

**Town Council Meeting
10 December 2020**

Present: Councillors Bugge, Dodson, G Eccles, J Eccles, Hardacre, Hirst, Kenyon, Mitchell, Pringle, A Westmorland, G Westmorland, Wilson, the town clerk and Ms Julie Brookes of the Yorkshire and Humber Employers Association (the latter for minute 212 only).

Two officers from Wakefield Council physically attended and three members of the public attended via the Zoom app.

NB – This meeting was held simultaneously online in accordance with the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020.

195 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Womersley.

Resolved that the reason for absence be approved.

196 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Kenyon declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 9 – chairman's allowance.

197 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No matters were raised by members of the public.

Officers from Wakefield Council's Youth Work Team thanked the council for providing use of Hemsworth Water Park so that their youth activities could take place to help local youths/children.

198 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved that the respective minutes of the council meeting held on 15 October and the extraordinary council meeting held on 24 November 2020 be approved.

199 COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Resolved that the minutes of the following meetings and their respective sub-committees be adopted:

Committee	Date
Staffing	29 October 2020
Extraordinary Policy and Planning	29 October 2020
Staffing	12 November 2020
Leisure and Recreation	12 November 2020
Finance	19 November 2020
Policy and Planning	3 December 2020

200 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved that the payment of accounts as approved at the Finance Committee meeting held on 19 November be approved.

201 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Resolved that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and statutory instrument 965 Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, the General Power of Competence be reaffirmed and adopted.

202 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Resolved that having been reviewed, the council's standing orders and financial regulations be approved and adopted.

203 CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE

Due to his pecuniary interest Cllr Kenyon took no part in the discussion or decision regarding this item and as such Cllr Wilson assumed the chair.

Resolved that the chairman's allowance be £2,000 for the ensuing year.

At this juncture Cllr Kenyon resumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

204 CORRESPONDENCE

The town clerk reported on correspondence from the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA).

Resolved that a payment of £200 be made to NABMA.

205 GARDEN SCHEME 2020

Resolved that the grounds maintenance team conduct as many cuts as possible prior to Christmas but then a review to be held next year prior to the 2021 scheme commencing.

206 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2019-20

The town clerk confirmed that the external auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2020 had been received with no issues raised.

Resolved that the town clerk's report be noted and approved.

207 BUDGET 2021-22

The town clerk confirmed and clarified the process and the pertinent dates for setting the budget for the coming year and that there could be a reduction in the council tax base due to the COVID pandemic.

Resolved that the town clerk's report be noted and approved.

208 CLEANING SERVICES 2021-22

Resolved that the quote from WMDC for cleaning services at Hemsworth Community Centre for 2021-22 be accepted.

209 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

Resolved that in view of the confidential nature of business to be transacted, it is advisable, in the public interest, that the public and press be excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

210 WEST YORKSHIRE PENSION FUND

Resolved that the request from the West Yorkshire Pension Fund regarding a

former employee be approved.

211 KIRKBY ROAD SPORTS COMPLEX

The town clerk provided an update on matters pertaining to the sports complex.

Resolved that:

- The town clerk's report be noted and approved.
- The advice of Richard Buxton and Matthew Hutchings continue to be accepted and approved.
- Richard Buxton Solicitors continue to be instructed accordingly.

212 STAFFING MATTER

Regarding the staffing matter referred from the extraordinary council meeting held on 24 November 2020, it was resolved that:

- A report be sent to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).
- The council's insurer to be notified.
- The member of staff concerned be referred to a disciplinary committee, pending the respective responses from the ICO and the council's insurer.

The meeting closed at 20:35.