**MOSSLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**21 October 2020 at 7.30pm**

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|  | **Present**  Councillor Frank Travis (Chair) (In the Chair); Councillors Dean Aylett, Jack Homer, Stephen Homer, Ruth Kerfoot and Pat Mullin. | | | | | | | | |
| **2021** | **Apologies for Absence**  An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Idu Miah. | | | | | | | | |
| **2022** | **Former Councillor Martin Stimson**  The Chair advised members that he had on 21 September 2020 received notice from former Councillor Martin Stimson of his resignation as a member of the Town Council for the Yorkshire Ward with immediate effect.  The Chair paid tribute to the service to the Town provided by Mr Stimson and expressed gratitude for his enthusiasm and commitment to several projects.  In concluding, the Chair and members expressed thanks to Mr Stimson.  The Clerk advised members that former Councillor Stimson was the Town Council’s representative on the Tameside MBC Standards Committee and there was therefore a need to appoint a replacement member from the Town Council.  Cllr Stephen Homer is the current deputy serving on the Standards Committee.  The Clerk added that a report to be considered later during the meeting invited members to consider arrangements for the co-option of councillors to the Town Council following the publication of notices inviting residents to petition for elections to take place to fill the two current vacancies. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That consideration of the appointment of a representative to serve on the Tameside MBC Standards Committee be deferred to the next meeting. | | | | | | |
| **2023** | **Declarations of Interest**  Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.  No declarations were made. | | | | | | | | |
| **2024** | **Public Engagement** | | | | | | | | |
|  | Proposed residential development of 21No. family homes and associated works - amended plan to create temporary construction access from Stamford Road at Brookfields Mossley (19/00489/FUL)  Mr David Jones and Ms Vanessa Markendale attended the meeting to voice on behalf of local residents, their opposition to the development.  After carefully considering the comments from local residents and members, the Council agreed to consider agenda item 4 (Planning issues at this point during the meeting. | | | | | | | | |
| **2025** | **Planning Issues**  The Council considered the following planning applications: | | | | | | | | |
|  | (i) | Proposed residential development of 21 no. family homes and associated works - amended plan to create temporary construction access from Stamford Road at Brookfields Mossley (19/00489/FUL) | | | | | | | |
|  | (ii) | Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 9A Andrew Street Mossley (20/00885/FUL) | | | | | | | |
|  | (iii) | Replacement of existing conservatory with single storey extension with same ridge & eaves height and squared off splayed corners. The creation of an enclosed terrace to the side of the extension. 2 Manor Street Mossley (20/00844/CPUD) | | | | | | | |
|  | In respect of the application for proposed residential development of 21 no. family homes and associated works - amended plan to create temporary construction access from Stamford Road at Brookfields Mossley (19/00489/FUL), it was: | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (i) | | | That the Town Council objects to the proposed development on the following grounds:  - the construction of an additional access onto Stamford Road even on a temporary basis will result in serious traffic problems on an extremely busy road resulting in additional danger to both pedestrians and other road users;  - the proposed access is inadequate for the types of construction vehicles visiting the site and is likely to result in construction vehicles parking on Stamford Road awaiting access or even unloading from Stamford Road and adding to traffic danger with vehicles accelerating downhill on Stamford Road having to give-way;  - the temporary access will involve the demolition of an existing historic dry-stone wall which is an important part of the street scene and even if rebuilt at the end of the temporary period, there will have a detrimental effect on the visual amenity of the locality;  That whilst focussing on the proposed amendment, the additional concerns expressed by residents about the main application be fully supported as follows:  - a strong objection from the Milton St John's Primary School in view of the close proximity to the school;  - the proposed development will result in an overdevelopment of the site;  - recent issues involving heavy vehicles in the locality becoming stranded highlight the traffic issues and unsuitability of roads in the area for development of this type.  