**MOSSLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**13 January 2021 at 7.30pm**

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|  | **Present**  Councillor Frank Travis (Chair) (In the Chair); Councillors Dean Aylett, Jack Homer, Stephen Homer, Helen Jamison, Idu Miah and Pat Mullin.  Two members of the public was present at the meeting. | | | | | | | |
| **2062** | **Apologies for Absence**  Apologies for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillors James Hall and Ruth Kerfoot. | | | | | | | |
| **2063** | **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. | | | | | | | |
|  | **Public Engagement** | | | | | | | |
|  | Police Attendance  The Clerk reported that PC Martin Dench has been invited to join the meeting for a brief presentation, but a response had not been received.  Development at Micklehurst Road, Mossley  On behalf of concerned residents, Ms Chris Lyness invited members to provide an update on the reopening of the footpath at Richmond Crescent which now appeared to remain closed despite the temporary closure order having expired. This issue had been raised at the meeting on 2 September 2020 (Minute 2001)  Councillor Stephen Homer advised that he had approached officers at Tameside MBC seeking assurances that all requirements of the former developer would be complied with by the new contractor. It was Councillor Homer’s understanding that the footpath would be re-opened when all safety and amenity considerations were satisfied.  Mossley Foodbank  Councillor Jack Homer reported that the Town Foodbank had been extremely busy both in the run-up to and aftermath of Christmas.  A local school had donated to the Foodbank, the proceeds of a charity video amounting to £150 which had been gratefully accepted.  The Chair referred to the outstanding work undertaken by the Foodbank and volunteers on behalf of needy people in the town and emphasised the continuing need by the Foodbank of help and assistance from the wider community.  At a later stage during the meeting, Councillor Helen Jamison asked about the possibility of the Town Council making a grant or donation to the Foodbank.  The Clerk advised that whilst the operation of the Foodbank did not satisfy the exact criteria of the Town Council’s ‘small grants’ scheme, there were other provisions available under which a donation could be made.  Councillor Jack Homer undertook to pursue the suggestion with the Foodbank in due course.  Covid 19 in Mossley  Councillors Jack and Stephen Homer reported on the general position on Covid 19 infections and vaccinations across the Borough of Tameside. Statistics for Mossley itself were not available.  Infection rates in Tameside were improving and the Borough was performing well in the pandemic, but it was emphasised that there was no room for complacency and continued efforts were required to reduce the number of infections further.  A local resident referred to the use of The George Lawton Hall as a vaccination centre and advised that there was some confusion amongst the Mossley community because they were being advised to visit centres outside Mossley for vaccinations.  In response, it was pointed out that NHS boundaries were not congruent with local authority boundaries resulting in some residents having to visit vaccination centres beyond Mossley.  The Town Council was aware of the recent traffic and parking problems which had occurred because of the use of The George Lawton Hall particularly at peak times. This was now being addressed by the vaccination centre.  Egmont St Changing Rooms  Councillor Stephen Homer advised the meeting on progress made about the initiative to bring the changing rooms back into community use.  Positive discussions had taken place with representatives of Tameside MBC. Further updates would be delivered as the discussions progressed. | | | | | | | |
| **2064** | **Minutes** | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 9 December 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. | | | |
| **2065** | **Matters Arising**  Salary of the Clerk (Minute 2052)  The Clerk reported that in his report to the meeting on 9 December 2020, he had indicated that the hourly rate of pay was £11.88 and that the increase would take the hourly rate to £12.20. Members had agreed the report on that basis.  The amounts included in the report were incorrect. The current hourly rate was £11.91, and the increase took it to £12.24.  Immediately after the meeting on 9 December 2020, the Clerk had drawn the amendment to the attention of members because the December salary payment and backpay was to be transacted using the revised figure before the next meeting. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the amendment reported by the Clerk be accepted. | | | | |
