

## MELTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE 2021

**Present:** Clr R Bampton (Chair), Clr D Haigh, Clr B Keighley, Clr Sonia King, Clr T Lyons, Clr R Noon and Clr A Storey.

**PUBLIC SESSION:** There were no members of public in attendance.

#### 21/92 NOTICE OF MEETING

Taken as read.

#### 21/93 ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 1 (2) 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 it was

**RESOLVED:** That because of the confidential/ personal nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of Item 12 Deputy Town Clerk, as it would divulge personal confidential information.

#### 21/94 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Clr K Buchanan, Clr Spencer King, Clr P White and Clr J Wrathall.

#### 21/95 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Clr Keighley declared a personal interest in Meltham Pleasure Grounds, as he is one of the Committee members and Clr Sonia King declared a personal interest in the Meltham Mural, as she was involved in its production.

#### 21/96 MINUTES

Councillors received and noted the notes of the Town Meeting held on 26 April 2021 circulated with the agenda.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on 4 May 2021 be approved, subject to an amendment at Min 21/84, where it should read "the Council meeting may be held in the Park".

#### 21/97 PLANNING COMMENTS

**RESOLVED:** To note the following planning comments submitted under the Clerk's delegated authority on 10 May 2021:

**2021/62/91390/W: 26 Station Street, Meltham.** Use of land for siting of shepherd's hut for holiday let (within a Conservation Area).

The Town Council objected to this proposed development on the following grounds:

- a) Highways as the access is inappropriate coming onto a 'blind' bend and does not meet the current Highway's requirements. It would also lead to an increase in traffic.
- b) Overdevelopment of the plot.

## 21/97 PLANNING COMMENTS (Cont'd)

**NP/K/0421/0468: 2 Grains Ash Farm, Brow Grains Road, Meltham.** Installation of two air source heat pumps.  
No comment

**2021/62/91632/W: 81 Huddersfield Road Meltham.** Erection of detached garage with first floor to create dwelling forming annex accommodation associated 81, Huddersfield Road, Meltham, Holmfirth, HD9 4AF (within a Conservation Area).

The Town Council strongly objected to this proposed development on the following grounds:

- Overdevelopment of the plot.
- Detrimental impact on the visual amenity, including on the Robert Ashton Memorial Park, which is located immediately adjacent to the site.
- Detrimental impact on the residential amenity in terms of increased noise and pollution.
- Highways – it would cause a significant increase in traffic in an area which has a high pedestrian footfall, and it would therefore cause an increased risk of accidents.
- Inappropriate development in a Conservation Area.

The Town Council also objected to the addition of the pedestrian gateway by the garage onto Park Lane.

Should the officer be minded to approve the application, it is essential that the permission includes a condition compelling the applicant to provide a large enough area within the site for vehicles to turn around, so they can access Park Lane in the forwards gear.

## TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

**2021/TNA/91644/W: Gill Birks Farm, 5, Gill Birks, Meltham.** Work to a tree in a Conservation Area.  
No comment

## 21/98 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR): Y/E 31 MARCH 2021

**21/98a** Councillors noted the points raised in the internal audit report, which had been circulated with the agenda.

**21/98b** Councillors noted that the AGAR documentation had to be with the External Auditor by 31 July 2021. Councillors considered each of the assertions listed on the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) enclosed with the agenda to determine whether the Council agreed with the assertion or not and then decided to approve the Annual Governance Statement accordingly (Section 1).

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1).

**21/98c** Councillors considered the year end accounts circulated with the agenda.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Year End Accounts ending 31/03/21.

**21/98d** Councillors considered the Accounting Statements 2020/21 (Section 2) enclosed with the agenda and it was:

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Annual Accounting Statements 2020/21 (Section 2) circulated with the agenda.

## **21/99 INTERNAL CONTROLS**

The Deputy Clerk informed members that the schedule was currently in draft form and was subject to confirmation.

**RESOLVED:** to receive the payments for June 2021.

Councillors noted that in the absence of face-to-face meetings the monthly bank reconciliations and the corresponding current account bank statements were being scanned and sent to the Mayor and Chair of Finance for checking.

## **21/100 PICNIC IN THE PARK**

Councillors noted the notes circulated with the agenda papers detailing the current plans for the event. Discussion took place on whether it should be a Town Council or a Friends of the Park event. A verbal background on the Meltham Mural was provided.

**RESOLVED:** that it would be a Friends of the Park event, partially funded by the Town Council.

Councillors discussed the possibility of opening the toilets. Cllr Noon agreed to assist the Clerk in reviewing the risk assessment.

## **21/101 MELTHAM MILLS PLEASURE GROUND CHARITY**

Members noted the information circulated with the agenda papers as well as the copy of the Deed of Gift dated 7 June 1944. A discussion took place on whether it would be beneficial to take over the asset from Kirklees Council.

**RESOLVED:** to consider the matter further at the next meeting.

## **21/102 TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL CHARTER**

Members noted the correspondence received from Mirfield Town Council, which had been circulated with the agenda papers. After discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:** to respond to Mirfield Town Council suggesting that Town and Parish Councillors engage more with their ward councilors, and that Kirklees look at re-introducing the joint meetings, which took place in the past between Kirklees officers, ward councilors and representatives from Town and Parish Councils.

Mrs Royle left the meeting.

## **21/103 DEPUTY CLERK**

Members considered the terms and conditions for the Deputy Clerk, who has been appointed on a temporary basis in the Clerk's absence.

**RESOLVED:** to remunerate Mrs Royle on the same basis as Ms Chard.

Mrs Royle returned to the meeting.

## **21/104 FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR 2021-22**

Members discussed the meeting schedule for the rest of the year.

**RESOLVED:** to return to the same frequency of meetings schedule as before the pandemic and to ask the Deputy Clerk to draw up a meeting schedule.

