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| **Mossley Town Council** |
| **5 April 2023 at 8.00pm** |
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|  | **Present:**Councillor Frank Travis (Chair) (In the Chair); Councillors Dean Aylett, James Hall, Jack Homer, Stephen Homer and Pat Mullin. |
|  | Six members of the public were present at the meeting. |
| **2363** | **Apologies for Absence**Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Helen Jamison, Ruth Kerfoot and Idu Miah. |
| **2364** | **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 a prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 12 (Mossley Twinning Committee), as a member of the Mossley Twinning Committee. After making a brief statement, the Chair left the meeting for the remainder of this item and took no part in the discussion or decision-making on the item.Councillor James Hall declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 15 (Fox Platts Allotments) as an allotment holder. |
|  | In the absence of the Chair after having disclosed a prejudicial interest in respect of Mossley Twinning Committee, it was: |
|  | RESOLVED: | That Councillor Jack Homer be elected Chair for the following item. |
|  | Councillor Jack Homer in the Chair |
| **2365** | **Mossley Twinning Committee** (See minute 2348 of 22 February 2023)The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) informing the Town Council about correspondence received from Mossley Twinning Committee inviting the Town Council to assume responsibility for twinning in Mossley. The report outlined options available to the Town Council for consideration. |
|  | RESOLVED: | That consideration of this item be deferred to the June meeting. |
|  | Councillor Frank Travis in the Chair |
| **2366** | **Updates and reports from Town Team and Other Agencies**Paul Dowthwaite referred to previous discussion regarding the impending closure of the ‘Upper’ Mossley Post Office and more recent discussions regarding the viability of the ‘Bottom’ Mossley Post Office. Mr Dowthwaite expressed concern that there was a potential scenario of no Post Office provision in Mossley.The Chair emphasised the importance of Post Offices as a community banking presence in the town used in particular by the elderly and less well-off members of society. |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That in consultation with the Chair, the Clerk be requested to prepare a statement for publication on social and other media drawing attention to the potential loss of Post Office provision and inviting public support in opposing Post Office closures. |
|  |  | (2) | That Tameside MBC Mossley Ward representatives be encouraged to raise the issue of Post Office closures at a future Tameside MBC Council Meeting. |
| **2367** | **Litter in Mossley**The Chair advised members that the proposed meeting with all parties interested in resolving litter related problems in the town had not yet taken place but that discussions were continuing within the community about suggested locations for ‘litter hubs’ in both ‘Top’ and ‘Bottom’ Mossley.Thereafter, the draft action plan considered at the Town Council meeting in January would be updated. Arising out of discussion, the Town Council drew particular attention to the amount of discarded litter emanating from hot food take-away establishments and other general litter and debris on the streets.The Town Council accepted that controls would not be easy to introduce but the problems associated with indiscriminate discarding of litter had become so significant that some form of action must be taken.Accordingly, the Council agreed to jointly work to promote local “housekeeping” efforts from the business owners and managers in the two town centres. |
|  | RESOLVED: | That the Clerk be requested to write to Tameside MBC with a request that measures to control the incidence of litter from food outlets and similar establishments is controlled or at least taken into consideration when granting permissions. |
| **2368** | **Provision of Cycle Racks**The Clerk informed members of the receipt of correspondence from a resident suggesting the provision of cycle racks on Manchester Road.The local resident attended the meeting in support of his suggestion.The Clerk had had preliminary discussions with officer colleagues at Tameside MBC and that Council had indicated support in principle to the initiative subject to the Town Council meeting the cost of provision and installation. This was on the basis of an approximate cost of £270 per rack and up to 4 hours work for installation (approximately £500) making an approximate total cost of (£770). Members suggested that the Town Council should also secure an appropriate location in ‘Top’ Mossley also.Members were aware that there may be issues about space on the footway on Manchester Road and considered that it would be useful to meet with relevant officers from Tameside MBC to discuss in detail the proposed siting of the racks on Manchester Road and any other area identified for such provision in ‘Top’ Mossley. |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That subject to discussions taking place with Tameside MBC about the precise locations, approval be given to the funding of cycle racks in ‘Bottom’ Mossley at Manchester Road, and at a location to be identified at ‘Top’ Mossley. |