| **2066** | **Financial Update – to 31 December 2020**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) showing the financial position as at 31 December 2020 and including a list of invoices paid between 1 December and 31 December 2020 as follows: | | | | | | | |
|  | HMRC (November 2020) | | | | | | | 103.20 |
|  | Zoom Video Conferencing | | | | | | | 14.39 |
|  | GW Theatre Co (Mossley Christmas Cracker)\* | | | | | | | 2400.00 |
|  | Dean Aylett (reimbursement for planter) | | | | | | | 79.92 |
|  | M Iveson (Salary and expenses December 2020) | | | | | | | 531.65 |
|  |  | | | | | | |  |
|  | \*- authorised 9 December 2020 (Min 2051) | | | | | | |  |
|  |  | | | | | | | Total £3129.17 |
|  | The financial statement showed the position up to the end of December 2020 together with details of bills paid.  The budget heading from which additional funding required for tree planting has yet to be identified by the Chair.  The Budget and spending were under control. As a result of Covid and dependent upon events up to the end of the financial year there was potential for significant under spendings in the current year’s budget.  The Clerk reported that an invoice from The Vale for technical support and artist costs for the ‘Christmas Cracker’ live/streamed performances amounting to £800 had now been received.  Tameside MBC had advised that the cost of providing one of the Christmas Trees in Mossley amounted to £500. Whilst the account was awaited, the Clerk sought approval to settle the account upon receipt from Tameside MBC and sought authority to settle the account.  Members were invited to note the report and authorise payment of The Vale and Tameside MBC accounts of £800 and £500, respectively. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | (1) | | That the report be noted. | |
|  |  | | | | (2) | | That the Clerk be authorised to settle the accounts received from The Vale and anticipated from Tameside MBC at costs of £800 and £500, respectively. | |
| **2067** | **Draft Budget 2021/22 and Precept**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out:   * Useful criteria used for calculating Council Tax (Appendix A); * An updated budget schedule setting out the anticipated outturn expenditure for the current year 2020 /21 projected to 31 March 2021 and a draft base budget for 2021/22; (Appendix B): * An explanation of underspends and brief reasons for them (Appendix C); and * Comparative taxation levels for the people of Mossley with various levels of precept and Council Tax bases (Appendix D).   From a financial perspective it had to be assumed that until the end of year or the Council resolving not to spend, that the budget allocation would be spent. It appeared likely that there would be significant underspend and at the suggestion of the Chair, a list of potential underspends was included with the report.  Last year for the first time, the budget had been set over a 3-year period rather than a single year. To continue that, budget amounts for 2023/24 needed to be set by the Council. Anticipated running costs for that year had been included by the Clerk.  For the first time in the history of the current Clerk, the Council Tax base which is used to calculate the tax had reduced rather than increased and the reasons for that provided by Tameside MBC were set out in detail in the report. The net effect of that reduction was that maintaining the current precept of £32000 would involve a minor increase in the Mossley tax of 43 pence per band D household.  The Town Council was required to set the precept for 2021/22 at the meeting tonight so that it can be fed into the Budget setting process at Tameside MBC on 23 February 2021.  Members are asked to consider the budget for 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 and to set a Precept.  The Chair reminded members that in setting the budget for the current year, the Council had agreed an ambitious programme of spending. Regrettably, many of the agreed proposals had not been implemented due to the pandemic. This was a situation being experienced by many local and district councils and in many cases had been exacerbated by reduced income.  It was however important for the Council to have plans and initiatives in place which were able to proceed once the pandemic was under control using innovative methods to achieve this wherever possible. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | (1) | | | That the report be noted. | |
|  |  | | | (2) | | | That in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Clerk be requested to review the draft budget for 2021/22 to 2023/24 for further consideration at the next Town Council meeting. | |
