**MOSSLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**20 October 2021 at 8.00pm**

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|  | **Present**  Councillor Frank Travis (Chair) (In the Chair); Councillors Jack Homer, Helen Jamison and Idu Miah.  Six members of the public were present at the meeting. | | | | | | | |
| **2193** | **Apologies for Absence**  Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dean Aylett, James Hall, Stephen Homer, Ruth Kerfoot and Pat Mullin. | | | | | | | |
| **2194** | **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.  The Chair (Councillor Frank Travis) declared an interest in respect of agenda item 17 as a member of the Mossley Twinning Committee (Application for a Grant received from Mossley Town Twinning Committee – to support a Twinning Jubilee Celebration Event (£1000)).  Councillor Travis left the meeting during the Town Council’s deliberation and decision-making process on this item. | | | | | | | |
| **2195** | **Public Engagement** | | | | | | | |
|  | (i) Police Update  PC Martin Dench attended the meeting an delivered an update on crime and associated issues in the Town.  Crime statistics in the Town were low compared with other areas in the Borough.  A number of burglaries had been reported and the Police were encouraging residents to be extra-vigilant with locks on doors, windows and external premises.  Problems had been encountered with unauthorised activities involving the use of ‘off road’ type vehicles and appropriate action had been taken against offenders.  Acts of anti-social behaviour had been investigated involving youths congregating on streets and vandalism at Egmont St.  Local residents had raised issues of concern about speeding traffic in certain locations particularly by young drivers and PC Dench invited members to refer any particular ‘hotspots’ to him direct for investigation and possible enforcement using peed cameras.  A local resident expressed the view that the police were held in high regard by Mossley residents but there was a general lack of confidence that action would be successful in dealing with reported crime.  In response, PC Dench advised that In view of the relatively low incidence of crime in Mossley compared with other areas of the Borough, it was inevitable that Police resources would be diverted to those areas. However, PC Dench assured the resident that action was taken on all crime issues referred to him and he encouraged local residents not to be deterred from reporting incidents of crime.  In expressing gratitude to PC Dench for his attendance at the meeting, the Chair reiterated comments that the public should continue reporting all incidents of crime to the Police on the basis that all reported crime was investigated. | | | | | | | |
|  | (ii) ‘Large Grant Application received from Mossley Town Twinning Committee – to support a Twinning Jubilee Celebration Event (£1000)  Members considered the above application for a ‘large’ grant  Mr and Mrs D Kendrick attended the meeting to present the application on behalf of the Twinning Committee and to respond to any questions from members.  A copy of the application had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.  The Town Council determined the application at a later stage during the meeting. | | | | | | | |
|  | (iii) Town Team Update  Mr Paul Dowthwaite, Mossley Town Team Chair delivered an update on activities undertaken in the Town as follows:   * The Christmas Market would be held at Mossley Methodist Church on 6 November 2021 commencing at 11.00am * Winter and Summer planting displays had been undertaken at a cost of £1,100 * Winter planting was to take place on Saturday 30 October 2021 outside the George Lawton Hall * The Mossley Art Trail initiative was progressing well. The aim was for Mossley to be known as a ’Public Art Gallery’ and further sponsorships were being sought. Seeking permission to place art in some locations had and continued to cause delay * Funding of £2,500 had been obtained from the ‘Welcome Back to the Town Centre’ initiative. The funding would be spent on the Market Ground | | | | | | | |
|  | (iv) Cycling and Walking in Mossley  Annette Turner, Programme Manager for Physical Activity, Tameside MBC and Robert Sharp, Public Health, Tameside MBC, attended the meeting to assist the Town Council with the formulation of cycling and walking policies and initiatives in Mossley.  Ms Turner delivered an interesting and thought-provoking inter-active presentation devised to ‘start the conversation’ about walking in Mossley.  Ms Turner undertook to collaborate with the Town Council in formulating a Strategy for Walking and Cycling in Mossley and agreed to circulate to members of the Town Council via the Clerk, a variety of useful information, contacts and links to sources which would assist the Town Council in formulating the strategy.  On behalf of the Town Council, the Chair expressed sincere gratitude to Ms Turner for her presentation and looked forward to her continued involvement with the Town Council as the Cycling and Walking Strategy developed. | | | | | | | |
| **2196** | **Minutes** | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 1 September 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. | | | | |
| **2197** | **Financial Update – to 31 August 2021**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) showing the financial position as at 30 September 2021 and including a list of invoices paid between 1 September and 30 September 2021 as follows: | | | | | | | |
|  | Mossley Methodist Church | | | | | | | 30.00 |
|  | Friends of Egmont St (Grant) | | | | | | | 300.00 |
|  | Fairtrade Mossley (Grant) | | | | | | | 300.00 |
|  | HMRC (Aug 2021) | | | | | | | 206.20 |
|  | ZOOM (Sep-Oct) | | | | | | | 14.39 |
|  | M Iveson (Salary and Expenses (Sep 2021) | | | | | | | 427.89 |
|  | Microsoft 365 (Reimburse) | | | | | | | 79.99 |
|  |  | | | | | | | **Total: £1258.87** |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the report be noted. | | | | |
