

**Town Council Meeting
4 February 2021**

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

No members of the public were in attendance.

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

A minute's silence was held prior to the meeting as a mark of respect for the recently deceased Captain Tom Moore.

264 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hardacre and Womersley.

Resolved that the respective reasons for absence be approved.

265 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs G Eccles and J Eccles each declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 16 – land at Newstead Terrace.

266 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were in attendance.

267 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Cllr Bugge requested a recorded vote on the approval of the minutes of the council meeting held on 10 December 2020 as he objected to minute no. 212.

For:

Cllrs Dodson, G Eccles, J Eccles, Kenyon, Mitchell, Pringle, A Westmorland, G Westmorland and Wilson.

Against:

Cllrs Bugge and Hirst.

Resolved that the minutes of the council meeting held on 10 December 2020 be approved.

Resolved that the minutes of the extraordinary council meeting held on 7 January 2021 be approved.

268 COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Committee	Date
Staffing	10 December 2020
Leisure and Recreation	7 January 2021
Finance	14 January 2021
Policy and Planning	21 January 2021

269 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved that the payment of accounts as approved at the Finance Committee meeting held on 14 January 2021 be approved.

270 CORRESPONDENCE

The town clerk reported on correspondence in respect of the following:

- a) Email from the Trustees of Archbishop Holgate Hospital declining the council's enquiry regarding possible sale of land.
- b) Email from a parishioner regarding a litter pick.

Resolved that a litter pick in Hemsworth Cemetery be arranged, with the necessary permissions from Wakefield Council.

271 HEMSWORTH WATER PARK

The town clerk reported that Wakefield Council's Youth Work Team had for the time being withdrawn their request.

272 CEMETERY ROAD FOOTBALL FACILITY

Resolved that the request from West End Terriers FC to hold an end of season fundraising event be approved, COVID restrictions permitting.

273 COVID VACCINATION CENTRES

Resolved that Hemsworth Community Centre and Fitzwilliam Community Centre be offered to the NHS for use as vaccination centres.

274 GARDEN SCHEME 2021-22

Resolved that:

- The charge remains at £5 per cut.
- Eligible persons be either over 65 years of age or if under 65 they must be infirm and/or disabled.

275 GRITTING/SNOW CLEARING

Resolved that gritting/snow clearing in conjunction with Wakefield Council be approved.

276 TRAILER

Resolved that a trailer is not necessary.

277 PLANT/VEHICLE TRAINING

The town clerk reported on the need for plant/vehicle training.

Resolved that as the grounds maintenance manager has the requisite qualifications, no further training is necessary at the present time.

278 LAND AT CLUB TERRACE, FITZWILLIAM

The town clerk reported that no objections had been received regarding the proposed sale of the land at Club Terrace.

Resolved that:

- The town clerk's report be noted and approved.
- The intended disposal be reaffirmed.

- A RICS valuer be appointed.

279 LAND AT NEWSTEAD TERRACE, FITZWILLIAM

Due to their respective pecuniary interests Cllr G Eccles and Cllr J Eccles took no part in the discussion or decision regarding this item.

Resolved that a consultation be held regarding the potential disposal of the land at Newstead Terrace.

280 COVID – GENERAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS

The town clerk reported on the government's latest COVID restrictions.

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.

281 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2021-22

The town clerk reported on the budget discussions held at the Finance Committee meeting on 14 January 2021 and on informal budget discussions held since then. The town clerk confirmed the council's current financial position and the financial pressures of the coming year. The town clerk advised caution in setting the budget and the according precept with a recommendation for an inflationary increase and particular reference to the need to maintain reserves of at least £300,000.

Resolved that:

- The town clerk's report be received and noted.
- The budget be approved.
- The median 'band D' amount remain at £206.50 thus with the resultant total precept being £749,388.

282 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

The town clerk reported on the (anonymized) freedom of information requests received.

Resolved that the town clerk be authorized to respond accordingly to the freedom of information requests.

283 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.

284 INSURANCE CLAIM

The town clerk reported on a claim submitted against the council.

Resolved that:

- The town clerk's report be noted and approved.
- The claim be defended vigorously.

- The necessary evidence be provided to the council's insurer.

285 COMPLAINT

Resolved that the complaints panel consist of Cllrs J Eccles, A Westmorland and Wilson.

286 SUBJECT ACCESS REQUEST

The town clerk reported on an (anonymized) subject access request received.

Resolved that the town clerk be authorized to respond accordingly to the subject access request, in accordance with legal advice from Darren Finlay.

287 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 20:40.