejudice the legal position of the Council

19/05 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Maxfield and seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 19 November 2018 be approved.

19/06 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

It was proposed by Councillor Maxfield and seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Environmental and General Purposes Committee held on the 19 November 2018 be approved.

RESOLVED: That approval of the Minutes of the Planning Environmental and General Purposes Committee held on the 17 December 2018 be deferred to the next Council meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Keighley and seconded by Councillor Bampton and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Properties, Administration and Finance Committee held on 10 December 2018 be approved.

19/07 SPEEDING IN TOWNSHIP

Councillors considered the responses received from residents as a result of the request in the last edition of Meltham Mercury to contact the Council regarding speeding issues, summaries of which were circulated with the agenda. It was agreed to invite a BRAKE representative to a meeting of the Council and meanwhile Councillors would look at the BRAKE toolkit resources

The Chair reiterated the need to gather evidence and whilst the work done by the police was to be commended it was suggested this was insufficient and did not target peak times. It was noted Police Support Officers could use speed guns to gather evidence at key times whilst accepting they did not have the power to issue tickets. The Police agreed to look at this. The Chair said that evidence would give the Council power to push for more action.

Councillor Noon suggested that the Council might want to consider procuring a professional highway survey. Councillor Lyons agreed to make enquires regarding whether there is a SID which can capture number plates and to ask the highway engineers at Kirklees to look at the pinch point by the public house at the junction of Westgate and Station Street. The Councillors questioned whether the CCTV resource could be used more effectively.

19/08 DOG FOULING FEEDBACK FOLLOWING MERCURY

Councillors considered the response received from a resident as a result of the request in the last edition of Meltham Mercury to contact the Council regarding dog fouling in Meltham a summary of which was circulated with the agenda. Councillors agreed with many of the points raised. The Clerk reported that she had been made aware of some materials produced by Keep Britain Tidy which appeared to have evidence to back up their effectiveness in reducing dog fouling and it was agreed to put this on the next Council agenda for consideration.

19/09 BUDGET AND PRECEPT DEMAND

Councillors considered the 19/20 budget information circulated with the agenda. The Clerk reported that she had confirmation from the Councils grounds maintenance contractor that the annual costs to the Council for 19/20 will remain the same as for 18/19 and this is reflected in

the current proposed budget. Properties Administration and Finance Committee have recommended increases and decreases to various budget heads, including reducing the devolved services budget by £5000.00 and increasing the Library contribution by £1000.00 budget and it was noted that these changes are identified in the detailed commentary to the suggested 19/20 budget contained in the finance report. Councillors considered the recommendation from the Properties, Administration and Finance Committee held on 10 December 2018 that the budget for 19/20 set out in the report circulated with the agenda be adopted and

RESOLVED: That the budget for 19/20 as set out in the reported circulated with the agenda be adopted.

Councillors noted the significant reduction in income for 19/20 as a result of the withdrawal of the bulk of the CTR grant from Kirklees Council resulting in a 19/20 balancing figure (i.e. the difference between our projected spend less our income) of £125,707.

The Clerk reiterated that there were several options available to the Council namely:

1. To further reduce expenditure in 19/20
2. Use exiting reserves to meet some proportion of the difference between expenditure and income
3. Increase the precept request from 18/19 levels
4. A combination of 1,2 and 3.

The Clerk said she had produced indicative precept figures from running two possible scenarios which were included with the agenda papers. The first scenario assumes the whole of the projected budget for 19/20 is met by an increase in the precept. This would result in a precept demand of £125,707 which is a per annum increase compared to last year of £7.32 for a band D property or an increase of 14p per week. The second scenario assumes that only the loss of the CTR grant is met by an increase in the precept. This would result in a precept demand of £118,313 which is a per annum increase compared to last year of £4.70 for a band D property or 9p per week.

Councillors discussed what these figures represented in terms of percentage increases.

Councillors noted the recommendation from Properties, Administration and Finance Committee held on 10 December 2018 that the precept demand should be increased as a minimum to cover the loss of the CTR grant as this was beyond the Town Councils' control.

Some Councillors suggested the necessary monies should be found from the reserves, but other Councillors thought this was unsustainable. It was proposed that the whole of the projected budget for 19/20 was met by an increase in the precept resulting in a precept demand of £125,707 and by a significant majority it was

RESOLVED: That the whole of the projected budget for 19/20 should be met by an increase in the precept resulting in a precept demand of £125,707 which is a per annum increase compared to last year of £7.32 for a band D property or an increase of 14p per week.

Councillors noted that they would need to pass a formal resolution at the Council meeting on the 11 February authorising the Clerk to make the formal precept demand to Kirklees Council in the sum of £125,707.

19/10 REQUEST TO HOST CIRCUS IN ROBERT ASHTON PARK

Councillors considered a request from Harris and Aspinall's circus to use Robert Ashton Memorial Park for a circus in 2019 details of the request were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the request from Harris and Aspinall's circus to use Robert Ashton Memorial Park for a circus in 2019 on the terms circulated with the agenda and for the Clerk to progress this matter.