|  |  | (2) | That subject to detailed costings being provided by Tameside MBC and considered by the Town Council, the cost of providing the cycle racks be met from the ‘unallocated’ budget heading. |
| **2369** | **Public Engagement**Members of the public were invited to address the meeting. **Police**The Clerk advised members that the Police had indicated that Sgt Ben Marsden and PC Wilson would be present at tonight’s meeting but had not arrived. **Mossley Railway Station**The Clerk read out to members the content of an email from a local resident who was unable to attend the meeting posing questions to the Town Council about Mossley Railway Station as follows:“What is happening with Mossley Train Station, and if it is to be moved as part of the line modification, how much does the Town Council know about this?If what the community is hearing is true this will have major implications for the whole town, in a number of very significant ways.Timescale?What is actually happening?Why?For how long?When will the people of the town be told? We would like to know and have a right to know what is happening!”Councillor Stephen Homer led the response to the questions and the main points are set out below. Councillor Homer emphasised that no firm proposals had been agreed.Main points made:* In his capacity as a Tameside MBC ward member, Councillor Homer had been given an outline briefing by Network Rail with other members whose wards are on the line affected, to outline a range of measures under consideration. Consultation on these matters were usual with local authorities (at Tameside level) at earlier stages in developing ideas, but with an understanding that this was far from an agreed proposal.
* Electrification of the ‘Mossley’ line was a priority but it was inevitable that for that to take place, changes must be made to the infrastructure for both practical purposes related to the installation of equipment, and to develop and upgrade the facilities to match and support a much more modern system. One of those changes was the option to relocate the existing station which was not capable of being updated and due to its siting and layout did not allow for the provision of proper disabled access. The option to achieve these improvements at this stage was to relocate a fully upgraded station further down the line. The existing station would however be retained and put to some alternative use. The provision of a new modernised and updated station which will be Disability Discrimination Act compliant with much improved facilities will be an attractive proposition for all rail users.
* Because Network Rail does not have a timescale or allocated the requisite funding to enable works to take place and because no firm proposals have yet been suggested, no proposals have been placed in the public domain. Councillor Homer has been assured that when any firm proposals are in place, there will be a full public consultation on the proposals. That would give the Town Council an opportunity to comment.
* Some members expressed concern over what had been over recent years, a “stop start” approach to rail improvements and welcomed the opportunity to see a fully committed proposal.

Whilst members of the Town Council acknowledged that they had not been formally consulted on any proposals as yet, members agreed unanimously that improvements to the current public transport system particularly in Mossley were to be welcomed.  |
| **2370** | **Minutes**The Minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on Wednesday 22 and Monday 27 February 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.In considering the minutes of the meeting on 27 February 2023, the Clerk read out to members the content of an e mail from a local resident unable to attend the meeting about the absence of any record of suggestions made at the meeting. The Clerk added that to obtain information on specific areas had not been recorded as this was considered to be premature in advance of working groups being set up.The Clerk suggested that in approving the minutes, the Town Council acknowledges that information on the number of houses built in Mossley over the past 10 years will be required as a starter in considering housing elements of the Neighbourhood Plan. |
