

MELTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 AUGUST 2019

Present: Councillor Buchanan (Chair), Councillor Haigh, Councillor Keighley, Councillor Sonia King, Councillor Spencer King, Councillor Lyons, Councillor Millward, Councillor Noon, Councillor Storey, Councillor White and Councillor Wrathall

PUBLIC SESSION: A member of the public was present in connection with Item 20, and another member of public had attended in connection with items 17 and 18. The member of the public who had attended in connection with item 17 was concerned there was a lack of accessible information for the public on what was happening with the Town Hall. The Chair referred to the press releases and the recent article in Meltham Mercury and the fact that when the refurbishment works were completed there was to be a public launch. In connection with Item 18 the member of public asked what was happening and the Chair responded that the Council were still in negotiations with Kirklees Council regarding this matter. The member of the public who had attended in connection with Item 20 described an accident that had occurred in the Town which had originally led him to contact the Clerk about CCTV footage. The Chair reiterated that the Clerk would not be able to access the CCTV systems as only the police were permitted to do so. The resident confirmed he had not reported the incident to the police because of resourcing concerns. The resident confirmed the importance of CCTV in the Town and Councillors agreed. The Chair reiterated that the Council were taking urgent steps to resolve the outstanding CCTV issues and were also frustrated by the delays. The members of the public left the meeting.

19/100 NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Taken as read.

19/101 ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is

RESOLVED: That because of the confidential/ personal/ commercially sensitive or legally prejudicial nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of the following: -

- Item 3 Councillors reasons for absence - to consider this item in private as it would divulge personal / confidential information.
- Item 10 Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulations – to consider this item in private due to the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted
- Item 17 Update Town Hall – to consider this item in private as it may prejudice the legal position of the Council
- Item 18 Paintings formerly in Meltham Hall – to consider this item in private as it may prejudice the legal position of the Council
- Item 19 142 Huddersfield Road – to consider this item in private - as it may prejudice the legal position of the Council
- Item 20 CCTV Update – to consider this item in private due to the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted and because it may prejudice the legal position of the Council

- Item 21 Operation London Bridge – to consider this item in private due to the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted

19/102 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bampton

Councillors considered the reasons for absence provided by Councillor Bampton

RESOLVED: That the reasons for Councillor Bampton's absence were accepted and the absence was therefore approved.

19/103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sonia King declared an interest in item 10 due to her involvement with Edible Meltham.

19/104 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Sonia King and seconded by Councillor White and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 24 June 2019 be approved

19/105 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

It was proposed by Councillor White and seconded by Councillor Spencer King and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Environmental and General Purposes Committee held on 24 June 2019 be approved.

It was proposed by Councillor White and seconded by Councillor Sonia King and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Environmental and General Purposes Committee held on 15 July 2019 be approved.

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Properties, Administrative and Finance Committee held on 15 July 2019 be approved.

It was proposed by Councillor Noon and seconded by Councillor Haigh and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Personnel Committee held on the 5 August 2019 be approved.

19/106 ASK MELTHAM

Councillors received an update on the Ask Meltham project and noted that a volunteer thank you event was being hosted by the Mayor on Friday 20 September between 6.00 and 7.30 pm and all Town Councillors and Ward Councillors were invited. Councillors further noted that an all-day event was being prepared for Wednesday 9 October in the Jubilee Room to provide feedback on the results of the exercise. It was suggested that a joint meeting between the Town Councillors and Ward Councillors should be arranged to allocate issues arising from the Ask Meltham results and the Clerk was asked to set this up.

19/107 VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY

Councillors noted that correspondence outlining the celebrations being planned for the 75th anniversary of VE day on 8th through to the 10th May 2020 and encouraging councils to take part was brought to the last Council meeting. It was reported that the event would be mainly the responsibility of the British Legion and that the church had been due to discuss this at its last meeting, but this had been deferred to September. It was reported that the Scarecrow Festival was being moved to avoid this date and that one community organisation was arranging a street party and that appropriate flags would go up in the Town. It was agreed that the British Legion should take the lead with the Town Council supporting events in the Town. One of the Councillors suggested that the Town Council had a role in ensuring the Town Centre was in a good condition for this event and it was agreed that the Council would use its resources and influence accordingly.

19/108 YORKSHIRE DAY

It was reported that Meltham Memories had arranged for flags with the Yorkshire rose on one side and the Town Council logo on the other for this year's Yorkshire Day. Councillors considered whether the Town Council should celebrate Yorkshire Day in future years, and it was decided that there were sufficient events in the Town around this period of the year.

19/109 THE PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES (WEBSITES AND MOBILE APPLICATIONS) (No.2) ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS 2018

Councillors received an update from the Clerk and considered a quote from the Council's web site developer to develop a compliant website. The Clerk explained that the quote would be a two-stage process, undertaking an audit and training initially which would then inform how much work was required to ensure compliance. Councillors thought the quote for the first stage was reasonable and authorised the Clerk to go ahead with the works and authorised the necessary expenditure.

RESOLVED: That the quote for the first stage of the works to the website to ensure compliance with the regulations was reasonable and that the Clerk be instructed to go ahead with the works and the necessary expenditure was approved.

