**MOSSLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**24 February 2021 at 7.30pm**

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|  | **Present**  Councillor Frank Travis (Chair) (In the Chair); Councillors Dean Aylett, James Hall, Stephen Homer, Helen Jamison, Ruth Kerfoot,  Idu Miah and Pat Mullin.  Twelve members of the public was present at the meeting. | | | | | | | | |
| **2083** | **Apologies for Absence**  An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Jack Homer. | | | | | | | | |
| **2084** | **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. | | | | | | | | |
| **2085** | **Public Engagement** | | | | | | | | |
|  | 1. 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.  The Chair informed members that efforts would continue to secure attendance by a police representative at a future meeting to provide an update on policing matters in the town. Timetable Options to Improve Rail Performance in the North of England**Manchester Recovery Task Force Public Consultation Presentation by Andrew Holstead on behalf of Friends of Mossley Station** Mr Andrew Holstead, Secretary to the Friends of Mossley Station, delivered a presentation to members on the public consultation currently being undertaken by the Manchester Recovery Task Force on proposed timetable options to improve rail performance in the North of England.  On behalf of the Friends of Mossley Station, Mr Holstead invited the Town Council adopt a resolution and make representations to Transport for Greater Manchester in support of Option C in the Public Consultation published by Department for Transport/ Network Rail / Transport for the North.  The Task Force had looked at simplifying service patterns and minimising conflicting movements at junctions.  They identified three different options to deliver more resilience and reliability to the timetable – Options A, B and C – which were being consulted upon, as well as a do-nothing option.  Option C was considered to provide the greatest benefit for Mossley for the following reasons:   * It provided a half-hourly service throughout the day at Mossley (not just in the peak); * Only Option C provided a half-hourly service at Mossley throughout the day; * two trains per hour from Stalybridge to Southport (via Victoria) meaning easier connections for people travelling beyond Manchester Victoria to Salford Crescent for Salford University; * it achieved the greatest resilience and reliability to the system; and * it provided more frequent services on other lines giving better connections and more journey opportunities for Mossley residents.   Of the three options (and the no change option), Option C delivered the greatest benefits in terms of improved connectivity and improved performance.  The consultation document was available via the GOV.UK website under the heading ‘Timetable options to improve rail performance in the North of England’. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (1) | | | That Mossley Town Council:   1. supports the aim of standardising and simplifying service patterns in order to significantly improve overall train performance; 2. supports the approach of measuring the service level and performance impacts across all passengers to allow fair trade-offs between options; and 3. favours option C on the grounds that this option:  * provides the enhanced level of service that residents and visitors in Mossley require, in order to access jobs, education, services and leisure facilities; * provides opportunities for enhanced connections and journey opportunities; * offers a sustainable transport solution to achieve sustainable economic growth and opportunities for Mossley and the wider region; and * is justified by the (pre-Covid 19) levels of passenger usage at Mossley Station which already far exceeds the threshold by which Transport for Greater Manchester would consider a half-hour interval service is warranted. | | | |
|  |  | | (2) | | | That Mr Holstead be thanked for his informative presentation. | | | |
|  |  | | (3) | | | That the Clerk be requested to respond to the **Manchester Recovery Task Force Public Consultation setting out the views of the Town Council.** | | | |
|  | 1. Outline planning application for the erection of 8 houses (landscaping reserved) on land at Woodend View Woodend View Mossley (20/01255/OUT)   Members agreed to consider the above application at this point during the meeting.  The meeting was attended by local residents and the Town Council listened to their concerns about the development which included the following:   * The potential for flooding from natural streams in the locality will be exacerbated as a result of increased hard surface treatments associated with the development. The proposals do not include any measures to assess or address this potential problem; * The proposed access to the site via narrow and heavily parked streets is inappropriate, disruptive and will be detrimental to highway safety; * The proposal includes no details of how heavy plant and materials will access or deliver to the site; * The proposed development will be detrimental to the residential amenity of adjacent and surrounding properties; and * Whilst it is accepted that there is no ‘in principle’ objection to an appropriate form of development on the site, the developer must include within the application details of measures to address the concerns raised by local residents at outline planning stage.   After considering the concerns expressed by local residents, the Town Council decided to reiterate the concerns expressed on the previous applications. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | That Tameside MBC be advised that the Town Council objects to the proposed development on the following grounds:   * The development will result in additional pressure on current open space in the area; amount to an overdevelopment of the site; and be out of character with the surrounding area; * The proposed access to the site via New Earth Street and Roughtown Road is inappropriate on highway safety and residential amenity grounds; and * The density of the proposed residential accommodation is excessive and is detrimental to the residential amenity of the proposed occupiers and surrounding residential areas.   The Town Council is concerned about the absence of sufficient detail within the application to address the concerns of local residents and considers that additional information should be obtained prior to the application being determined. | | | | |