|  |  | | | (3) | | | That a precept of £32,000 be set. | |
| **2068** | **Adoption of new Code of Conduct**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) advising members about the adoption by Tameside MBC (the Principal Authority) of a new Model Code of Conduct and inviting members to adopt the Code and to sign an undertaking to abide by the new Code.  The Clerk reported that Tameside MBC had agreed to adopt the Code at the Council Meeting on 12 January 2021.  Subject to the Code being adopted by the Town Council, the Clerk invited members to sign, and scan for return to him for retention the declarations attached to the report. As an alternative, members were invited to paste the wording of the declaration into an email to the Clerk for retention. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the revised Code of Conduct be approved and adopted and that all members be requested to sign the declaration accompanying the report undertaking to abide by the code. | | | | |
| **2069** | **Asset Register**  The Clerk submitted a revised and updated register (copies of which had been circulated) of the Town Council’s physical assets.  The Clerk had added to the register the recently installed planter at Micklehurst and the Mayoral Robes. The Mayoral Robes did not appear to have been included on the register.  The Clerk added that an audit was currently in process to check that all assets were stored safely. The ‘lost children‘ flag appeared to have been mislaid. It was recalled this item had not been collected after a recent Christmas Lights switch-on when everything was cleared.  The revised asset register would be forwarded to the Council’s insurer for information. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That subject to the deletion of the ‘lost children flag’ and the addition of the Micklehurst planter and Mayoral Robes, the revised asset register be noted and approved. | | | | |
| **2070** | **Tameside MBC Standards Committee Representative**  Members were invited to nominate a representative to serve on the Tameside MBC Standards Committee.  Councillor Stephen Homer was the Town Council’s current deputy member. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the Chair (Councillor Frank Travis) be nominated as the Town Council’s representative on the Tameside MBC Standards Committee. | | | | |
| **2071** | **Planning Issues**  The Council considered the following planning applications: | | | | | | | |
|  | (i) | | Proposed extension and change of use of agricultural workshop/store to 1 No. two storey dwelling with associated external works, landscaping, car parking provision and dropped kerb at 97 Lees Road Mossley (Resubmission of 20/00523/FUL) (20/01103/FUL) | | | | | |
|  | (ii) | | Demolition of existing conservatory and the construction of single storey rear extension and creation of covered patio at 2 Manor Street Mossley (20/01099/FUL) | | | | | |
|  | (iii) | | Discharge of condition 4 - noise mitigation and 6 - refuse storage for approved planning permission 18/00573/FUL at Unit 2 Vale Mill 79 Micklehurst Road Mossley (20/00125/PLCOND) | | | | | |
|  | (iv) | | Proposed two storey side extension at 18 Ash Hill Drive Mossley (20/01146/FUL) | | | | | |
|  | (v) | | Retrospective Application for the change of use of land from Existing Yard to the Use of Land for 'Self-Storage' Container at Weir Mill Manchester Road Mossley (20/01089/FUL) | | | | | |
|  | (vi) | | Loft extension with increase in ridge and eaves height along with dormers to front and rear and single storey rear extension. external alterations to all elevations at 54 Cocksfoot Drive Mossley (20/01042/FUL) | | | | | |
|  | (vii) | | Two storey side extension and part two/single storey rear extension at 23 Quick View Mossley (20/00996/FUL) | | | | | |
|  | (viii) | | Change of use from betting shop to office/studio (mixed community use) at 177 Manchester Road Mossley (20/01179/FUL) | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the applications be noted. | | | | |
| **2072** | **Neighbourhood Plan**  The Chair referred to previous discussions about the possibility of embarking on the formulation of a Mossley Neighbourhood Plan and to unsuccessful attempts to hold discussions with representatives of bodies which had or were in the process of formulating plans.  The Chair had established contact with a Regional Advisor who could offer advice to the Council and Saddleworth Parish Councillor Barbara Beeley, the Lead Member responsible for the Saddleworth Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan.  It was proposed to hold a meeting at which initial discussions about the possibility of embarking on the formulation of a Mossley Neighbourhood Plan could be explored.  The Chair emphasised that in the event of the formulation of a plan being pursued, it would be important to involve the wider community under a strong Town Council leadership regime. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the report and action proposed by the Chair be approved. | | | | |
