

**Town Council Meeting
19 August 2021**

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

Five members of the public were in attendance.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a minute's silence was held in memory of those who have lost their lives during the pandemic.

This meeting was livestreamed via Facebook.

184 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were in attendance.

185 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

186 WAKEFIELD COUNCIL'S LOCAL PLAN 2036

Resolved that further to minute no. 159:

- The council objects to the land referenced as LP21 being taken out of green belt.
- All possible support be given to residents to oppose the development, including possible legal action.

187 HEMSWORTH WATER PARK - FISHING

Resolved that:

- Fishing is dawn 'til dusk only with no night fishing allowed.
- Day tickets or a season ticket must be purchased and/or produced upon request by a member of staff.
- All persons fishing must have a rod license.
- If necessary, the services of a bailiff will be procured.

188 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public raised the following matters:

- The town clerk's report on the ostensibly dumped rubbish at Hemsworth Water Park, to which the town clerk replied he would supply a copy to the resident concerned.
- Issues regarding refunds when Playworld was closed, to which the town clerk replied he would investigate and resolve the matter.

189 YLCA WAKEFIELD BRANCH - CHAIRMAN

The YLCA Wakefield branch chairman – Cllr Tim Saunders – was unable to attend but he did send a report which was read out by the town clerk.

190 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved that the minutes of the council meeting held on 15 July 2021 be approved.

191 COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Committee	Date
Leisure and Recreation	22 July 2021
Finance	5 August 2021
Policy and Planning	12 August 2021

192 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved that the payment of accounts as approved at the Finance Committee meeting held on 5 August 2021 be approved.

193 CASUAL VACANCY – BY-ELECTION

The town clerk confirmed that a by-election will be held on 16 September 2021 in respect of the casual vacancy in the Hemsworth south ward.

194 SEASIDE EVENT

Resolved that the request regarding children's rides at the seaside event be approved but limited to two rides.

195 MENTAL HEALTH CHARITY

Resolved in principle to support the mental health charity and that Cllr Middleton will liaise with the town clerk when further details are received.

196 MINI-FESTIVAL

Resolved that this item be deferred until next year.

197 HYGIENE – SOAP DISPENSERS

Resolved that the quote from Cathedral Hygiene for soap dispensers (installation and maintenance) at council properties be approved.

198 TRAINING FOR COUNCILLORS – EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND DATA PROTECTION

The town clerk confirmed that the training has been arranged for 3 September 2021 and has been procured from the National Association of Councillors.

Resolved that the report of the town clerk be noted and approved.

199 SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Resolved that a page be added to the council's website to publicise the contact details of local businesses in the parish (with the businesses' consent).

200 WEBSITE

Resolved that a section be added to the council's website to clarify the respective responsibilities of Wakefield District Council and Hemsworth Town Council.

201 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.

202 STAFFING MATTERS

a) Counselling for staff

Resolved that counselling be made available for all members of staff.

b) Grounds maintenance recruitment

The town clerk reported on the persons appointed after the recent grounds maintenance recruitment.

Resolved that the report of the town clerk be noted and approved.

c) Sickness absence

The town clerk reported generally on the number of staff currently on sickness absence and that an occupational health assessment report had been received.

Resolved that:

- The town clerk's report be noted and approved.
- The town clerk liaise with the council's HR advisor to progress actions derived from the occupational health assessment.

203 HEMSWORTH WATER PARK – ICE CREAM TENDER

The town clerk opened the five tenders received in full view of the council.

Resolved that the highest tender be accepted.

204 KIRKBY ROAD SPORTS COMPLEX

The chairman reported that he will call an extraordinary council meeting for 9 September 2021 so that the council's legal advisor – Dr Paul Stookes of Richard Buxton Solicitors – can attend remotely to advise the council directly and to answer any queries members may have.

Resolved that the chairman's report be noted and approved.

205 ONLINE INVECTIVE AGAINST COUNCIL STAFF

Resolved that:

- Online abuse of council staff will not be tolerated.
- Online abuse of council staff can result in the withdrawal of council services.
- Online abuse of council staff will be met, where appropriate, with legal action, in accordance with legal advice from the council's HR advisor.
- Online abuse of council staff will be reported to the police, where appropriate.

206 HEMSWORTH WATER PARK – SPECIAL MOTION

Resolved that having been considered, the special motion received from Cllrs Dodson, Hardacre, Hird, Middleton, A Westmorland and G Westmorland in

respect of the decision taken by the council on 15 July 2021 regarding Hemsworth Water Park (minute no. 143) be declined.

The meeting closed at 21:15.