|  | 1. ‘Mossley Beach’   Local residents residing in the vicinity of ‘Mossley Beach’ attended the meeting to voice their concerns about anti-social behaviour at the site which was a cause for concern to residents.  Local residents invited the Town Council to encourage concerted action by the Police, Tameside MBC, the Canals and Rivers Trust and Emmaus to secure an improvement for the benefit of local residents. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | That in consultation with the Chair and Town Councillor Stephen Homer, the Clerk be requested to liaise with appropriate partner organisations aimed at securing an improvement in the situation at ‘Mossley Beach’. | | | | |
|  | 1. Friends of Mossley Park – Grant application   Ms Mary Wilson representing the Friends of Mossley Park attended the meeting to respond to questions from members about the grant application for measures to encourage wildlife in Mossley Park.  Members considered the grant application at a later stage during the meeting (see minute 2102 below.)   1. Career Education in Schools – Ofsted Initiative   Ms Chris Lyness in her capacity as a governor at Mossley Hollins High School referred to the Ofsted initiative to encourage career education in secondary schools and invited members of the Town Council and members of the public to consider becoming involved with the school by either offering practical career development advice or conducting mock interviews with students.  Ms Lyness invited any interested parties to contact her via the Clerk. | | | | | | | | |
|  | 1. Mossley Town Team – Clean-Up Operations   Mr Symon Randall representing Mossley Town Team attended the meeting to discuss the continuing litter problem in the Town which appeared to have escalated during the current lockdown period.  Councillor Stephen Homer advised on action he had taken to encourage Tameside MBC to improve litter collection and clearance and invited residents to refer any specific concerns to him which could then be taken up with Tameside MBC.  Members expressed gratitude for the continued efforts by ‘Mossley Litter Bugs’ for their continued actions in keeping the Town much tidier and litter free than it would otherwise be.   1. Correspondence – 3 Counties Road   The Clerk reported the receipt of email correspondence from a resident asking that ‘dog waste’ bins be provided in the vicinity of 3 Counties Road for use by dog walkers when exercising their dogs and using the nearby canal.  The Clerk had raised the issue with the Canals and Rivers Trust and with Tameside MBC and responses were awaited.  Members agreed to receive an update on the position at the next meeting. | | | | | | | | |
| **2086** | **Mossley Neighbourhood Plan**  The Chair delivered a presentation to members on the stages leading to the development of a Mossley Neighbourhood Plan.  The presentation covered the following aspects:   * Designation of the area * Preparation of the plan * Independent examination * Community referendum * Plan adoption   The Chair pointed out that Tameside MBC as Local Planning Authority was obliged to offer advice and assistance to the Town Council and grant opportunities were available to the Town Council to meet the cost of the neighbourhood planning process.  Members were unanimously supportive of the preparation of a Mossley Neighbourhood Plan. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED:  (8 for, 0 against) | | | | (1) | | That in order to develop a shared vision for the Town of Mossley and to shape the development and growth of the locality through the preparation of a neighbourhood development plan, and pursuant to section 61G of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), the Town Council makes application to Tameside MBC for the designation of the administrative area of the Mossley Town Council (which is congruent with the Tameside MBC Mossley Ward) as the Mossley Neighbourhood Plan Area. | | |
|  |  | | | | (2) | | That an amount of £5,000 be included in the Budget for 2021/22 in order to meet any costs associated with the preparation of the plan. | | |
| **2087** | **Minutes** | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 13 January 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. | | | | | |
| **2088** | **Matters Arising**  There were no matters arising which did not appear elsewhere on the agenda. | | | | | | | | |
| **2089** | **Financial Update – to 31 January 2021**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) showing the financial position as at 31 January 2021 and including a list of invoices paid between 1 January and 31 January 2021 as follows: | | | | | | | | |
|  | Zoom Video Conferencing | | | | | | | | 14.39 |
|  | HMRC (December 2020) | | | | | | | | 129.00 |
|  | The Vale\* | | | | | | | | 800.00 |
|  | M Iveson (Salary and expenses January 2021) | | | | | | | | 427.69 |
|  | ICO | | | | | | | | 35.00 |
|  | \*- authorised 12 January 2021 (Min 2066) | | | | | | | |  |
|  |  | | | | | | | | Total £1406.08 |