19/11 142 HUDDERSFIELD ROAD UPDATE

The Clerk reported that she had previously been asked to write to Kirklees Council regarding ownership of this property. More recently the Town Council had received reports that the property was being damaged and had questioned why it was still vacant. Councillor White had raised these issues with Kirklees Council and their response was included with the agenda papers. Councillors noted that the intention was for the property to be upgraded for re-letting with works proposed to make the property accessible for use by a family or couple who need an adapted property.

19/12 CO-OPTION

Councillors noted that as the casual vacancy created by the recent resignation of one of the Councillors has occurred within 6 months before the day on which the councillor would have regularly retired (i.e. at the next ordinary election), the Town Council may (but there is no obligation to do so) as soon as practicable after the expiry of the period of 14 days after public notice of the vacancy has been given co-opt a person to fill the vacancy. It was further noted that public notice of the vacancy was given at the end of November 2018 on the Council's notice boards and website.

RESOLVED: That in the circumstances the Town Council would not co-opt a person to fill the vacancy on the Council

19/13 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

The Clerk reported that Councillor Noon had put her in touch with someone from Kirklees Council regarding the drainage issues in respect of the older children's play area. The Clerk reported that she had met on site with the Kirklees officer who had some ideas about how the water issue may be alleviated including a French drain emptying into the culvert that runs alongside the driveway. However further investigations were required to see if this was a viable and the Clerk agreed to report back to a later meeting.

19/14 TOWN HALL UPDATE

The Clerk reported that access had been obtained to the property which had allowed the surveyors to go in and complete their rebuild survey. It was reported that the Council's partner also took the opportunity to access the building at the same time. The accurate re-build cost had allowed the Clerk to obtain a definitive insurance quote from the Council's existing insurers (with subsidence cover) which appeared very competitive and the costs were being reimbursed by the Council's partner.

The Clerk has provided all the requested figures and information to the Council's solicitor in order to progress the legal agreements. Further work may still be needed to establish the description of tenant's works which had previously been provided. The Clerk also reported that she had instructed a company to proceed with a due diligence exercise at a cost of £250.00 as agreed previously by Council.

The Clerk suggested that a further report would be brought to the next Council meeting or with the Chair's permission that it may be necessary to hold an extra ordinary meeting if things were sufficiently developed before then.

19/16 LAND AT MELTHAM HALL PARK

The Clerk reported that at the last Council meeting it had been resolved to go ahead with the boundary survey. The Clerk had written to the property developer putting him on notice that the survey was going ahead and that the Council would seek to recover half the costs of survey from him as originally agreed. The Clerk reported that the surveyors had recently informed her that due to workloads they were unlikely to start the survey until week commencing 7 January 2019. The Clerk agreed to report back to the next Council meeting.

Minutes Meeting Poors Allotment Trustees 7 January 2019 at the rise of Council

Present: Councillor Haigh (Chair), Councillor Bampton, Councillor Buchanan, Councillor Keighley, Councillor Lyons, Councillor Maxfield, Councillor Noon and Councillor Wrathall

19/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brook, Councillor Holroyd-Doveton and Councillor White and accepted

19/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lyons declared an interest with regard to the item on reimbursement of the over 70s event costs.

19/03 It was at the annual meeting on the 18 May 2015 the full council was appointed to be the trustees of the Poors Allotment Trust and the bank signatories were confirmed as Councillors Maxfield, Holroyd-Doveton and White for the Poors Allotment Trust Account (minute 15/10 refers).

The trustees considered whether to reimburse the costs to the Council of running the Over 70s gifts giving event on the 4 December 2018 at a total cost of £1009.37 comprising (£921.00 in gifts and £40.37 refreshment costs and £48.00 room hire) and it was

RESOLVED: That the Poors Allotment Trust reimburse the costs to the Council of running the Over 70s gifts giving event on the 4 December 2018 at a total cost of £1009.37 comprising (£921.00 in gifts and £40.37 refreshment costs and £48.00 room hire) and requested that the signatories to the bank account to sign the authorisation and cheque accordingly.

The trustees considered a request to provide funds towards the cost of the Christmas lunch provided by the Carlile Luncheon Club in the sum of £250 and it was

RESOLVED: That the Poors Allotment Trust approve the request to provide funds towards the cost of the Christmas lunch provided by the Carlile Luncheon Club in the sum of £250 and requested that the signatories to the bank account to sign the authorisation and cheque accordingly.

The trustees considered whether to reimburse the Council the costs of the grant to the Meltham Parish Church Hall for the Christmas day lunch which had been for £500. However it was expected that a significant proportion of that grant had been unspent and would be returned to the Council in due course. The trustees therefore considered whether to reimburse the Council the portion of the grant that was eventually spent and not returned to the Council and it was

RESOLVED: That the Pools Allotment Trust reimburse the costs to the Council of the final proportion of the grant that was spent on providing the Christmas day lunch and requested that the signatories to the bank account to sign the authorisation and cheque accordingly.