| **2371** | **Creative Space – Funding**The Chair invited members to consider the introduction of measures to encourage the development or expansion of creative groups in the town, and in particular new start up groups. The Chair and Councillor Pat Mullin, in discussion groups had observed the opportunity to support early-stage development of creative groups by sponsoring space in community venues.The Council understood that finance for accommodation for new groups could be an impediment to their development and it was suggested that a procedure be introduced on a trial basis, to assist groups in their initial stages.The Chair proposed that an allocation of £500 be allocated to enable a contribution of 50% towards the accommodation costs of newly formed groups or those who exist and are struggling and can demonstrate a real probability that with some help they can develop into a more sustainable entity.In order to qualify for funding from the Town Council, a group or organisation must provide evidence to demonstrate that the accommodation provider is willing to meet the remaining 50% of the accommodation cost borne by the organisation and that they meet the criteria above. |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That an allocation of £500 from the ‘unallocated’ budget heading be made, to enable a contribution of 50% towards the accommodation costs of newly formed groups or those who exist and are struggling and can demonstrate a real probability that with some help they can develop into a more sustainable entity. |
|  |  | (2) | That the Clerk in consultation with the Chair be authorised to make administrative arrangements for awarding the contributions. |
| **2372** | **Egmont St**The Chair reported that ‘Works4U’ had sought confirmation from the Town Council that the budget allocation of £10,000 remained available.  |
|  | RESOLVED: | That ‘Works4U’ be advised that the £10,000 budget allocated by the Town Council remains available subject to further discussions on the works to me met from the allocation. |
| **2373** | **Mossley Walking and Cycling Strategy – Update**Councillor Pat Mullin updated members on the ‘Mossley Walks’ Festival scheduled to take place between 13 and 20 May 2023.Councillor Mullin outlined the various walks scheduled for the week.The Chair suggested that the ‘Mossley Walks’ Festival should become an annual event in the future and that money should be set aside from the ‘Unallocated’ budget to fund the event. Members were updated on discussions which had taken place between Livingstone Primary School and Tameside MBC about the use of the Market Ground Car Park without charge for parents walking their children to the school. A robust case in favour had been voiced by the school and Tameside MBC was considering the matter and its implications. |
|  | RESOLVED: | That a sum of £500 be set aside from the ‘Unallocated’ budget in 2023/24 and thereafter annually to meet the cost of a ‘Mossley Walks’ Festival. |
| **2374** | **Fox Platts Allotments – Replacement Fencing**This item has been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor James Hall.In the absence of Councillor Hall from the meeting for this item of business, the Clerk informed members that he had approached officer colleagues at Tameside MBC seeking information on when the fencing at the allotments was scheduled to be replaced.Tameside MBC had indicated that the work was scheduled to take place and further information would be issued in due course on the date the works would be carried out. |
|  | RESOLVED: | That the report be noted. |
| **2375** | **Planning Issues**The Council considered the following planning applications: |
|  | (i) | Part single/two storey side extension with dormers to front and rear elevation at 1 Meadow Close Mossley (23/00237/FUL) |
|  | (ii) | Discharge of condition 11 (external lighting) of planning permission 17/00918/FUL at The Highland Laddie Market Street Mossley (23/00027/PLCOND) |
|  | (iii) | Joint application for proposed single storey rear extensions.138 Stockport Road - Single storey pitched roof rear extension and other external alterations including timber decking, balustrade and steps.140 Stockport Road - Single storey flat roof rear extension which includes roof terrace with low level perimeter parapet wall, obscured glass privacy screening to side and clear glass balustrade to rear at 138 and 140 Stockport Road Mossley (23/00064/FUL) |
|  | (iv) | Proposed single storey side extension, new front porch and relocation of external stairway at 27 The Spindles Mossley (23/00273/FUL) |
|  | (v) | Single storey rear extension, rear dormer roof conversion and roof alterations including raising of ridge height at 41 Richmond Crescent Mossley (23/00269/FUL) |
|  | (vi) | Change of use of office (Class E) to two apartments (Class C3) at 1 Anthony Street Mossley (23/00285/FUL) |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That in respect of the application for change of use of office (Class E) to two apartments (Class C3) at 1 Anthony Street Mossley (23/00285/FUL), theTown Council acknowledges that the site is a short distance from the core area of Mossley Town Centre but nevertheless considers that the proposed development will involve a further erosion of commercial accommodation and a retail frontage in the town which will result in further detriment to the commercial viability and long-term future of the town centre. |
|  |  | (2) | That the remaining applications be noted. |
| **2376** | **Financial Update to 31 March 2023**The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) showing the financial position as at 31 March 2023 and listing all bills paid since the last meeting as follows: |
|  | Zoom | £14.39 |
|  | PAYE (Jan. 2023) | £116.60 |
|  | M Iveson salary and expenses Feb. 2023) | £481.22 |
|  | Knights of the Vale | £290.00 |
|  | Mossley Methodist Church | £40.00 |