That the objections made by the Town Council to the original planning application on 4 September 2019, strongly opposing the development on the following grounds:  (1) the access to the proposed development via Mill Lane and Archer St is inappropriate, in particular due to its narrow width and close proximity to the nearby Milton St John's School; and  (2) the proposed development will have a detrimental effect on the rich amount of wildlife in the immediate locality which contributes to the wellbeing and amenity of the local community;  be reaffirmed  That the Town Council’s subsequent concerns expressed on 26 February 2020 about the ecological survey of the site which had been conducted by Dunelm Ecology, Environmental Consultants on behalf of the applicant as follows:  - the descriptions about existing trees on the site were unrealistic;  - the comments about wildlife on the site were inadequate, making reference to parts of the site being inaccessible to survey. These are likely to be the very areas inhabited by wildlife; and  - overall, the ecological aspects of the site had been largely overlooked in the report;  be reaffirmed.  That in noting that the recent appeal for residential development on land nearby at Greaves Street had been dismissed, the Town Council considers that:  - the decision to dismiss this appeal makes particular mention of the lack of open space and makes the point that though that site had no status as open space, it made an important contribution to that local amenity factor. The Town Council submits that this space at Brookfields should be treated in the same manner and although there is a small park on Carrhill Rd, that is a formal space and this offers a complementary and valuable amenity not only for local people, but as a wildlife habitat; and  - the site at Brookfields is also cut off from the wider space amenity by Stockport Road and Manchester Road. The Inspector in the appeal case also referred to the public opinion on its value and use over many years. The public opinion here has been expressed extensively through social media.  That the Town Council therefore reaffirms the original objections to the development and urges Tameside MBC to closely examine the submitted ecological survey to adequately assess whether it accurately reflects the ecological environment of the site. The Town Council would like confirmation that Tameside MBC has assessed the accuracy of the ecological statement before proceeding to determine the application. | | | |
|  |  | | (ii) | | | That the remaining applications be noted. | | | |
| **2026** | **Public Engagement** (Continued)  Police Attendance  The Clerk reported that PC Martin Dench has been invited to join the meeting for a brief presentation but was unable to attend.  St George’s Church Archive – Grant Application  Ms Rita Vaughan attended the meeting to answer any questions from members about the grant application.  (Note: Members considered the application at a later stage during the meeting.) | | | | | | | | |
| **2027** | **Remembrance Sunday**  The Reverend David Warner attended the meeting for this item.  The Clerk reported that a wreath for the Chair has now been delivered and arrangements were being finalised for the maroons to be fired at the start and finish of the 2 minutes silence.  Members were invited to consider how they wished any services to be conducted in view of the requirement for much scaled down events as a direct result of the pandemic.  It was proposed that the ‘rule of six’ participants at the event would be adhered to with members of the public being advised of the much scaled down event and recommended to pay their respects or lay wreaths at alternative times.  The Town Council fully acknowledged and was sympathetic to the desire of members of the public to respect the service of remembrance but under the pandemic situation encouraged them to adhere to published guidelines in the interests of public safety.  Detailed arrangements for the event were ongoing. | | | | | | | | |
| **2028** | **Minutes** | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 2 September 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. | | | | | |
| **2029** | **Matters Arising**  There were no matters arising which did not appear elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting. | | | | | | | | |
| **2030** | **Financial Update – to 30 September 2020**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) showing the financial position as at 30 September 2020 and including a list of invoices paid between 1 September and 30 September 2020 as follows: | | | | | | | | |
|  | Netwise\* | | | | | | | | 899.00 |
|  | HMRC (August 2020) | | | | | | | | 103.20 |
|  | M Iveson (Salary and expenses September 2020) | | | | | | | | 419.89 |
|  | Zoom Video Conferencing | | | | | | | | 14.39 |
|  | Microsoft | | | | | | | | 79.99 |
|  | Peter Nyssen (Daffodil Bulbs) | | | | | | | | 281.30 |
|  | The Vale | | | | | | | | 1000.00 |
|  |  | | | | | | | |  |
|  | \* - authorised 5 Sept 2020 (min. 2004) | | | | | | | |  |
|  |  | | | | | | | |  |
|  |  | | | | | | | | Total £2797.77 |
|  | The budget heading from which additional funding required for tree planting had yet to be identified by the Chair.  The Clerk added that the budget was operating satisfactorily and because of the pandemic and dependent upon what took place during the remainder of the financial year, there was potential for significant underspending in the current year’s budget. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the report be noted. | | | | | |