| **2198** | **External Audit of the Town Council’s Accounts for Year ending 31 March 2021**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) advising the Town Council on the findings of the External Auditor (PKF Littlejohn LLP) following their audit of the Town Council’s Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021.  The External Auditor had indicated that on the basis of the review of the annual governance and accountability return, the accounts accord with legal requirements and there were no other matters which had come to their attention which give cause for concern.  There were no other matters which they wished to draw to the attention of the Town Council. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | (1) | | That the report be noted with satisfaction. | | |
|  |  | | | (2) | | That the Clerk be authorised to pay the fee (£240) to PKF Littlejohn LLP for their work in undertaking the external audit of the Town Council’s accounts for 2020/21. | | |
| **2199** | **Christmas 2021**  Mr Dermot Gill was present at the meeting for this item.  The Chair reminded members that the Christmas Lights Switch-on events would take place events on Friday 26 November (Micklehurst) and Saturday 27 November (Mossley) 2021, respectively.  Whilst details of the events were yet to be finalised, it was proposed to arrange for a parade at the Mossley event together with performances to suit all ages with more sophisticated performances taking place after the switch-on in an attempt to appeal to a wider demographic audience.  It was proposed to appoint Mr Dermot Gill as the Event Manager for both events. The Town Team Stewards would be assisting with the management of the events as in previous years.  The Clerk advised members that an allocation of £10,000 had been included in the Town Council’s budget for ‘Christmas’ events, and members were invited to authorise the Clerk in consultation with the Chair to utilise expenditure from that budget heading to meet the costs of organising the event and event management fees. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | (1) | That the report and outline arrangements be approved. | | | |
|  |  | | | (2) | That Mr Dermot Gill be appointed as the Event Manager for both the Micklehurst and Mossley events. | | | |
|  |  | | | (3) | That the Clerk in consultation with the Chair be authorised to utilise expenditure from the ‘Christmas’ budget heading to meet the costs of organising the event and event management fees. | | | |
|  |  | | | (4) | That any additional expenditure incurred above the budget allocation be met from the unallocated reserve, | | | |
| **2200** | **Plastic Free Mossley**  Councillor Jack Homer updated members on progress made with the ‘Plastic Free Mossley’ initiative.  Regrettably, as a result of the pandemic, little progress had been made to date but now that the restrictions were gradually being lifted, work to progress the initiative would be commenced.  The main thrust of the initiative was to secure a reduction in the use of single use plastic in the town and it was proposed to collaborate with business and retailers in the Town to achieve this in a variety of ways which were under consideration.  Consultation would also take place with Tameside MBC to link in with similar initiatives being taken by that authority to prevent the use of plastic. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the report be noted. | | | | |
| **2201** | **Purchase of ‘Please pick-up after your dog’ Signs**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated with the agenda) inviting the Town Council to consider the purchase of ‘Please pick-up after your dog’ signs.  Following comments from members in response to the proposal to action the purchase of signs under the urgent Standing Order 10 (urgent action procedure), an approach had been made to Tameside MBC to establish that permission was not required to place signs on street furniture. A response was awaited. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | (1) | That approval be given to the purchase of ‘Please pick-up after your dog’ signs for display in the Town at an estimated cost of £80.00. | | | |
|  |  | | | (2) | That in consultation with the Chair, the Clerk be authorised to procure the signs, | | | |
|  |  | | | (3) | That the cost of the signs be met from the ‘Community Action’ budget heading. | | | |
| **2202** | **Chair’s Report**  The Chair updated members on progress made with the ‘Mortal Man’ initiative (see minute 2157 of 18 August 2021.)  Further updates would be delivered to future meetings as the initiative developed. | | | | | | | |
| **2203** | **Localised Flooding – Drainage Issues**  In the absence from the meeting of Councillor Stephen Homer, members deferred this item to the next meeting. | | | | | | | |
| **2204** | **Remembrance Sunday – 14 November 2021**  The Clerk advised members that as a return was made to some form of normality as we emerge from the Pandemic, it was hoped there would be a considerable turnout, weather permitting.  Conventionally, the service at Mossley Hall was followed by a parade from the Hall to dispersal at the George Lawton Hall where light refreshments were served.  Due to the unavailability of the George Lawton Hall due to works being undertaken, Mr Stephen Porter the Chair of Mossley AFC had very kindly offered the accommodation at Seel Park for the serving of light refreshments.  The Reverend David Warner has agreed to conduct the Service at the Memorial at Mossley Hall.  The now customary maroons will be set off at the start and finish of the period of silence.  In response to past representations made by a member of the public, the Chair outlined possible options for greater community involvement particularly with young people in the Town.  In the meantime, the Chair suggested that the Town Council might consider the purchase of 2 ‘Tommy’ silhouette figures for display in each of the Town Council planters at Micklehurst and the Market Ground. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | (1) | That the report be noted. | | | |
|  |  | | | (2) | That approval be given to the purchase of 2 ‘Tommy’ silhouette figures for display in each of the Town Council planters at Micklehurst and the Market Ground at a cost of £242.50 including VAT and delivery. | | | |
|  |  | | | (3) | That any additional expenditure incurred above the budget allocation be met from the unallocated reserve, | | | |
