

**Town Council Meeting
14 October 2021**

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

Twelve members of the public were in attendance.

243 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Pringle.

Resolved that the reason for absence be approved.

244 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

245 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public raised the following matters:

- At the extraordinary council meeting on 12 October 2021, a member of the public had had his photograph taken by another member of the public with the resultant photograph being posted online and as such he is considering legal action.
- Posts on social media regarding the late, former council chairman, Mr Robert McIntyre, have upset his family.

At this point the chairman called for a minute's silence to be held in respect of Mr Robert McIntyre.

- There are no waste bins on Barnsley Road or Robin Lane. The town clerk confirmed that this had already recently been reported to Wakefield Council.
- There is only one waste bin on Southmoor Road. The town clerk undertook to report it to Wakefield Council.

246 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved that the respective minutes of the council meeting held on 19 August and the extraordinary council meetings held on 9 September and 12 October 2021 be approved.

247 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	9 September 2021
Finance	16 September 2021
Policy and Planning	23 September 2021

248 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved that the payment of accounts as approved at the Finance Committee meeting held on 16 September 2021 be approved.

At this juncture Cllr Middleton requested a recorded vote on all remaining items of business.

249 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) Email from Jon Trickett MP regarding a memorial bench for a former council chairman.
Resolved that the request be approved and the family be contacted to discuss the location in Hemsworth Water Park (unanimous).
- b) Email from Fr Robert Hart requesting free use of the community centre for a Christmas fair.
Resolved that the request be approved (unanimous).
- c) Email from Butterfly nursery requesting free use of the community centre for a charity fundraiser for "Leo's story".
Resolved that the request be approved and a donation of £200 be made (unanimous).
- d) Letter of thanks from Yorkshire Air Ambulance.
- e) Email from a parishioner regarding Hemsworth Music Festival.
Resolved that this item be discussed during agenda item 15 (unanimous).
- f) Email from a parishioner regarding help for the people of Kinsley.
Resolved that this request be referred to Cllr Womersley (unanimous).

250 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Resolved that the request from the Royal British Legion to organize this year's Remembrance Sunday parade march be approved and that the town clerk be authorized to take all necessary action (unanimous).

251 BONFIRE NIGHT

Resolved that the request to have small children's rides on bonfire night be approved and that the town clerk be authorized to negotiate a concession fee and that the ride charges be kept as low as possible (unanimous).

252 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2020-21

The town clerk confirmed that the external auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2021 had been received with no issues raised.

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

253 LIVESTREAMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Two proposals were put forward: to livestream via Zoom (full) council meetings only or to livestream via Zoom all council/committee meetings

The votes were cast to livestream via Zoom (full) council meetings only as follows:

Cllrs G Eccles, J Eccles, Foletti, Kenyon, Mitchell and Wilson.

Against:

Cllrs Dodson, Hardacre, Hird, Middleton, A Westmorland and G Westmorland.

Visit Hemsworth Water Park and Playworld for a great family day out

Abstentions:
Cllr Hirst.

There being an equality of votes the chair cast his casting vote in favour of the proposal.

Resolved that (full) council meetings only will be broadcast via Zoom.

254 PLANT MACHINERY

Two proposals were put forward: to keep all the plant machinery and conduct a review in twelve months' time or to sell all the plant machinery apart from the tractor and trailer.

The votes were cast to keep all the plant machinery and conduct a review in twelve months' time as follows:

For:
Cllrs G Eccles, J Eccles, Foletti, Hirst, Kenyon, G Westmorland and Wilson.

Against:
Cllrs Dodson, Hardacre, Hird, Middleton and A Westmorland.

Abstentions:
Cllr Mitchell.

Resolved to keep all the plant machinery and conduct a review in twelve months' time.

255 HEMSWORTH WATER PARK

a) Christmas Day opening with Boxing Day closure (café bar)

Resolved that the café bar be open on Christmas Day and closed on Boxing Day (unanimous).

b) Quote for the removal of algae from the lakes

Resolved that the quote is not accepted and the matter be dealt with in-house as far as possible (unanimous).

c) Quote for remedial work on the drains in Playworld

Resolved that this item be deferred until next year (unanimous).

d) Quote for the refurbishment of the outside toilets

Resolved that the quote is not accepted and that the toilets be re-tiled and two new toilets procured (unanimous).

e) Quote for the electrical work in the compound to the new unit and the catering unit

The votes were cast to accept and approve the quote as follows:

For:
Cllrs G Eccles, J Eccles, Foletti, Hardacre, Hirst, Kenyon, Mitchell, A Westmorland, G Westmorland and Wilson.

