

Town Council Meeting
13 October 2022

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

Twenty members of the public were in attendance.

This meeting was simultaneously livestreamed and recorded via Zoom.

194 HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

A minute's silence was held in respect of her late majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

195 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G Eccles and Mitchell.

Resolved that the respective reasons for absence be approved.

196 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

197 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public raised the following matters:

- Memorial garden in Kinsley.
- Newsletters.
- The recent quad bike theft.
- Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting.

198 RECORDED VOTES

Cllr Hird requested recorded votes on all agenda items.

Resolved that all items have a recorded vote.

199 TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Resolved that the minutes of the council meeting held on 18 August 2022 be approved (unanimous).

200 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	28 September 2022
Finance	28 September 2022
Policy and Planning	28 September 2022

201 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved that the payment of accounts as approved at the Finance

Committee meeting held on 28 September 2022 be approved (unanimous).

202 NEW COUNCILLOR

Resolved that Cllr McGinnies be appointed to all the council's three standing committees (unanimous).

203 CEMETERY ROAD FOOTBALL FIELDS - LONG TERM FUTURE

Resolved to support the proposal from West End Terriers FC for them to secure the long term, exclusive use of the site and that a request be sent to WMDC accordingly (unanimous).

204 EVENTS PANEL

Resolved that:

- An events panel be set up for the purpose of meeting to discuss and suggest/recommend ideas for events for the council to consider (unanimous).
- The events panel consist of Cllrs Dodson, Hird, Moran and A Westmorland (unanimous).
- Members of the public be invited to join the events panel (unanimous).

205 HEALTH AND SAFETY – MONTHLY MISSIONS

Cllr Hird proposed monthly missions to assist staff with health and safety. This was seconded by Cllr Moran.

For:

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

Against:

Cllrs J Eccles, Kenyon, Pringle and Wilson.

Abstentions:

Cllr Hirst.

Resolved that monthly missions be set up.

206 EXTERNAL AUDITORS

a) Option to opt out of the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments

Resolved that the council will remain opted in with the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (unanimous).

b) External audit report 2021-22

The town clerk reported on the external auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Resolved that the report be accepted and approved (unanimous).

207 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Resolved that the social media policy be approved (unanimous).

208 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).

209 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).

210 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – KINSLEY AND FITZWILLIAM

Cllr J Eccles proposed that the refreshments after the Remembrance Sunday wreath laying in Kinsley be held at 'Liquid Spirit'. This was seconded by Cllr Kenyon.

For:

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

Against:

Cllrs Dodson, Hird, McGinnies, Moran and A Westmorland

Abstentions:

Cllrs Middleton and G Westmorland.

Resolved that the refreshments after the Remembrance Sunday wreath laying in Kinsley be held at 'Liquid Spirit'.

211 MEMORIAL BENCH – PAST COUNCILLORS

Resolved to procure a dedicated memorial bench in Hemsworth Water Park for past councillors (unanimous).

212 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 (unanimous).

213 HEMSWORTH WATER PARK – ICE CREAM CONCESSION

Resolved that an alternative second location be allowed in the park up to 31 March 2023, after which it will revert back to the original second location (unanimous).

214 BURGLARY

The town clerk reported details of a recent burglary at Hemsworth Water Park.

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

215 COUNCILLORS' CONDUCT

The town clerk reported that due to an incident involving the conduct of a councillor when speaking to a member of staff, he had reported the councillor to the monitoring officer at WMDC.

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

216 SOCIAL MEDIA ABUSE – POTENTIAL LEGAL ACTION

Resolved that this item be deferred (unanimous).

217 STAFFING MATTERS

a) Appeal

Resolved that WMDC's HR Department (or their partners) be appointed to handle (if necessary) the appeal and provide a resultant report with recommendations for the council to consider (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) Probationary period

Resolved that two members of staff and a further member of staff have all respectively passed their six months' and three months' probationary period (unanimous).

d) Restructure

Resolved that:

- WMDC's HR Department (or their partners) be appointed to conduct a review of the staff structure (unanimous).
- There will be no job losses as a result of any resultant restructure (unanimous).

218 PANELS – COMPLAINTS ET AL

Resolved that:

- Cllr McGinnies be appointed to the existing panel dealing with a complaint regarding a member of the public (unanimous).
- Cllrs Dodson, Hardacre, Kenyon, Middleton and Moran be appointed to deal with a complaint regarding a member of staff (unanimous).

219 SANDYGATE FOOTBALL FACILITY

a) Steve Wells' report

Resolved that this item be deferred (unanimous).

b) Contractual agreement

Resolved that this item be deferred (unanimous).

220 GRIEVANCE

Cllr Hird left the meeting at this juncture.

The chairman confirmed her hopes that there would be no repeat of the circumstances which led to the recent submission of a grievance.

221 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Resolved that this item be deferred.

The meeting closed at 20:50.

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