| **2205** | **Creative Mossley**  The Chair updated members on the ‘Creative Mossley’ initiative and informed members that a Cultural Forum meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 15 November 2021 at 7.30pm at The Vale to look at the cultural and creative offer in Mossley. | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the report be noted. | | | | |
| **2206** | **Planning Issues**  The Council considered the following planning applications: | | | | | | | |
|  | (i) | | Change of use of the land to form a country park, 162 new residential dwellings and community centre across four zones comprising an ecology area; community hub, woodland area and enabling residential development; creation of new access roads within and into the site, provision of landscaping, pedestrian and cycle routes and public and private parking areas at land at former Hartshead Power Station and Millbrook Sidings Millbrook Stalybridge (21/00987/FUL)  (Note: Although this application was on land outside the boundary of the Town Council (in the Stalybridge North Ward), the views of the Town Council had been invited in view of the close proximity to the boundary and the scale of the application.) | | | | | |
|  | (ii) | | Erection of free-standing retractable canopy/awning at Roaches Lock 387 Manchester Road Mossley (21/01031/FUL) | | | | | |
|  | (iii) | | Erection of single dwelling to replace existing buildings (outline planning permission with all matters reserved) on land to the west of The Billy Goat Public House Stamford Street Mossley (21/00919/OUT) | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | (1) | | That in respect of the application for change of use of the land to form a country park, 162 new residential dwellings and community centre across four zones comprising an ecology area; community hub, woodland area and enabling residential development; creation of new access roads within and into the site, provision of landscaping, pedestrian and cycle routes and public and private parking areas at land at former Hartshead Power Station and Millbrook Sidings Millbrook Stalybridge (21/00987/FUL), Tameside MBC be advised that the Town Council welcomes the country park elements of the application and fully acknowledges that the residential development will enable that aspect of the application to be undertaken.  The Town Council acknowledges the need for more homes in the wider area but in respect of this application would like to see more detail on the residential types proposed in order to ensure that the proposed development will assist housing types for which there is a need in the area.  The Town Council has concerns about the significant number of vehicle movements associated with a development of 162 dwellings, not only in the immediate locality of the development but also the impact in localities in close proximity to the development through which increased traffic will pass.  The Town Council has no particular objection to the house types and layout, but once again the applicant is working along “standard” estate thinking. This Council has in the past pressed for more innovation in architecture, local heritage sensitivity in design and layout. Developments such as this are an ideal opportunity to move on. As far as we can see and we are aware that there may have been discussions with planning officers, the proposal is developer led, rather than being the subject of a Supplementary Planning exercise by the Local Planning Authority, something a development on this scale would warrant.  Notwithstanding the above, the Town Council considers that in the event of the proposed development being acceptable, facilities using sustainable forms of energy; including outdoor lighting; internal power by solar or wind power; the installation of electric vehicle charging points (as indicated) as part of the development and any other appropriate measures being pertinent to sustainable development and carbon reduction should be provided as part of the development. | | |
|  |  | | | (2) | | That in respect of the application for erection of single dwelling to replace existing buildings (outline planning permission with all matters reserved) on land to the west of The Billy Goat Public House Stamford Street Mossley (21/00919/OUT), Tameside MBC be advised that the Town Council acknowledges that the proposed development is not formal Green Belt land but nevertheless is located on the urban fringe and therefore requires close scrutiny.  The development does not appear to provide residential accommodation for which there is an unmet need in the locality. It represents a speculative development in an isolated location which may result in an undesirable precedent for future developments of the type proposed.  The development proposed requires the demolition and adaptation of walls and infrastructure recently constructed by the District Council at considerable public expense thus frustrating environmental improvements designed to improve the residential and visual amenity of the area. | | |
|  |  | | | (3) | | That the remaining application be noted. | | |
| **2207** | **Updates and reports from Town Team and Other Agencies**  No further updates were delivered | | | | | | | |
| **2208** | **Correspondence**  The Clerk reported that a letter of thanks had been received from Mrs Lesley Bill expressing thanks to the Town Council for the generous grant made to the event which had taken place for families who had lost loved ones during the pandemic.  The Clerk undertook to circulate the letter to members for perusal. | | | | | | | |
| **2209** | **Grant Applications**  The Town Council considered the application for a large grant from Mossley Town Twinning Committee to support a Twinning Jubilee Celebration Event (£1000)  (Note: representatives of the organisations had been invited to respond to questions from members earlier during the meeting.) | | | | | | | |
|  |  | RESOLVED: | | | (1) | | That a ‘large’ grant of £1,000 be awarded. | |
|  |  |  | | | (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. | |
|  |  |  | | | (3) | | That Mossley Twinning Committee be advised that the Town Council agrees also that they may wish to further support the event, including supporting community attendance, for example, by sponsoring a number of tickets for representatives of the Town, as an acknowledgement of community service. | |

The meeting concluded at 10.14pm

Chair