Against:
Cllrs Dodson, Hird and Middleton.

Visit Hemsworth Water Park and Playworld for a great family day out

Abstentions:
None.

Resolved that the quote from Mr Electric be accepted and approved.

f) Consideration of placing the park in trust.

Resolved that this item be deferred pending further research (unanimous).

g) Consideration of a replacement walk-in freezer in the café bar kitchen

Resolved that this item be deferred until next year (unanimous).

h) Consideration of a possible lift for the café bar

Resolved that this item be deferred pending receipt of quotes (unanimous).

256 GROVE LANE ALLOTMENTS - FENCING

Resolved that existing palisade fencing be used and the matter be dealt with in-house (unanimous).

NB – Agenda item 26 was brought forward as Cllr Mitchell would shortly have to leave the meeting.

257 SWEEPING MACHINE

Resolved that Wakefield Council be asked to sweep paths, precincts more often and to ask if a sweeping machine can be borrowed from them (unanimous).

Cllr Mitchell left the meeting at this juncture.

258 HEMSWORTH MUSIC FESTIVAL

a) Projected costs

Resolved that the projected costs be approved but with a review to be held on 28 February 2022 to determine whether or not to continue with the festival based upon the number of tickets sold (unanimous).

b) Running order

Resolved that the running order be approved (unanimous).

c) Marching band

Resolved that the marching band with a parade only around Hemsworth town centre be approved (unanimous).

d) Ticketing

Resolved that tickets be sold via Ticketmaster (unanimous).

e) Marketing

Resolved that the council's in-house marketing media be used (unanimous).

f) Possible working group or committee to oversee the festival planning and preparations

Resolved that:

- A working party be set up consisting of Cllrs G Eccles, J Eccles, Foletti, Hirst, Kenyon and Wilson (unanimous).

- The working party's remit is to oversee the planning and preparations and to report back to council with recommendations for consideration (unanimous).

Cllr Hardacre left the meeting at this juncture.

259 ONLINE ABUSE OF COUNCILLORS

Resolved that if any councillors feel that any public corrections are required then to send the details to the town clerk who will assess and if necessary issue a correction on the council's website (unanimous).

260 IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WEST WARD

Resolved that suggestions can be submitted for future consideration (unanimous).

261 CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS

Resolved that an awards night be held next year to celebrate the work local volunteers do in the community (unanimous).

262 RECORDING VOTES

The votes were cast to include a standard item on all council meeting agendas regarding recording votes as follows:

For:

Cllrs Dodson, Foletti, Hird, Middleton, A Westmorland and G Westmorland.

Against:

None.

Abstentions:

Cllrs G Eccles, J Eccles, Hirst, Kenyon, and Wilson.

Resolved to include a standard item on all council meeting agendas regarding recording votes.

263 COUNCIL MEETING LOCATIONS

Resolved that all council/committee meetings continue to be held in the main hall at either Hemsworth Community Centre or Fitzwilliam Community Centre (unanimous).

264 COUNCIL PROJECTS

Resolved that all outstanding projects should be completed as soon as possible (unanimous).

265 BRASS BAND CONCERTS

Resolved that food/refreshments be provided prior to the brass band concerts scheduled respectively for 21 October and 16 December 2021 (unanimous).

266 MONTHLY TEA AND BINGO EVENT

Resolved that a monthly tea and bingo event be held, organised by Cllr Folletti (unanimous).

267 CHRISTMAS – SELECTION BOXES

Resolved that Christmas selection boxes be provided for local children (unanimous).

268 CHRISTMAS CLOSEDOWN – HEMSWORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Resolved that Hemsworth Community Centre will close at lunchtime on 24 December 2021 and will re-open on 4 January 2022 (unanimous).

269 CLUB TERRACE DISPOSAL - CONVEYANCING

Resolved that Ramsdens Solicitors be appointed to deal with the conveyancing and legal matters in respect of the disposal of land at Club Terrace (unanimous).

270 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 (unanimous).

271 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.

272 STAFFING MATTERS

a) Probationary period for a member of staff

Resolved that the probationary period for the member of staff concerned be approved (unanimous).

b) Sickness absence

The town clerk reported generally on the number of staff currently on sickness absence.

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

c) Possible permanent contracts

Resolved that permanent contracts be offered to the members of staff concerned (unanimous).

d) Tribunal

The town clerk reported on the result of a tribunal.

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

273 KIRKBY ROAD SPORTS COMPLEX

Resolved that this item be deferred pro tem (unanimous).

The meeting closed at 21:35.