| **2031** | **External Audit of the Town Council’s Accounts for Year ending 31 March 2020**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated), enclosing the external auditor’s report on the Town Council’s accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020.  It was pleasing to note that no issues have been raised for the Town Council to consider.  The Clerk invited the Town Council to agree to pay to the external auditor the fee of £240 for carrying out the audit process. | | | | | | | | |
|  | **RESOLVED:** | | | | (i) | | That the report be noted. | | |
|  |  | | | | (ii) | | That the Clerk be authorised to pay to the external auditor the fee of £240 for carrying out the audit process. | | |
| **2032** | **Town Council Vacancies – Co-option Arrangements**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) inviting members to consider arrangements for the co-option of replacement members for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Wards following the resignation of serving Councillors Martin Stimson and Maggie Thomas.  Notices inviting the requisite number of parishioners to request an election had expired without a request being made.  The Town Council was now at liberty to co-opt and the way in which that is carried out was a matter entirely at the discretion of the Town Council.  The only requirement was that there must be an election amongst the members of the Town Council to appoint candidates if there are more than one for each ward. That procedure was outlined in the report and the views of members on how the procedure should operate were requested. | | | | | | | | |
|  | **RESOLVED:** | | | | (1) | | | That the report be noted. | |
|  |  | | | | (2) | | | That arrangements be made to publish notices advising of the vacancies and inviting candidates at the earliest convenience with a deadline for the receipt of applications by Monday 16 November 2020. | |
|  |  | | | | (3) | | | That prospective candidates be invited to complete an application form to be prepared by the Clerk in consultation with the Chair. | |
|  |  | | | | (3) | | | That applicants be invited to make a brief presentation at the meeting of the Town Council on Wednesday 9 December 2020 advising:   * why they wish to be considered as a Town Councillor; * of any relevant experience they would like the Council to take into account; and * what they can offer to the community. | |
|  |  | | | | (4) | | | That consideration be given to the co-option of councillors at the meeting on 9 December 2020. | |
| **2033** | **New Town Council Website** (see minute 2005 on 2 September 2020)  The Clerk advised members that the new website was now operating satisfactorily and was fully compliant with accessibility requirements.  The site was proving to be relatively easy to administer. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | That the report be noted and members be encouraged to provide the Clerk with relevant material to upload onto the site. | | | | |
| **2034** | **Chair’s Report**  The Chair delivered a brief report to members highlighting the frustration felt that as a result of the pandemic, a number of initiatives identified by the Town Council and for which budget provision had been made were unlikely to proceed as planned.  However, work was continuing ‘behind the scenes’ in the hope that initiatives would be ready for implementation in the event of circumstances changing for the better.  Working with partner organisations to achieve some initiatives would be encouraged and the Town Council was keen to work with and alongside the community. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That the Chair be thanked for his report. | | | | | | |
| **2035** | **Christmas Lights Switch-on 2020 and Mossley ‘Rainbow Festival’**  The Chair and Councillor Pat Mullin reported as follows:   * there was a sense of frustration at the proposed ‘Rainbow Festival’ not being able to proceed as planned due to the pandemic; * consideration was being given to delivering a ‘virtual’ festival with a series of events being filmed and subsequently ‘streamed’ via an appropriate form of media. Viewers could be invited to donate towards the cost of providing the event for charitable purposes although this would by no means be a requirement; * proposals to work with isolated people in the Town were also under consideration; * discussions were underway with an experienced local organiser of such events. There would be a cost in providing the event; * it was anticipated that a successful event of the type proposed would act as a pre-cursor for future events of that type; * a further initiative under consideration was to encourage residents to decorate the outside of their homes with festive decorations with residents being invited to switch them on at a set date and time across the Town; * the Town Council had a significant amount set aside in the budget for the Christmas events which could be used towards the cost of the revised event;   Members were supportive of the initiative. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (1) | | | That the approach outlined to the provision of a combined ‘Christmas and Rainbow Festival’ event be approved. | | | |
