

Town Council Meeting
3 February 2022

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

Twelve members of the public were in attendance.

This meeting was simultaneously livestreamed via Zoom.

359 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Pringle.

Resolved that the reason for absence be approved.

360 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs G Eccles, J Eccles and Moran each declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 16 – Newstead ‘strip’ – car parking.

361 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public raised the following matters:

- The disposal of land at Club Terrace, Fitzwilliam.
- The poor ticket sales for Hemsworth Summer Festival.

362 RECORDED VOTES

Cllr Moran requested a recorded vote on agenda item 10 and Cllr Middleton requested recorded votes on agenda items 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 27 and 29(b-e).

363 TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Resolved that the minutes of the council meeting held on 2 December 2021 be approved.

364 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	6 January 2022
Finance	20 January 2022
Policy and Planning	20 January 2022

365 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved that the payment of accounts as approved at the Finance Committee meeting held on 20 January 2022 be approved.

366 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) Email from a parishioner asking why there was no formal public consultation regarding the music festival.
- b) Email from a parishioner asking that as the case with Saul Construction has ended, will the council issue an apology to former councillors.
- c) Letter from a parishioner regarding Wakefield Council's Local Plan.
- d) Letter from a parishioner thanking the council for the removal of some rubbish.

367 CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

The town clerk confirmed that code of conduct training has been arranged for all councillors on 5 April 2022.

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

368 DECISION MAKING TRAINING

Resolved that decision making and collaborative learning training – facilitated by Cllr Moran – be approved (unanimous).

369 POLICY AND PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

Resolved that with immediate effect the Policy and Planning sub-committee be disbanded (unanimous).

370 PUBLIC CONSULTATION – SIGNIFICANT EXPENDITURE

Cllr Middleton proposed that a public consultation be held for any proposed expenditure of £25,000 or more. This was seconded by Cllr Hird.

For:

Cllrs Dodson, Folletti, Hird, Middleton, Moran, A Westmorland and G Westmorland.

Against:

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

Abstentions:

Cllr Hardacre.

Resolved that a public consultation be held for any proposed expenditure of £25,000 or more.

371 DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS) CHECKS

Resolved that councillors can voluntarily request a DBS check via the council's administration office.

372 COUNCIL PROJECTS

Cllr Middleton raised the matter of the unfinished work at Cemetery Road football facility and the paths around the park and Cllr Hardacre raised the matter of the lower lake at the park.

373 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resolved that a public question time section be included at all committee meetings (unanimous).

374 NEWSTEAD 'STRIP' – CAR PARKING

Due to their respective pecuniary interests, Cllrs G Eccles, J Eccles and Moran took no part in this item.

Resolved that the request to provide rubber matting on the 'strip' be declined (unanimous).

375 LAKESIDE CAFÉ BAR – LIFT AND HEATING SYSTEM

Resolved that:

- The procurement of a lift be approved in principle, pending receipt of quotes and details of lost bookings (unanimous).
- An estimate be obtained to replace the heating system (unanimous).

376 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2022-23

The town clerk reported on the budget discussions held at the Finance Committee meeting on 20 January 2022. 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 (unanimous).
- The budget be approved (unanimous).
- The median 'band D' amount remain at £206.50 thus with the resultant total precept being £768,387 (unanimous).

377 SANDYGATE FOOTBALL FACILITY - STAFFING

Resolved that the town clerk be authorized to conduct an external recruitment exercise to recruit a permanent member of staff (full time or part time) to be based at the Sandygate football facility (unanimous).

378 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 (unanimous).

379 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.

380 COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

The chairman provided clarification as to which councillors attended surgeries recently.

381 KIRKBY ROAD SPORTS COMPLEX

The town clerk confirmed that all legal matters pertaining to the sports complex have now concluded.

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

382 HEMSWORTH CEMETERY

Resolved that permission be sought from Wakefield Council to conduct litter picking and minor grounds maintenance work in Hemsworth Cemetery.

383 HEMSWORTH WATER PARK – NATURE WALKS

Resolved that local schools be offered nature walks around the park with a (free) buffet lunch in the café bar.

384 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.

385 STORAGE UNIT AT HEMSWORTH WATER PARK – SECURITY

Resolved that the extra security measures for the storage unit be approved (unanimous).

386 ALLOTMENTS - SECURITY

Resolved that the extra security measures for the allotments site concerned be approved.

387 STAFFING MATTERS

a) Probationary periods

Resolved that the respective three months' probationary periods for the members of staff concerned be approved.

b) Six monthly reviews of line managers

Resolved that:

- The town clerk will conduct six monthly reviews of line managers (unanimous)
- The town clerk's review will be conducted by Cllr Middleton (unanimous).

c) Summer/winter hours for café staff

Resolved that:

- Summer/winter hours of 40/34 hours for the café staff be provisionally approved, pending the results of the requisite consultation (unanimous).

d) Overtime

Resolved that overtime be approved, as per the town clerk's report (unanimous).

e) Tenancy review

Cllr Middleton proposed a rental increase. This was seconded by Cllr Moran.

For:

Cllrs Dodson, Hardace, Hird, Middleton, Moran, A Westmorland and G Westmorland.

Against:
None.

Abstentions:
Cllrs G Eccles, J Eccles, Folletti, Hirst, Kenyon, Mitchell and Wilson

Resolved that the rental increase be approved accordingly.

The meeting closed at 21:10.