

MELTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2019

Present: Councillor Buchanan (Chair), Councillor Bampton, Councillor Keighley, Councillor Lyons, Councillor White and Councillor Wrathall

PUBLIC SESSION: There was one member of the public in attendance in connection with the item 10 Request to purchase Council owned land. The member of the public explained he was the prospective purchaser and his reasons for wishing to acquire this small piece of land. The member of the public then left the room.

19/17 NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Taken as read.

19/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brook, Councillor Haigh. Councillor Holroyd-Doveton, Councillor Noon, and Councillor Maxfield and accepted

19/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19/20 ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That item 8 Pride of Meltham nomination be held in private as it would divulge personal / confidential information

RESOLVED: That item 10 Request to purchase Council owned land 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

RESOLVED: That item 17 CCTV issues be held in private as it would divulge commercially sensitive / confidential information publicity may prejudice the legal position of the Council

As there were no members of the public or press present it was agreed that matters would be dealt with in the order on the agenda but it was agreed that if any member of the press or public arrived it might be necessary to reorder the agenda and move the items to be held in private to the end.

19/21 MINUTES

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 7 January 2019 be approved.

19/22 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Environmental and General Purposes Committee held on the 17 December 2018 be approved.

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Environmental and General Purposes Committee held on the 7 January 2019 be approved.

RESOLVED: That approval of the Minutes of the Personnel Committee held on the 28 January 2019 be deferred until the next Council meeting.

19/23 BUDGET AND PRECEPT DEMAND

Councillors noted that Kirklees Council have confirmed that the final tax base for Meltham is 2820.42 and that the CTR grant will be £858.94 in 2019/20. Councillors further noted that at the meeting on the 7 January 2019 the Council resolved that the budget for 19/20 as set out in the report circulated with the agenda for that meeting be adopted. Councillors further noted that at the meeting on the 7 January 2019 Council 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 for 19/20.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to make the formal precept demand to Kirklees Council in the sum of £125,707 for 19/20.

RESOLVED: That broadly the draft press release circulated with the agenda be approved but that a delegation to the Clerk be made (in consultation with the Chair of the Communications Committee) to shorten/ and amend the press release and that the Clerk be authorised to post this on the Council's website and to provide it to the media as appropriate.

19/24 PRIDE OF MELTHAM

Councillors considered a nomination for a Pride of Meltham Award. It was agreed that the nominee met the Pride of Meltham award criteria and had been a dedicated charity worker providing free transportation for charitable works for a long number of years.

RESOLVED: That the person nominated should receive a Pride of Meltham Award for their long-standing charity work and that the Clerk be asked to write to the successful nominee accordingly.

19/25 SECTION 137 EXPENDITURE LIMIT FOR 2019-20

It was noted that the sum for 2019-20 will be £8.12 and that the current electorate total for the Meltham Town Council area is 6,606.

19/26 REQUEST TO PURCHASE COUNCIL OWNED LAND

Councillors considered a request to purchase a small piece of land currently owned by the Council detailed in a letter and accompanying plan circulated with the agenda. It was noted that the requisite deeds appeared to place no restrictive covenants on the sale of the land in question but that this would need to be confirmed by a property solicitor. It was agreed that the land in question had very little amenity / recreational value as opposed to other areas of Council owned land. Concern was expressed about setting a precedent, but Councillors felt that any request to purchase land owned by the Council would need to be considered on the individual circumstances. In this case Councillors were minded to explore the possible sale as the land had little or no recreational / amenity value. However, it was noted than in other cases this would not be the case and therefore a disposal in these circumstances would not be appropriate. A discussion took place as regards the potential value of the land which would be dependent on what restrictions the Council were minded to apply. It was also noted that the

prospective purchaser would be asked to meet the Town Councils legal and other associated costs of any sale including obtaining a formal valuation.

RESOLVED: That in principle the Council supported the sale of the land but further work would be needed before a final decision to dispose could be reached. The Clerk be authorised to progress matters and bring a report back to a future Council Meeting

19/27 CIVIC PROTOCOL/CIVIC SUNDAY

Councillors discussed the current format of the Civic Sunday event which had been deferred from Council on the 19 November 2018 and in particular whether the event was suitably inclusive and considered information provided by other Councils regarding the format of their events. Ultimately it was decided that it should be up to the individual Town Mayor to decide where the event should take place, which could be a church or a non-religious venue. However, it was also agreed that in default of a venue being chosen by the Mayor the venue would be St. Bartholomew's church due to its central location. It was agreed that the event would take place on the second Sunday of September each year. It was also agreed that the content of the service was at the discretion of each Town Mayor, it could be a religious or non-religious service or some different format altogether such as musical performances. It was agreed that the existing parade should continue whatever the venue chosen for the Civic Sunday event in the future. The civic invitation list was agreed for the 19/20 municipal year. It was agreed to advertise the parade more by including it in the summer edition of the Council newsletter and possibly doing a flyer to hand out. The Clerk agreed to amend the civic protocol in light of the comments made and bring the final document back for formal adoption to the next Council meeting.

