Town Council Meeting
2 February 2023

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

Forty members of the public were in attendance.

This meeting was simultaneously livestreamed and recorded via Zoom.

333 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Middleton.

Resolved that the reason for absence be approved.

334 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs G & J Eccles each declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 20d - ”Offer from Wakefield Council”.

335 RECORDED VOTES

Cllr Hird requested recorded votes on all agenda items.

Resolved that all items have a recorded vote.

336 TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Resolved that the respective minutes of the council meeting held on 1 December 2022 and the extraordinary council meeting held on 18 January 2023 be approved (unanimous).

337 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	5 January 2023
Finance	12 January 2023
Policy and Planning	12 January 2023

338 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved that the payment of accounts as approved at the Finance Committee meeting held on 12 January 2023 be approved (unanimous).

339 CORRESPONDENCE

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

a) Letter from the British Polio Fellowship thanking the council for its recent grant donation.
Resolved that the correspondence be received (unanimous).
b) Letter from King’s Meadow Academy thanking the council for its Christmas grant donation.
Resolved that the correspondence be received (unanimous).

c) Letter from two parishioners regarding the conduct of a councillor.
Resolved that the correspondence be received and that the matter be discussed in the confidential part of the meeting (unanimous).

340 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND/OR ASSISTANCE

a) Hemsworth Food Pantry
Resolved that Hemsworth Food Pantry be allowed use of Hemsworth Community Centre to assist with food parcel provision during the February half-term holiday, in accordance with section 1, Localism Act 2011 (unanimous).

b) 'Little Stars' playgroup
This request was withdrawn.

c) Royal Hussars veterans' group
Resolved that a banner be provided for the Royal Hussars veterans' group, in accordance with section 1, Localism Act 2011 (unanimous).

341 REMEMBRANCE

Resolved that two unknown soldier (mobile) statues be procured and that permission be sought from the British Legion to revamp the benches at the Hemsworth memorial.

342 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2023-24

The town clerk reported on the budget discussions held at the Finance Committee meeting on 12 January 2023. 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 increase of 3% to the 'band D' figure and particular reference to the need to maintain reserves of at least £300,000.

Cllr Moran proposed to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and the town clerk and that the 'band D' figure be increased by 3%. This was seconded by Cllr McGinnies.

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

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

Abstentions:
None.

Resolved that:

- The town clerk's report be received and noted.
- The budget be approved.
- The median 'band D' amount to increase to £212.69 thus with the resultant total precept being £803,968.

343 WEST YORKSHIRE PENSION FUND – ACTUARIAL ASSESSMENT

The town clerk reported that the pension fund's actuarial assessment has resulted in an increase of 0.5% in the council's contribution.

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

344 CASUAL VACANCY – CO-OPTION

The town clerk confirmed that there had been two applications for co-option to the casual vacancy – Mr S Bates and Ms L Morton. The votes cast were as follows:

Mr S Bates;
Cllrs Dodson, Hird, Moran, A Westmorland and G Westmorland.

Ms L Morton:
Cllrs J Eccles, Hardacre, Hirst, McGinnies, Kenyon, Pringle and Wilson.

Abstentions:
Cllr G Eccles

Resolved that Ms L Morton be co-opted to the casual vacancy.

Ms L Morton proceeded to sign a declaration of acceptance of office thus becoming Cllr Morton and thereafter being able to take part in the rest of the meeting.

345 USE OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT PROCESS

The town clerk reported on correspondence from the monitoring officer at Wakefield Council concerning the use of the code of conduct process.

Resolved that the correspondence from the monitoring officer be received and accepted (unanimous).

346 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

This item was withdrawn.

347 STANDING COMMITTEE – GRIEVANCES AND DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

Resolved that:

- A standing committee be set up to deal with grievances and disciplinary matters from now until the May elections (unanimous).
- The committee will consist of Cllrs Dodson, Hird, McGinnies, Moran and A Westmorland (unanimous).

348 COMMITTEE MEETINGS - VENUE

Resolved that with immediate effect, all committee meetings will be held in the main hall at Hemsworth Community Centre, notwithstanding any bookings (unanimous).

349 EVENTS PANEL

Resolved that:

- The recommendations from the events panel be approved (unanimous).
- There be a refundable £5 deposit for all coach trips (unanimous).

350 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public raised the following matters:

- Bonfire night.
- Christmas float.
- Noticeboards.

351 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).

352 HEMSWORTH WATER PARK (including the café bar)

a) Path tender

Resolved that:
  - The work for the paths be re-tendered (unanimous).
  - The work to include the paths running off the main path around the lake (unanimous).

b) Café heating

The town clerk reported that he currently awaits a quote for the heating.

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

c) Insurance report

The town clerk reported on a recent inspection from the council’s insurer regarding the park.

Resolved that:
  - The town clerk’s report be noted and approved (unanimous).
  - The second beach be taped off and out of use (unanimous).
  - The town clerk to explore options for the future of the second beach (unanimous).

d) Offer from Wakefield Council

The town clerk reported on an offer from Wakefield Council concerning land at the park and a gate thereon.

Cllr Moran proposed that the gate concerned be removed. This was seconded by Cllr Hird.

For:
Cllrs Dodson, Hardacre, Hird, McGinnies, Moran, Morton, A Westmorland and G Westmorland.

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

Abstentions:
None.

Resolved that the gate concerned be removed.

Resolved that the offer regarding the land be deferred, pending receipt of further information (unanimous).

e) Ice cream
Resolved that this be referred to the Leisure and Recreation Committee.

f) Café license
Cllr Hardacre proposed that the cafe's license should remain in place. This was seconded by Cllr Kenyon.

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

Against:
Cllrs Dodson and Hird.

Abstentions:
Cllrs McGinnies, Moran and Morton.

Resolved that the café's license will remain in place.

353 INFORMATION COMMISISONER

Further to minute no. 253(a) (2022-23) the town clerk reported on correspondence received from the Information Commissioner.

Resolved that:

- The correspondence from the Information Commissioner be received and accepted (unanimous).
- Data protection training be arranged for councillors forthwith (unanimous).

354 STAFFING MATTERS

a) 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).

b) Grievance
The town clerk reported (generally) on the progress of a grievance.

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

c) Tenancy
Resolved that this item be deferred, pending the receipt of further advice (unanimous).

The meeting closed at 20:30.