

MELTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2020

Present via video conference or phone:	Councillor Buchanan (Chair), Councillor Bampton, Councillor Haigh, Councillor Keighley, Councillor Lyons, Councillor Noon, Councillor Storey, Councillor White and Councillor Wrathall
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PUBLIC SESSION: There were no members of the public or press present

20/133 NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Taken as read.

20/134 ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended by the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (as amended)

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

20/135 APOLOGIES / REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Spencer King and Councillor Millward.

20/136 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests

20/137 MINUTES

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 14 September 2020 be approved.

20/138 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Environmental and General Purposes Committee held on the 14 September 2020 be approved.

20/139 GRANT APPLICATION

20-10-12 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Page 1 of 3

Page number.....

Signed

Dated.....

Councillors considered a smaller grants grant application from Meltham Community Group in the sum of £1000.00 (unspent monies to be returned to the Council) to assist with the cost of supplying a Christmas dinner to those isolated over the Christmas period as a result of Covid 19, received on the 28 September 2020 and circulated with the agenda. Councillors also agreed to make an application to the Pools Allotment Trust for the reimbursement of this expenditure together with the costs of the Over 70s gift giving event in 2019.

RESOLVED: That the smaller grants application from Meltham Community Group in the sum of £1000.00 to assist with the cost of supplying a Christmas dinner to those isolated over the Christmas period as a result of Covid 19 be approved together with the necessary expenditure.

20/140 ROBERT ASHTON MEMORIAL PARK

Councillors considered the results of the first consultation with key stakeholders that took place on the 15th September 2020 and noted that generally there had been a positive reaction to the draft plan with suggestions being fed back to the landscape designer.

The recommendations of the working group in terms of priorities were reported and the Council agreed with the those recommendations namely:

In terms of what have been currently categorised as quick wins

- the removal of holly and rhododendron to let light in
- developing the tennis court area
- improving the fencing around the pond
- signage and interpretation in the park including creating a 'Trail'
- the removal of some trees to open up the views as per the master plan

In terms of what have been currently categorised as high priority areas

- the whole area around the existing children's play areas and the tennis courts
- the band stand area

It was reported that the arrangements for a public consultation on the draft plan and priorities were being developed with Kirklees officers and would be reported to the Master Plan Working Group for consideration. It was noted that there would be no public event because of Covid and that the consultation would take place via non face to face mechanisms.

Following the public consultation exercise it was agreed that more detailed proposals needed to be developed to be put to Council (including Sketch Level Design plans where appropriate) and that costings for this additional developmental work would be obtained and reported to the next Council meeting.

It was noted that significant funding resources would need to be secured to progress the redevelopment and that resources would also need to be identified to identify funding opportunities, submit bids and project manage the redevelopment.

20/141 RESPONSE TO ONGOING COVID 19 SITUATION

Councillors considered a number of suggestions for actions the Town Council might progress and it was agreed to raise these with the appropriate outside bodies for feedback and a further discussion at Council.

20/142 UPDATE COMPLIANCE WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS

Councillors received an update from the Clerk on progress

20/143 TREE SURVEYS AT ALLOTMENT SITES

Councillors noted that the Clerk had authorised tree surveys at each of the Council’s allotment sites, ratified that decision taken under delegated powers and approved the necessary expenditure.

RESOLVED: That the decision of the Clerk under delegated powers to authorise tree surveys at each of the Council’s allotment sites be ratified and the necessary expenditure be approved.

20/144 SPEED AWARENESS INITIATIVES

Councillor Storey left the meeting

Councillors considered proposals for speed awareness initiatives to start at the same time as road safety week in November, including the provision of wheelie bin stickers to residents in 20mph zones and a poster competition. Council approved the initiatives and any necessary expenditure.

RESOLVED: That the proposals for speed awareness initiatives proposed at the meeting be approved together with any necessary expenditure.

20/145 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Councillors received an update from the Chair of the Communications Committee on Mercury and social media. In particular it was noted that publishing information about Christmas services and events this year in Mercury may be confusing as events were liable to change at short notice due to the Covid situation.

20/146 UPDATE HANGING BASKETS / PLANTERS

Councillors received an update on the progress regarding planters in the Town Centre, the maintenance of which has been taken over by the Town Council. The planters have been emptied, refilled with new compost, and planted out with winter bedding plants and spring bulbs some of which were donated by Morrison’s. The Clerk said she was still awaiting approval from Kirklees Council for additional hanging basket brackets.

20/147 LITTER PICK

Councillors received an update on the rescheduling of the litter pick cancelled because of Covid-19 which is now likely to take place in spring.

20/148 UPDATE CCTV

Councillors received an update on CCTV progress

20/149 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Councillors received an update on arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.