19/110 TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTEES TO CARLILE INSTITUTE AND UPDATE ON LOAN

Councillors confirmed the two Council appointees as Councillor Buchanan and Councillor Wrathall.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Buchanan and Councillor Wrathall be appointed by the Council as its representatives on the board of Trustees for the Carlile Institute.

The Clerk reported that the loan agreement with the Carlile provided that the final outstanding amount would be paid this year in a lump sum of £4056.61 and this had been done meaning that the loan had now been fully repaid.

19/111 APPOINTMENT ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: That Councillor Keighley be appointed as an additional member of the Communications Committee

RESOLVED: That Councillor Buchanan be appointed as an additional member of the Personnel Committee

19/112 ONE-DAY CONFERENCE 2019 AND YLCA 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FRIDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER AND FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR TRAINING

Councillors considered attendance at this event and it was agreed that Councillor Buchanan would attend and the costs in the sum of £120.00 plus travel and subsistence were approved.

Councillor Storey provided feedback following his attendance at a recent training event.

19/113 ELECTION COSTS

Councillors noted that the Town Council had been billed £291.13 by Kirklees Council regarding the costs of the uncontested election and a breakdown of those costs had been provided.

19/114 CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Councillors noted that following the declaration at the Council meeting on the 28 May 2019, the Council had requested that this matter be put on the agenda of the August Council meeting to discuss in more detail what actions the Town Council could take. The Chair mentioned a couple of innovative schemes she had come across and a discussion took place about what kind of actions the Council could take. Some Councillors wanted Kirklees Council and others to stop using weed killer in Meltham and to reduce mowing of verges and similar areas of land. It was suggested that Ward Councillors feed this back to Kirklees via the Kirklees working group on this topic. The Clerk was asked to find out about the regime used by the Town Councils ground maintenance contractor. Other suggestions included installation of electric charging points, encouraging less consumption of meat and a reduction in single use plastics. The Clerk was asked to ensure that any paper used by the Town Council was recycled where possible and it was agreed wherever possible summons/ agendas etc. would be sent out electronically moving forward. It was also agreed to establish a working group to develop a climate emergency plan and it was agreed that the members would be Councillors Buchanan, Sonia King, Millward and Wrathall and the group would hold its first meeting in September.

19/115 ROBERT ASHTON MEMORIAL PARK

Councillors considered the suggestion that the Council work in partnership with Edible Meltham to develop a currently overgrown unused area in the park for a community growing space / garden combined with smaller raised allotment plots (managed by the Town Council). The Clerk circulated a brief note from Edible Meltham in connection with this suggestion. The proposal was supported in principle and the Clerk was authorised to work with Edible Meltham to draw up more detailed proposals to bring back to Council.

Councillors considered a proposal for an event 'picnic in the park' on the 27 August 2020 bank holiday. It was suggested that this would be better in September and it was decided that it should be on the same weekend as the Civic Sunday event (which in 2020 will be held on Sunday 6 September). It was decided that the Communications Committee would take the lead on progressing this event. There was a suggestion that a marquee may mitigate against bad weather and a suggestion that local food and drink producers be involved.

As there were no public or press present it was not necessary to ask them to leave the meeting at this point.

19/116 UPDATE TOWN HALL

Councillors received an update regarding progress on the Town Hall and approved the suggested solution put forward by the Councils solicitor regarding the works being carried out and the agreements that are in place.

19/117 PAINTINGS FORMERLY IN MELTHAM HALL

Councillors received an update on the position regarding the paintings formerly in Meltham Hall. It was reported that there is a disagreement between Kirklees Council and the Town Council as to whether the evidence is sufficient to demonstrate that the Town Council own the paintings. The Town Council is continuing to search for further evidence particularly of a formally constituted trust having been set up. The Clerk was asked to write to Kirklees to set up a meeting to discuss these matters further.

19/118 142 HUDDERSFIELD ROAD

Councillors received an update on this property. It was reported that the property was transferred to Kirklees Council by way of Statutory Instrument at the time of local government reorganisation.

19/119 CCTV UPDATE

Councillors were informed that the requested quotation had not been received nor had the Clerk been able to meet a solicitor in advance of the meeting. The matter would be brought back to the next Council meeting.

19/120 OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE

Councillors considered the report prepared by the Clerk and approved the statement to go on the Councils website and made decisions on the matters highlighted in the report.

RESOLVED: That the expenditure to implement the suggested protocol be approved.

The meeting was closed.

Minutes Meeting Poors Allotment Trustees 19 August 2019 at the rise of Council

Councillors / trustees noted 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).

At the annual meeting on the 13 May 2019 the arrangements for the authorisation of cheques / account signatories were confirmed as Councillors White, Haigh and Lyons as some of the existing signatories were no longer Councillors.

Councillors further noted that in the light of onerous requests for identification materials from the bank Councillor Lyons no longer wished to be a signatory. Councillors therefore noted the need to appoint a replacement account signatory in addition to Councillors White and Haigh.

19/07 RESOLVED: That Councillor Buchanan be appointed as a replacement account signatory in addition to Councillors White and Haigh.