|  | M Iveson (Stationery reimbursement) | £21.35 |
|  | Mossley Methodist Church | £40.00 |
|  | Mossley Town Team (Planter sponsorship) | £50.00 |
|  | Gift for Wiehl (Reimbursement to Chair) | £59.54 |
|  | PAYE (Feb. 2023) | £116.60 |
|  | ZOOM reimbursement | £15.59 |
|  | Global Grooves | £130.00 |
|  | Mossley Community Association | £1200.00 |
|  | M Iveson (Salary and expenses (March 2023) | £473.42 |
|  | Total: | £3048.71 |
|  | **RESOLVED:** | That the report be noted. |
| **2377** | **Budget 2023/24**The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) inviting the Town Council to consider the final Budget for 2023/24 through to 2025/26.The updated draft Budget as at 31 March 2023 accompanied the report. |
|  | RESOLVED: | That subject to the inclusion of an additional heading, “Creative Space – Funding,” agreed earlier during the meeting (see minute 2371 above), the final Budget for 2023/24 to 2025/26 be approved. |
| **2378** | **Annual Review of Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2023 – Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023**The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) informing the Town Council about arrangements and the timetable for the Annual Review of Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2023.The annual return comprised two sections.Section 1 of the Annual Return comprised the Annual Governance Statement. The statement must be approved at a meeting of the Town Council as soon as possible after the year end and in any case before Section 2, the Accounting Statements. The Accounting Statements must then be submitted to the external auditor.The internal audit of the Town Council’s accounts was scheduled to take place on Monday 17 April 2023.The Annual Governance Statement comprised eight questions (question 9 was not relevant to the Council) which if answered in the affirmative would assist the Council in confirming that to the best of their knowledge and belief, there exists a sound system of internal control. The Clerk outlined arrangements in place to support questions 1 to 8 being answered in the affirmativeMembers believed all questions relevant to the Town Council could be responded to in the affirmative. |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That the Annual Governance Statement be approved. |
|  |  | (2) | That the Clerk be authorised to complete the Annual Governance Statement and to respond to questions 1 to 8 in the affirmative. |
|  |  | (3) | That the Clerk and the Chair be authorised to sign off the Annual Governance Statement following completion. |
| **2379** | **Review of Town Council Procedural Documents**The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) inviting the Town Council to review the following procedural documents:* Statement on Internal Control
* Risk Assessment
* Various documents required under the General Data Protection Regulations
* Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
* Statement on Internal Control

The documents should be reviewed from time to time, and it was the convention that the documents were reviewed on an annual basis prior to formal re-adoption at the Annual Council Meeting.Members made no amendments to the documents. |
|  | RESOLVED: | That the following documents be commended without amendment, for re-adoption at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council:* Statement on Internal Control
* Risk Assessment
* Various documents required under the General Data Protection Regulations
* Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
* Statement on Internal Control
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| **2380** | **Dates of Meetings in 2023 - 2024**The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) inviting the Town Council to consider dates for meetings in the 2023 – 2024 Municipal Year. |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That the following dates for meetings in 2023/24 be commended for approval by the Annual Meeting of the Town Council:* Annual Parish Meeting at Mossley Methodist Church on Wednesday 10 May 2023 commencing at 8.15pm
* ‘Ordinary’ meetings of the Town Council on the following dates at Mossley Methodist Church (commencing at 8.00pm:

Wednesday 7 June 2023 Wednesday 12 July 2023Wednesday 6 September 2023Wednesday 18 October 2023Wednesday 6 December 2023Wednesday 17 January 2024Wednesday 21 February 2024Wednesday 10 April 2024Annual Meeting of the Town Council in 2024 on Wednesday 15 May 2024 at 8.00pm. |
|  |  | (2) | That the date for the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023 be amended to Wednesday 10 May 2023 commencing at 8.00pm at Mossley Methodist Church. |
| **2381** | **Chair’s Report**The Chair expressed gratitude to fellow members and the Clerk for their work undertaken in serving the Town Council over the past 4 years. |
| **2382** | **Updates and reports from Town Team and Other Agencies**No updates were delivered. |
| **2383** | **Correspondence**There were no additional items of correspondence to report. |
| **2384** | **Applications for Financial Assistance**There were no applications to consider. |
|  | The meeting closed at 10.16pm. |

Chair