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| **Mossley Town Council** |
| **18 January 2023 at 8.00pm** |
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|  | **Present:**Councillor Frank Travis (Chair) (In the Chair); Councillors Dean Aylett, Idu Miah and Pat Mullin. |
|  | 5 members of the public were present at the meeting. |
| **2326** | **Apologies for Absence**Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors James Hall, Stephen Homer, Helen Jamison and Ruth Kerfoot. |
| **2327** | **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**Members of the public were invited to address the meeting. **Police**The Clerk advised that the Police were unable to be represented at the meeting. However, Sgt Ben Marsden had provided the following update on Police activity in the Town:Mossley Police Community Support Officers and the Policing Team had acted on Intelligence received about an address on Archer St, Mossley, at which a large cannabis farm had been discovered. One male suspect had been arrested and charged and was currently on remand awaiting trial.Sgt Ben Marsden and a helpful civilian support officer at Ashton were currently working with the Friends of Egmont St Park and Mossley Football Club on community projects.Since the last meeting Sgt Marsden had met with local councillors before Christmas. Burglaries and serious acquisitive crime had been raised including vehicle thefts. Over the January period the Policing Team had provided plain clothes pro-active patrols in the Mossley and surrounding area, including night shifts. During these shifts no burglaries were reported. Patrols would continue when resources permitted and endeavours would be made to continue the patrols during the darker nights.A national week of tackling anti-social behaviour was scheduled for the coming week and the Policing Team will be out and about in the community providing weapon sweeps in the parks, pop up crime prevention stalls and hot spot pro-active policing.As always, the Police welcomed any contact from councillors or stake-holders who would like to meet with the Police.In receiving the report, members invited the Clerk to request an update on the dangerous dog incident which occurred in the vicinity of Egmont St last year.**Livingstone Primary School - grant to fund performances by ‘2 Boards and a Passion’.** Simon Wilde, Vice-Chair of Livingstone Primary School Governing Board attended the meeting to report on the (£825) grant awarded by the Town Council for Livingstone Primary School to fund performances by ‘2 Boards and a Passion’. The 3 Christmas performances were hosted by the school for Early Years (including nursery), Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes.The performances had been fully enjoyed by all the participating children and the funding of the performances by the Town Council had made a very significant contribution to the children during the current cost of living crisis.A possible thought for the future might include the possibility of a co-ordinated activity across other schools in the town.Members expressed gratitude to Simon for his report.**Livingstone Primary School – Walking to School Initiative**Simon Wilde, Vice-Chair of Livingstone Primary School Governing Board advised the Town Council about an initiative at the school to encourage parents and their children to walk to school rather than drive. He outlined a suggested proposal to provide parking facilities for those parents who continued to use their vehicles for personal reasons.Points made:* In the interests of health and wellbeing of children attending the school and parents, the school was endeavouring to encourage children to walk to school
* This would also alleviate difficulties caused by the school being located in a cul-de-sac leading to vehicular access difficulties and conflicts with local residents
* It was currently estimated that two thirds of parents walked to school
* To cater for those parents who would have to continue bringing their children to school by car for various reasons, the school had commenced discussions with Tameside MBC about the possible use of the Market Ground Car Park at school start and finish times at no cost
* Tameside MBC had refused the request on grounds of loss of income; the borough wide implications of permitting this at one school; inequalities; and the borough-wide policy of encouraging walking to school which would be undermined
* The Chair of the Governing Board had discussed the initiative with the Police. The Police were supportive as the availability of parking facilities would obviate the need for parking enforcement
* The initiative had received support from other schools in Mossley experiencing similar problems with parking
* Any assistance the Town Council was able to give would be welcomed by the school.

In response, the following comments were made:* The provision of of-street parking facilities in an unused area at Mossley Park was an option to explore
* A formalised ‘park and walk’ scheme would be beneficial to children, parents and local residents
* Historic parking issues had occurred at nearby St George’s CE Primary School. Discussions with Tameside MBC at that time had revealed that Council’s desire to encourage all children to walk to school. To introduce mitigating measures for one school would undermine the policy and set a precedent for the remaining number of schools in Tameside (approximately 70). Tameside MBC acknowledged that some parents had no option other than to travel by car.
* The historic decision by Tameside MBC to introduce parking charges at the Market Ground had been opposed by the Town Council on grounds that it would exacerbate existing parking difficulties in surrounding residential streets. Tameside MBC was continuing to look at parking policies and the introduction of a one hour free parking in all car parks would be beneficial to all parties and in particular local centres
* Encouraging everyone to dispense with unnecessary car journeys should be the general aim of everyone in the community.