|  | Expenditure was under control. Indeed as a result of Covid, there was potential for significant under-spending in the current year’s budget.  Except for general running costs, the remaining item of significant outstanding expenditure remaining this year was the anticipated bill from Tameside MBC for the erection of the Christmas trees, the lights and maintenance. This was estimated at approximately £1500.  The Clerk advised members that on10 April 2019 (Min 1788(f)), the Council had agreed, subject to the initiative receiving the substantial funding from other sources, to the award of a ‘large’ grant (£5,000) to the Mossley Skatepark initiative.  Payment of the grant was to be made following the Town Council being made aware of the future funding arrangements.  The Clerk had now been notified that the skatepark initiative was now being progressed and the funding allocated by the Town Council would now be formally requested.  Members were invited to note the report and authorise payment of the Tameside MBC account and £5,000 to the skatepark project when received.  The balance at the bank as of today was £57,678.16. Remaining expenditure this year is not expected to exceed £9000 leaving approx. £48678 to carry forward to 2021/22. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | (1) | | | That the report be noted. | | |
|  |  | | | (2) | | | That the Clerk be authorised to settle the accounts received from Tameside MBC and the Mossley Skatepark Project at costs of £1500 (approximately) and £5000, respectively. | | |
| **2090** | **Draft Budget 2021/22**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) to further assist the Council in formulating a Budget for 2021 /22 and beyond.  The report highlighted that the budget previously set for next year and 2022/23 exceeded the estimated level of income and a budget in that form was not sustainable long term.  The Town Council must bear this in mind when considering future expenditure and in particular budget items with longer term commitment.  At the last meeting, the Clerk was authorised in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, to review the draft budget for 2021/22 to 2023/24 for further consideration at this meeting.  Members had been advised previously about the potential savings during the current year resulting in a significant carry forward.  The Clerk had held informal discussions with the Chair and the following amendments to the 2021/22 Budget were now proposed: | | | | | | | | |
|  | Anti Drugs measures x 2 barriers | | | | | | | Delete in 2021/22 and thereafter | |
|  |  | | | | | | |  | |
|  | Heritage VE Anniversary Planters and Event  Environmental – Bulb Planting  Environmental – Wildflower Planting  Environmental – Tree Planting  Environmental – Town Centre Clean-up  Plastic free Mossley | | | | | | | Combine under the generic heading – ‘Environmental’ | |
|  | Mossley Volunteers Event  Project Development Fund | | | | | | | Combine under the generic heading – ‘Community Action’ | |
|  | Neighbourhood Plan | | | | | | | Insert Budget heading and contingency amount of £5000 in 2021/22 (see minute 2086 above) | |
|  | Unallocated Reserve | | | | | | | Insert Budget heading with amount to be inserted at the end of the 2021/22 financial year. | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (1) | | | | That the report be noted. | | |
|  |  | | (2) | | | | That the proposed amendments to the Budget as outlined by the Clerk be approved. | | |
|  |  | | (3) | | | | That figures for 2023/24 be identified for inclusion in the final budget to be endorsed at next meeting. | | |
| **2091** | **Risk Assessment**  The Clerk submitted the current Mossley Town Council Risk Assessment and invited members to review the document.  The review was conventionally undertaken on an annual basis prior to the internal audit being conducted. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That the Mossley Town Council Risk Assessment be approved without amendment. | | | | | | |
| **2092** | **Local Government Boundary Commission Review of Tameside MBC Electoral Wards**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) advising members about the Review of Tameside MBC Electoral Wards currently being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That the report be noted. | | | | | | |
| **2093** | **Planning Issues**  The Council considered the following planning applications: | | | | | | | | |
|  | (i) | Residential development comprising of 31 No. 1 bedroom retirement living apartments with associated landscaping and external works including demolition of existing warehouse at Nield Street / Smith Street Mossley (20/01253/FUL) | | | | | | | |
|  | (ii) | Outline planning application for the erection of 8 houses (landscaping reserved) on land at Woodend View Woodend View Mossley (20/01255/OUT) | | | | | | | |
|  | (iii) | Construction of single-storey rear extension with related internal alterations at 44 Spring Mill Drive Mossley (21/00014/CPUD) | | | | | | | |
|  | (iv) | Listed Building Consent application. Proposed single storey rear extension. Construction of single storey outbuilding to accommodate a home office and gym. Re-building and positioning of existing stable outbuilding and stone dwarf wall at Colliers Barn Broadcarr Lane (20/01240/LBC) | | | | | | | |
|  | (v) | Proposed single storey rear extension. Construction of single storey outbuilding to accommodate a home office and gym. Re-building and positioning of existing stable outbuilding and stone dwarf wall at Colliers Barn Broadcarr Lane (20/01239/FUL) | | | | | | | |
|  | (vi) | Proposed single storey side and rear extension, conversion of garage and external alteration at 40 Vale View Mossley (21/00115/FUL) | | | | | | | |
|  | (vii) | Approval of the reserved matters (Appearance and Landscaping) pursuant to outline planning permission 17/00920/OUT at 1 Market Street Mossley (21/00114/REM) | | | | | | | |