|  |  | | (2) | | | That any necessary expenditure be met from money set aside for Christmas 2020. | | | |
|  |  | | (3) | | | That in view of the limited timescale, Councillor Pat Mullin be requested to pursue the initiative with the local organiser referred to and in consultation with other members and colleagues where necessary. | | | |
| **2036** | **Egmont St Changing Rooms**  Councillor Stephen Homer reported on progress.  Several initiatives were being explored in consultation with Mossley Amateurs Football Club. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That the report be noted. | | | | | | |
| **2037** | **Commemorative Planters**  Councillor Dean Aylett updated members on discussions to date regarding the construction and siting of the commemorative planters to be installed at Micklehurst and Hem Place.  The planter at Micklehurst would be put in place during the coming weekend. Discussions were currently being finalised with Tameside MBC on the proposed location for the planter at Hem Place.  Discussion ensued on the need to install a plaque on each of the planters and suitable arrangements to mark the installation of the planters. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That Councillor Dean Aylett in consultation with the Chair, be authorised to agree the wording of each plaque together with arrangements for a suitable ceremony to mark the installation of the planters. | | | | | | |
| **2038** | **Tree Planting Initiatives**  The Chair reported that the tree planting initiatives reported at the last meeting had not been progressed and there was nothing further to report at this stage. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That consideration of the tree planting initiative be deferred to the next meeting. | | | | | | |
| **2039** | **Wildflower Planting**  The Clerk reported that former Cllr Martin Stimson had provided an update on what has been done with the 1000 bulbs bought by Town Council.  So that most people get to see the flowers, the bulk had been planted near to the bridlepath between Micklehurst and the Greenfield border.  100 had been planted in the long bed at Hem Square,  100 had been given to Friends of Egmont St,    100 had been given to a resident for planting by Jacob's Ladder, and  100 had been given to the Friends of Mossley Park.  The bulbs had been donated on the understanding that they would be planted in semi wild areas. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the report be noted. | | | | | |
| **2040** | **Grant Applications**  The Council considered the application from Ms Rita Vaughan for a grant of £300 towards the cost of preparing an archive of material at St George’s Church. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | (1) | | That a grant of £300 be awarded to Ms Rita Vaughan towards the cost of preparing an archive of material at St George’s Church. | | |
|  |  | | | | (2) | | That in view of the direct benefit to the area, part of the area or to some or all its inhabitants, the expenditure be met from Section 137 funding. | | |
| **2041** | **General items and Updates and reports from Other Agencies**  There were no items to report. | | | | | | | | |
| **2042** | **Correspondence**  The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter from former Town Councillor Martin Stimson regarding the reinstatement of a wall damaged during a development by Bowden Homes.  During the construction of the scheme and at the north east end of the site the old mill stone boundary wall had been partly knocked down and much of the stone buried under earthworks.  The wall formed part of the perimeter wall of the old Carrhill Mill and, as such, was probably built about 1820 and therefore an important Mossley feature.  Mr Stimson was seeking confirmation that the wall would be re-instated to the original style. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That the Clerk be requested to refer the letter to Tameside MBC for attention. | | | | | | |
| **2043** | **Tameside MBC Definitive Map and Statement**  Councillor Pat Mullin advised members that following discussions with officers at Tameside MBC, he had now been provided with a copy of the Tameside MBC Definitive Footpath Map and Statement which included those within Mossley. | | | | | | | | |
| **2044** | **Anti Social Behaviour , Racism and Crime in Mossley**  Councillor Stephen Homer reported that fresh reports had been received about renewed instances of anti-social behaviour in Mossley including racist incidents directed towards a particular long-established shop proprietor on Stamford Street in Mossley. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the Clerk be requested to refer the reports to Greater Manchester Police with a request that renewed action is taken to reduce such incidents in Mossley. | | | | | |
| **2045** | **Date of Next Meeting**  The Clerk reminded members that the next meeting of the Town Council would take place on Wednesday 9 December 2020 at 7.30pm remotely using Zoom video conferencing. | | | | | | | | |

The meeting concluded at 9.29pm

Chair