

**Annual Town Council Meeting
18 May 2023**

Present: Councillors Bates, Conway, Dodson, Fernie, Firth, Hardacre, Hird, Kendall, McGinnies, Morton, Ogunade, Pearson, Stephens, Whitehead and the town clerk.

Thirty-two members of the public were in attendance.

This meeting was simultaneously broadcast and recorded via Zoom.

001 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

As the current chairman was not present, it was resolved to elect Cllr Bates to chair this item.

Resolved that Cllr Stanley Bates be elected chairman for the ensuing year.

002 CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The chairman's declaration of acceptance of office was signed and received.

003 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Oldroyd.

Resolved that the reason for absence be approved.

004 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

005 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Dodson proposed Cllr Hird as vice-chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Stephens.

Cllr Whitehead proposed Cllr McGinnies as vice-chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Firth.

For Cllr Hird:

Cllrs Dodson, Hardacre, Hird, Kendall, Ogunade and Stephens.

For Cllr McGinnies:

Cllrs Conway, Firth, McGinnies, Morton, Pearson and Whitehead.

Abstentions:

Cllrs Bates and Fernie.

There being an equality of votes the chairman cast his casting vote in favour of Cllr McGinnies.

Resolved that Cllr Ian McGinnies be elected vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

006 VICE-CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The vice-chairman's declaration of acceptance of office was signed and received.

007 CONFIRMATION OF THE ELECTION RESULTS

It was confirmed that the results of the election held on 4 May 2023 were as follows:

Kinsley and Fitzwilliam ward:

Cllr Alan Dodson

Cllr Keith Fernie

Cllr Linda Firth

Cllr Peter Hardacre

Cllr Carol Whitehead

Hemsworth south/west ward:

Cllr Kevin Conway

Cllr Ade Ogunade

Cllr Ian McGinnies

Cllr Lyn Morton

Cllr Robert Oldroyd

Hemsworth east ward:

Cllr Stanley Bates

Cllr Maxine Hird

Cllr Gary Kendall

Cllr David Pearson

Cllr Paul Stephens

008 CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE

Due to his pecuniary interest, Cllr Bates took no part in the discussion or decision regarding this item and as such Cllr McGinnies assumed the chair.

Resolved that the chairman's allowance be maintained at £2,000.

Cllr Bates resumed the chair at this juncture.

009 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Resolved that council meetings be held on the first and third Thursday of each month and that unless otherwise stated, all meetings are to commence at 7pm and will be held in the main hall in Hemsworth Community Centre.

010 STANDING PANELS

Resolved that the respective standing panels for grievances/disciplinaries and complaints consist of Cllrs Conway, Fernie, Hardacre, Ogunade, McGinnies, Morton and Whitehead.

011 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, STANDING ORDERS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Resolved that the council's financial regulations, standing orders and code of conduct be approved and adopted.

012 DATA PROTECTION / GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

Resolved that the council's suite of data protection / GDPR policies be approved and adopted.

- 013 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY AND PUBLICATION SCHEME**
Resolved that the freedom of information policy and publication scheme be approved and adopted.
- 014 POLICIES**
Resolved that the council's suite of (other) policies i.e. equal opportunities, complaints, media, staff handbook, whistleblowing and recording of council meetings. be approved and adopted.
- 015 ASSET REGISTER**
Resolved that this item be deferred and reviewed in due course.
- 016 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**
Resolved that Cllrs Bates and McGinnies be the council's appointed voting representatives to the Yorkshire Local Councils Association.
- 017 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**
Resolved that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and statutory instrument 965 Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, the General Power of Competence be adopted.
- 018 LEGAL ADVISORS/SOLICITORS**
Resolved that this item be deferred and reviewed in due course.
- 019 TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**
Resolved that the respective minutes of the council meeting held on 23 March 2023 and the extraordinary council meeting held on 2 May 2023, as detailed in minute book no. 7, be approved.
- 020 COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
Resolved that the minutes of the following meeting be approved and adopted:

Leisure and Recreation 6 April 2023
- 021 INTERNAL CONTROLS AND INTERNAL AUDIT**
Resolved that this item be deferred and reviewed in due course.
- 022 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022-23**
Resolved that this item be deferred and reviewed in due course.
- 023 ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2022-23**
Resolved that this item be deferred and reviewed in due course.
- 024 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
Members of the public raised the following matters:
- The land at Club Terrace.
 - A commendation to the chair for respectful conduct.
 - Forensic audit.
 - Apparent secret meetings and possible exclusion.
 - Working together as a team.

- WMDC's Local Plan.
- Possible investment for Hemsworth Water Park.
- The former golf course in Vale Head Park.
- The soft play area in the Lakeside Café Bar.

The meeting closed at 20:05.