|  | The outline planning application for the erection of 8 houses (landscaping reserved) on land at Woodend View Woodend View Mossley (20/01255/OUT) had been considered earlier during the meeting (see minute 2085(iii) above). | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (1) | | | That in respect of the application for residential development comprising of 31 No. 1 bedroom retirement living apartments with associated landscaping and external works including demolition of existing warehouse at Nield Street / Smith Street Mossley (20/01253/FUL), Tameside MBC be advised that whilst there are concerns about the number of units proposed, the Town Council acknowledges that the nature of the occupation of the proposed dwellings may result in fewer issues than would have been the case with ‘family type’ dwellings.  Notwithstanding the above, the Town Council considers that the proposed development is acceptable in principle but requests that in the event of planning permission being granted, the following ‘environmental improvement’ measures must be included as part of the development:   * The protection of existing public rights of way over the site; * The inclusion of facilities using sustainable forms of energy; including outdoor lighting; internal power by solar or wind power; the installation of electric vehicle charging points as part of the development and any other appropriate measures being pertinent to sustainable development and carbon reduction.     That the provision of parking spaces be reassessed. The occupancy demographic and proximity to the town centre suggests that a lower ratio of parking spaces than other development types is appropriate, but experience suggests that there is often pressure on these spaces and that convenient space now close by in the town is now very limited. | | | |
|  |  | | (2) | | | That the remaining applications be noted. | | | |
| **2094** | **Neighbourhood Plan**  This item had been dealt with earlier during the meeting (see minute 2086 above.) | | | | | | | | |
| **2095** | **‘Jacob’s Ladder’**  Councillor Stephen Homer reported on discussions which had taken place with officers at Tameside MBC and on proposals to repair and replace existing seating and to provide improved lighting. This included the possibility of lighting using renewable (solar) power. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That the report be noted. | | | | | | |
| **2096** | **Mossley Town Team – Clean-Up Operations**  This item had been dealt with earlier during the meeting (see minute 2085 (vii) above.) | | | | | | | | |
| **2097** | **‘Make Mossley Greener’**  Councillor Pat Mullin updated members on the ‘Make Mossley Greener’ initiative and the possibility of the initiative being extended to include a range of activities not only on the Micklehurst Estate but also across the wider Mossley area. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That the report be noted. | | | | | | |
| **2098** | **Egmont St Pavilion**  Councillor Stephen Homer reported on the current position on this potential initiative.  Regrettably, little progress had been made for a variety of reasons.  There was a potential opportunity for a significant community based initiative to bring about a facility for Mossley of which the community could be justifiably proud.  Councillor Homer suggested that in the event of the Town Council making a provisional financial commitment to the initiative, this may encourage credible groups to come forward with a competent scheme to bring the pavilion back into some form of community use. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (1) | | | That *subject to Tameside MBC making the building and any land available, and* subject to a properly constituted community based organisation coming forward with an appropriate scheme to bring back the former Egmont St Pavilion into community use, the Town Council will assist the organisation with funding of up to £10,000. | | | |
|  |  | | (2) | | | That a provisional sum of £10000 be set aside in the Town Council’s budget for 2021/22 to assist with any future scheme. | | | |
| **2099** | **Commemorative Planter - Hem Place, Market Ground Car Park**  Councillor Dean Aylett reported on progress made for the installation of a second planter at The Market Ground.  Discussions were being finalised with Tameside MBC on the location for the planter and it was anticipated that the planter would be installed in the agreed location imminently. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That the report be noted. | | | | | | |
| **2100** | **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. | | | | | | | | |
| **2101** | **Updates and reports from other agencies.**  No updates or reports were delivered at the meeting. | | | | | | | | |
| **2102** | **Grant Application**  Friends of Mossley Park  Ms Mary Wilson representing the Friends of Mossley Park had attended the meeting earlier to respond to questions from members about the grant application for measures to encourage wildlife in Mossley Park. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | (1) | | That a grant of £344 be awarded to Friends of Mossley Park for the measures outlined in the application to encourage wildlife in Mossley Park. | | |
|  |  | | | | (2) | | That the Friends of Mossley Park be encouraged to provide low cost interpretive signs about the initiative for the benefit of park users. | | |
| **2103** | **Correspondence**  This item had been dealt with earlier during the meeting (see minute 2085 above.) | | | | | | | | |
| **2104** | **Date of Next Meeting**  The Clerk reminded members that the next meeting of the Town Council would take place remotely on Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 7.30pm using Zoom video conferencing. | | | | | | | | |

The meeting concluded at 10.12pm

Chair