A suggested way forward was for Livingstone Primary School to formulate a pilot study and seek the support of the community, community leaders and the local Member of Parliament. The pilot should identify the benefits and the hurdles which would need to be overcome to enable the initiative to proceed. The Town Council would be happy to consider the pilot scheme and whether to support the initiative in due course.**Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III – 6 May 2023**The Chair of Mossley Town Team (Tony Snape) enquired about any proposals of the Town Council to mark the Coronation of His majesty King Charles III during the bank holiday weekend of 6 – 8 May 2023.The Town Council Chair advised that no proposals were currently under consideration by the Town Council and consideration was being given to the way in which future public entertainment events were organised. It was understood that the Town Team was considering the organisation of an event to encourage volunteering for future events.  |
|  | **Applications for Financial Assistance**The Clerk reported that there were currently no applications for financial assistance to consider. |
| **2328** | **Minutes**The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 7 December 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.  |
| **2329** | **Litter in Mossley**The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) updating the Council following the debate at the last meeting on litter; the development of the Litter Hub initiative in Mossley; inviting the Council to suggest locations for hubs in ‘Top’ and ‘Bottom’ Mossley; and to consider an action plan to further the control of litter in the Town.The Chair added that he had convened a meeting with local resident, Sally Hamer tomorrow. Thereafter, it was proposed to hold a meeting with all parties interested in resolving litter related problems in the town, hopefully in early February, at which various suggestions would be considered including suggested locations for ‘litter hubs’, and thereafter, the draft action plan updated.  |
| **2330** | **Neighbourhood Plan**The Chair drew to the attention of members the draft Neighbourhood Plan process report which had been circulated to members for information by email on 18 January 2023.The Chair outlined the various stages leading to final adoption of a plan for Mossley which had been discussed with the Planning Advisor (Abbie Miladinovic) who considered the process to be tight but achievable within the timetable set.There was a need to establish communication lines with Tameside MBC who had a mandate to assist the Town Council during the process.The first step would be to convene a meeting with all interested parties to publicise the Town Council’s intention to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan for the town. |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That the Chair be thanked for his update report. |
|  |  | (2) | That the outlined process be endorsed. |
| **2331** | **Egmont St**The Chair updated members on the initiative highlighting the asset transfer issues which were currently being considered by Tameside MBC. |
| **2332** | **Tree Planting Initiative**Councillor Dean Aylett informed members that he had now taken delivery of the trees and transferred them to individual bags for distribution. Councillor Aylett hoped to deliver them to the participating schools during the coming week.The Clerk undertook to inform schools of the impending delivery and to provide Councillor Aylett with contact details for the schools and the numbers of trees required for each school. |
| **2333** | **Mossley Walking and Cycling Strategy – Update**Councillor Pat Mullin delivered an update, including a report that consideration was being given to a ‘Walking Festival’ event during the Summer with various activities tailored to the needs of different groups.  |
| **2334** | **Financial Update to 31 December 2022**The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) showing the financial position as at 31 December 2022 and listing all bills paid since the last meeting as follows: |
|  | Frank Travis (Reimbursement) | £195.10 |
|  | Minuteman Press | £45.00 |
|  | Rachel Summerscales (Lantern Workshops) | £570.00 |
|  | Mossley Methodist Church | £40.00 |
|  | Mossley Methodist Church | £40.00 |
|  | Friends of Egmont St | £354.00 |
|  | PAYE November 2022 | £177.20 |
|  | Zoom | £14.39 |
|  | M Iveson Salary and Expenses (December 2022) | £476.22 |
|  | Mossley Methodist Church (room hire for Mossley Writers) | £30.00 |
|  | P&NFS Membership | £22.50 |
|  | J and S Removals | £40.00 |
|  | Total | £2004.41 |
|  | The schedule showed actual expenditure against budget provision for the entire year to date.The Clerk informed members that the account for the cost of one of the Mossley Christmas trees had now been received from Tameside MBC. The cost was £671. Members were asked to authorise the Clerk to settle the account which exceeds the £500 limit under which the Clerk has authority.The Clerk informed members also that an informal undertaking had been given making a donation to ‘Good Vibrations’ in recognition of their appearance at the Christmas Lights switch-on. The Clerk invited members to consider formalising the donation. |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That the report be noted. |
