

**Extraordinary Town Council Meeting  
23 February 2021**

Present: Councillors Bugge, Dodson, G Eccles, J Eccles, Hardacre, Hirst, Kenyon, Mitchell, Pringle, Wilson and the town clerk.

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

**Three members of the public were in attendance.**

**298 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Womersley.

Resolved that the reason for absence be approved.

**299 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Bugge declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 11 - Allotments – and submitted a dispensation request to speak on the matter to impart his knowledge and experience as an allotment holder but not to vote, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

Cllr Mitchell declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 11 – Allotments – and submitted a dispensation request to speak on the matter to impart his knowledge and experience as an allotment holder but not to vote, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

Cllr Wilson declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 11 – Allotments – and submitted a dispensation request to speak on the matter to impart his knowledge and experience as an allotment holder but not to vote, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

Resolved that the respective dispensation requests of Cllrs Bugge, Mitchell and Wilson to speak but not vote on the matter concerned be approved, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

There were no declarations other than those already stated in members' respective register of interests.

**300 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No matters were raised by members of the public.

**301 REVIEW OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS**

The town clerk reported on the government's latest COVID restrictions/road-map.

Resolved that:

- The town clerk's report be noted and approved.
- Having conducted a review, the COVID secure measures in place are sufficient.
- A further general review to be held in due course and/or when circumstances change.

**302 HEMSWORTH WATER PARK**

**a) Car parking**

Resolved that this matter be deferred pending a review.

**b) Fishing passes**

Resolved that the task of checking fishing passes be allocated to specific staff by the general manager.

**c) Apprenticeships**

Resolved in principle to appoint two grounds maintenance apprentices, pending further enquiries with Wakefield Council.

**d) Advertisement for seasonal roles**

Resolved that the advertisement be published forthwith.

**303 HEMSWORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**a) Citizens Advice Service**

Resolved that a rebate be sought for the period of non-face to face service.

**b) Cleaning service**

Resolved that the cleaners clean at the Lakeside Café Bar once per week.

**304 WAKEFIELD COUNCIL – LOCAL PLAN 2036**

The town clerk provided an update on the Local Plan and that its adoption will likely take place in 2022.

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

**305 PROPERTY VALUATIONS**

Resolved that the services of Mr Andrew Ellis of Sanderson Weatherall be procured for various property valuations.

**306 CONTRACTORS**

This item was deferred to the next Finance Committee meeting.

**307 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.

**308 ALLOTMENTS**

*Having each declared a pecuniary interest and having each submitted a dispensation request, Cllrs Bugge, Mitchell and Wilson took part in the discussion but did not vote on this matter.*

**a) Security**

Resolved that security wire be placed at specific locations at a height of at least two metres with appropriate signage.

**b) Paddocks**

Resolved that the various equine documentation should all be in the same name for each paddock.

**c) Rules**

Resolved that the rules having been reviewed remain the same.

**309 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TEAM**

Resolved that the town clerk and Cllrs J Eccles and Kenyon will meet with the grounds maintenance team to discuss any queries they may have.

**310 HEMSWORTH MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Resolved that this be deferred to the next Finance Committee meeting.

**311 SOCIAL MEDIA**

In respect of vexatious online comments, resolved that:

- The town clerk will consider all such comments referred.
- The town clerk will decide upon any further action, including 'blocking'.
- The town clerk will observe/practice due process with reference to the principles of natural justice.
- The party concerned will have a right of appeal to the whole council.
- The council's decision will be final.

**312 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.

The meeting closed at 20:45.