| **2073** | **Chair’s Report**  The Chair advised members that the items upon which he proposed to report had been raised under various items considered earlier during the meeting and no further report was necessary. | | | | | | | |
| **2074** | **Mossley ‘Christmas Cracker Event’ and ‘Rainbow Festival’ Update**  Councillor Pat Mullin reported on the success of the recent Mossley ‘Christmas Cracker Event’ acknowledging that the event had been unavoidably affected by the pandemic situation.  It was proposed to hold a further ‘Rainbow Festival’ event later during the year with the aim of supporting the considerable artistic community in the town.  Several activities were under consideration for the event which was initially planned for Easter 2021, but which now appeared to be more realistically held in late Spring.  Innovative ideas for this and future events were invited from members and the community. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the report be noted. | | | | |
| **2075** | **Health Partnership Promotion (‘What is it about Mossley’ - WIAM)**  Councillor Pat Mullin circulated a report advising members that a joint application had been made to the People’s Health Lottery by the Mossley Town Team and the Town Council.  The ‘What is it about Mossley’ (WIAM) initiative was focused on the Micklehurst area. The intergenerational project would enable participants to develop activities surveying the past and present anticipating and shaping the future of the area. A community conversation working collaboratively for the betterment of the area would be enabled.  On behalf of fellow members, the Chair expressed gratitude to Councillor Mullin for his efforts to secure grant funding for the initiative and hopes that the application would prove successful. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the report be noted. | | | | |
| **2076** | **Plastic Free Mossley**  Councillor Jack Homer reported upon activities proposed to progress the ‘Plastic Free Mossley’ initiative, initially lead by former Town Councillor Maggie Thomas.  Several ideas were under consideration and a working group of Town Councillors and interested parties would be formed to progress the initiative. | | | | | | | |
|  | | RESOLVED: | | | | That the report be noted. | | |
| **2077** | **Commemorative Planter – Hem Place, Market Ground Car Park**  Councillor Dean Aylett circulated photographs showing potential sites for the proposed planter at Hem Place and invited members to express a preference for the location of the planter. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That subject to Tameside MBC confirming acceptance, the following location options for the proposed planter be approved, in the priority order indicated below:  Priority 1  Located on the 'white lined' area in the vicinity of the car park ‘pay and display’ machine.  Priority 2  In the location shown on photograph (numbered Hem Place 5) adjacent to the ‘yellow mini’ on the photograph. | | | | |
| **2078** | **Tree Planting Initiatives**  The Chair expressed hope that the tree planting initiative commenced by the Town Council and as reported at the last meeting (minute 2057) would continue and invited members to put forward for consideration any ideas or suggestions for future schemes. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the report be noted. | | | | |
| **2079** | **Grant Applications**  There were currently no outstanding grant applications to consider. | | | | | | | |
| **2080** | **Updates and reports from other agencies.**  No updates or reports were delivered at the meeting. | | | | | | | |
| **2081** | **Correspondence**  Request for Benches at ‘Jacob’s Ladder  The Clerk reported that a request has been received from former Town Councillor Maggie Thomas for the Town Council to consider funding 2 benches at ‘Jacobs Ladder’ to replace the existing ones which had fallen into disrepair.  Councillor Stephen Homer advised members that discussions were currently taking place with officers at Tameside MBC with a view to the benches being replaced by that authority.  A decision was awaited and a report on the outcome would be delivered to a future meeting of the Town Council. | | | | | | | |
| **2082** | **Date of Next Meeting**  The Clerk reminded members that the next meeting of the Town Council would take place remotely on Wednesday 24 February 2021 at 7.30pm using Zoom video conferencing. | | | | | | | |

The meeting concluded at 9.28pm

Chair