

**Town Council Meeting
18 August 2022**

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

Twenty-five members of the public were in attendance.

This meeting was simultaneously livestreamed and recorded via Zoom.

146 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

The chairman withdrew this item.

147 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mitchell.

Resolved that the reason for absence be approved.

148 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

149 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public raised the following matters:

- Councillors' involvement in community groups.
- The council's priorities.
- Noticeboards.
- Newsletters.
- Councillors over-speaking one another.

150 RECORDED VOTES

Cllr Middleton requested recorded votes on agenda items 9, 10, 12 and 14.

Resolved that all items have a recorded vote.

151 TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Resolved that the respective minutes of the council meeting held on 14 July and the extraordinary council meeting held on 4 August 2022 be approved (unanimous).

152 COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Committee	Date
Leisure and Recreation	21 July 2022
Finance	4 August 2022
Policy and Planning	4 August 2022

153 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved that the payment of accounts as approved at the Finance Committee meeting held on 4 August 2022 be approved (unanimous).

154 CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

Resolved that the council signs up to the civility and respect pledge, in association with NALC and SLCC (unanimous).

155 HEMSWORTH WATER PARK – PATH RESURFACING CONSULTATION

Resolved that the responses to the public consultation be received and that the tender process continue as planned (unanimous).

156 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).

157 SPECIAL MOTION – NO CONFIDENCE - CHAIRMAN

Cllr Middleton proposed a motion of no confidence in the chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Moran.

For:

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

Against:

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

Abstentions:

Cllr G Westmorland.

There being an equality of votes, the chairman cast her casting vote against the motion.

Resolved that the motion failed.

158 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.

159 STAFFING MATTERS

a) Appointment of a grievance panel and an appeal panel

Resolved that:

- The grievance panel consist of Cllrs Hirst, Middleton and Moran (unanimous).
- An external HR professional from WMDC be appointed to investigate the grievance and to provide a resultant report with recommendations for the grievance panel to consider (unanimous).
- The appeal panel will be the council (unanimous).

b) Sickness absence

The town clerk reported generally on the number of staff currently on

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sickness absence.

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

c) Probationary period

Resolved that the member of staff concerned has not passed the three months' probationary period and that improvements must be made if the six months' probationary period is to be successfully completed (unanimous).

d) Security

Resolved that another bodycam be procured as a 'floating' device for staff to use when necessary (unanimous).

e) Contractors' conduct towards staff

Resolved that the situation be kept under review (unanimous).

f) Tenancy review

Resolved that the legal advice be accepted and executed (unanimous).

The meeting closed at 20:20.