|  |  | (2) | That the Clerk be authorised to settle the account in the sum of £671 for the cost of one of the Mossley Christmas trees. |
|  |  | (3) | That a donation of £50 be awarded to ‘Good Vibrations’ in recognition of their appearance at the Christmas Lights switch-on. |
| **2335** | **Asset Register**The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) inviting the Town Council to review the Asset Register in light of changed circumstances.The changes involved the addition of a first aid kit for use at future low key community events and the deletion of the meeting room table and chairs previously located at Mossley Hall for the reasons outlined in the report.  |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That the report be noted. |
|  |  | (2) | That the donation of the chairs formerly used at Mossley Hall to St John’s Church be approved. |
|  |  | (2) | That the Clerk be requested to amend the Asset Register by adding the first aid kit and deleting the meeting table and chairs formerly used at Mossley Hall. |
| **2336** | **Draft Budget 2023/2024**The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) inviting the Town Council to give further consideration to the Budget for 2023/24 through to 2025/26 and to set the level of Precept for 2023/24.Appended to the report were:* A note setting out useful criteria used for calculating Council Tax;
* An updated schedule setting out the anticipated outturn expenditure for the current year 2022/23 projected to 31 March 2023 and a draft base budget for 2023/24; and
* Comparative taxation levels for the people of Mossley as a result of various levels of precept and Council Tax bases.

The report included updated observations/assumptions on the current year’s budget; an outline of the anticipated financial position at 31 March 2023; and a recommendation on the level of Precept for 2023/24. |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That the report be noted. |
|  |  | (2) | That in consultation with the Chair, the Clerk be requested to review the draft budget for 2023/24 to 2025/26 for further consideration at the next Town Council meeting. |
|  |  | (3) | That a precept of £32,000 be set. |
| **2337** | **Mossley Mapping Exercise**In view of the absence of Councillor James Hall, this item was not considered at the meeting. |
| **2338** | **Planning Issues**The Council considered the following planning applications: |
|  | (i) | Erection of a part double, part single rear extension and front porch at Norville, Carrhill Road Mossley (22/01222/FUL) |
|  | (ii) | Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Collection Facility within the Curtilage of a Shop: Installation of In Post Parcel Locker at Co-Op 23 Arundel Street Mossley (22/01213/P3N) |
|  | (iii) | Full discharge of Condition 4 (Contaminated Land), Condition 6 (CEMP), Condition 11 (Invasive Species), Condition 12 (Biodiversity Enhancement) and Condition 16 (Ground Investigations) of planning reference 16/00403/OUT at Land Formerly Prospect House Stockport Road Mossley (22/00100/PLCOND) |
|  | (iv) | Full discharge of Condition 10 (Badger Survey), Condition 11 (Hard and Soft Landscaping Works), Condition 14 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan) and Condition 16 (Ground Investigations) of planning reference 21/00320/REM at Land Formerly Prospect House Stockport Road Mossley (22/00101/PLCOND) |
|  | (v) | Tree works at Street Record Old Brow Court Mossley (22/00089/TPO) |
|  | (vi) | Demolition of existing structures, remediation of the land and change of use of the land to form an ecological enhancement area,, 162 new residential dwellings, creation of new access roads within and into the site, provision of landscaping, pedestrian and cycle routes and public and private parking areas (amended description, plans and information) at land at former Hartshead Power Station and Millbrook Sidings Millbrook Stalybridge (21/00987/FUL)(Note: Although this application is on land outside the boundary of the Town Council (in the Stalybridge North Ward), the views of the Town Council have been invited in view of the close proximity to the boundary and the scale of the application. The Town Council considered the original application in October 2021. The comments of the Town Council made at that meeting were forwarded to members for information on 22 December 2022.) |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That in respect of the application on land at former Hartshead Power Station and Millbrook Sidings Millbrook Stalybridge (21/00987/FUL), the Clerk in consultation with the Chair be authorised to submit comments on behalf of the Town Council in response to the application. |
|  |  | (2) | That the remaining applications be noted. |
| **2339** | **Chair’s Report**The Chair indicated that there were no other reports to deliver. |
| **2340** | **Updates and reports from Town Team and Other Agencies**No updates were delivered. |
| **2341** | **Correspondence**There were no items of correspondence to report. |
| **2342** | **Applications for Financial Assistance**The Clerk reported that there were currently no applications for financial assistance to consider. |
|  | The meeting closed at 9.50pm. |

Chair