19/28 COUNCIL PLAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Keighley would join the Council Plan working group.

Councillors noted that the plan is nearly complete and will be brought to the next Council meeting for approval. Councillors also noted that a proposal to work jointly with Kirklees Council on using the Place Standard tool to find out what the priorities and concerns are for Meltham residents would also be brought to the same meeting. The Clerk explained she would be working with Kirklees Council colleagues in advance of that meeting to draw up a prospective project plan for the work and initial communication materials for consideration by Councillors.

19/29 DOG FOULING

Councillors considered the Keep Britain Tidy materials to reduce dog fouling circulated with the agenda and then watched a short video about the results of a trial using these materials and the effects on dog fouling. Councillors were supportive of exploring this as a measure to reduce dog fouling in problem areas. The Clerk said further work would be required to identify the target areas, work out how much signage would be required and obtain more information on the requisite costs.

RESOLVED: That the necessary steps to progress this strategy including identifying the target areas, working out how much signage would be required and approving the necessary expenditure be delegated to the Planning Environmental and General Purposes Committee.

A discussion took place about the current provision of dog bags, the effectiveness of such measures and whether there was anything that could be done to prevent the stripping of dog bags in certain areas. It was suggested that the Keep Britain Tidy materials may also lead to a

reduction in the striping of the dog bags if placed in the locality of the dispensers and therefore it was agreed to keep providing the dog bags for the time being.

19/30 ANALYSIS OF SURVEY CIRCULATED AT OVER 70s EVENT

Councillor Bampton provided a verbal report following her analysis of the completed surveys circulated at the recent over 70s event and circulated a written analysis. Councillors discussed the results of the survey and the next steps. It was noted that further consultation with different sections of the community may be picked up via the Place Standard exercise which is being discussed at the next Council meeting. However, it was felt that the survey used at the over 70s event this year should be repeated at the next over 70s event for comparison purposes. It was agreed that there was a need to feedback the results and actions the Town Council were taking to those who completed the survey. It was agreed that something should appear in the next edition of the Council's newsletter

19/31 LAND AT MELTHAM HALL PARK

Councillors received a verbal update from the Clerk regarding this issue. The Clerk circulated the initial survey results which had been received after papers issued. The survey results required clarification and it was agreed that the Clerk and Councillor White arrange to meet the surveyor out on site to discuss these issues and report back to the next Council meeting.

19/32 PROVISION OF DEFIBRILLATORS / CPR TRAINING

Councillors received a verbal update on developments regarding defibrillator provision in Meltham and it was noted that the Clerk was still waiting for information on suggested locations and density etc. The Clerk reported that there were still significant funds for capital grants which could be used to fund defibrillators if we could encourage schools and local organisations to apply for a grant. The Clerk further reported that in terms of the Town Enhancement Fund which can be used at the discretion of the Council there was £2000.00 available. The Clerk further reported that the cost of a defibrillator plus a cabinet was in the region of £1400.00 net plus installation costs and signage. It was suggested that the Town Enhancement Fund could be used to purchase a defibrillator now. Councillors suggested that the funds could also be ring fenced and carried forward to next year if unspent. It was noted that the provision of defibrillators and the associated expenditure had been delated to the Properties Administration and Finance Committee if further information emerged.

Councillors received a verbal update from the Clerk regarding further CPR training sessions which it had not been possible to schedule as yet.

19/33 CCTV

Councillors received a verbal update from the Clerk on CCTV issues. The Clerk reported that she and the Mayor had met with the CCTV provider on the 9 January 2019 to discuss the outstanding issues. Subsequently the Clerk has been in correspondence with the contractor about various documentation. The Clerk reported that she and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were due to meet the contractor again on the 18 February 2019.

19/34 TOWN HALL UPDATE

Councillor White provided an update on the proposed acquisition and disposal of the Town Hall. Councillor White reported that he, Councillor Haigh and the Clerk had had a useful meeting with our partners which had helped identify some of the remaining issues. From the Councils perspective the Council had provided all the information etc. that it needed to but there was still the outstanding issue of the sublease. It was noted that the Council hoped to exchange contracts by the end of the financial year and it was also noted that the original resolution of the Council that there would be a sublease of the whole building to the Councils partner would need to be amended as they only required the basement and ground floor.