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| **Mossley Town Council** | | | | | | | | | |
| **18 October 2023 at 8.00pm** | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | **Present:**  Councillor Frank Travis (Chair) (In the Chair); Councillors Hamza Aslam, Dean Aylett, Amelia Bayliss, Bev Bennett, Stephen Homer, Idu Miah and Mary Mitchell. | | | | | | | | |
|  | 8 members of the public were present at the meeting. | | | | | | | | |
| **2460** | **Apologies for Absence**  An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Pat Mullin. | | | | | | | | |
| **2461** | **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. | | | | | | | | |
| **2462** | **Public Engagement**  Mossley ‘Litterbugs’ – Request to fund the cost of Plastic Sacks  Sally Hamer invited the Town Council to consider funding the cost of an additional supply of plastic refuse sacks for use by Mossley ‘Litterbugs’ in keeping the town free of litter.  The plastic sacks would be sourced from a previously used supplier at a cost of £77.94 for 1000 bags plus delivery of £15.60 making a total cost of £93.54. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | That the purchase of 1000 refuse sacks for use by Mossley Litterbugs at a cost of £93.74 be approved and that the cost be met from the Environment Budget. | | | | |
|  | Police  The Clerk advised members that the Police were unable to be represented at the meeting but that Sgt, Ben Marsden had delivered an update on recent Policing activity in the town.  Two drug warrants had been executed at 2 addresses in ‘Top’ Mossley. Four adults had been arrested for drug offences. Specialist Police Operations had been used.  One suspect was currently remanded until his next hearing. The other 3 offenders would be dealt with in due course.  Credit was due to PCs Wild and Davies for their meticulous planning that went into the strike day and the subsequent work in pursuing prosecutions.   Once again, the Police encouraged the community to report all crime, anti-social behaviour and any intelligence information via ‘Crime Stoppers’.  The week was the national week of action supporting businesses and retail premises. The Mossley PCSO'S were visiting the retail premises through the week, setting up a prevention stall inside the Co Op. PC Wild was also looking to take positive and ongoing action against potential shoplifters targeting the Co Op store.  With the advent of darker evenings additional patrols were taking place in the east of the area which included Mossley, to combat anti-social behaviour.  Councillor Stephen Homer had been provided with an update regarding the potential ASB surrounding a homeless encampment.  Members expressed satisfaction at the current working relationship the Town Council had with the local Police.  In considering the wider issue of policing in the town, members referred to the discussion at a previous meeting about the use of accommodation at the Fire Station which had been made available to the Police, but which was not used.  Whilst the Police representative at the meeting had outlined the reasons for this, the Town Council found it difficult to accept that for the Mossley policing community to be based at Ashton with valued police time being used in transporting officers from Ashton to Mossley at the beginning and end of shifts could not be an efficient use of a scarce resource. Particularly so when there was accommodation in Mossley readily available at the Fire Station.  The Town Council accepted that this may be an issue beyond the area of responsibility of the local Police officers and suggested that the issue be escalated. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | (1) | | That Sgt Marsden be thanked for providing this update. | | |
|  |  | | | | (2) | | That the Clerk be requested to write to the local Police asking that the issue of accommodation in Mossley by the local Police be considered further at the highest level. | | |
| **2463** | **Applications for Financial Assistance**  Mossley Time of Your Life Club  The Clerk informed members that the Chair of Mossley Time of Your Life Club had requested that the application be deferred to the next meeting to facilitate attendance to respond to questions. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the application for financial assistance received from Mossley Time of Your Life Club be deferred to the next meeting. | | | | | |
| **2464** | **Co-option to Vacancy in the Lancashire Ward**  The Town Council considered the co-option of a member to fill the vacancy in the Lancashire Ward following the resignation of a former Councillor.  The Clerk advised members that expressions of interest had been received from two candidates.  Members had been provided with details of the applicants and their submissions.  Prior to the meeting, members and candidates had been provided with detailed arrangements of how the co-option procedure would be conducted.  Members suggested that a confidential ballot should take place in the co-option process. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That the provisions of Standing Order 8.1 (Voting), be waived to enable a confidential ballot to take place in the co-option process. | | | | | | |
|  | The following applicants were then given the opportunity to make a brief presentation prior to members holding an election to fill the vacancies:  Beverley (Bev) Bennett  Martin Stimson  Members then put questions to the candidates and this was followed by a discussion amongst members about the suitability of the candidates for the role.  The confidential ballot then took place.  After counting the ballots cast by members, the Clerk confirmed that Beverley (Bev) Bennett had received an absolute majority of votes cast.  It was then: | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That Beverley (Bev) Bennett be co-opted to the vacancy in the Lancashire Ward until the next Parish Elections take place in 2027. | | | | | | |
| **2465** | **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on Wednesday 6 September 2023**  The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 6 September 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. | | | | | | | | |
| **2466** | **Financial Update to 30 September 2023**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) showing the financial position as at 30 September 2023 and listing all bills paid since the last meeting as follows: | | | | | | | | |
|  | Mossley Methodist Church | | | | | | | | £40.00 |
|  | PKF Littlejohn | | | | | | | | £378.00 |
|  | PAYE (August) | | | | | | | | £116.60 |
|  | ZOOM | | | | | | | | £15.59 |
|  | M Iveson (Salary and exp. Sept) | | | | | | | | £470.92 |
|  | Microsoft 365 | | | | | | | | £79.99 |
|  | Total: | | | | **£1101.10** | | | | |
|  | The schedule showed actual expenditure against budget provision for the entire year.  The accounts from Tameside MBC for the May 2023 elections and the ‘earmarked’ skatepark project, were awaited.  The Elections Manager was still working on the election costs but had indicated that the increase on previous years may be substantial. The Clerk had asked to ensure that a full breakdown was provided. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | | That the report be noted. | | | |
| **2467** | **Mossley Town Council Public Clock**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated), inviting the Town Council to consider action to repair the Mossley Town Council Clock located at the Pennine Medical Centre.  The report included the estimates for repair and future maintenance of the clock provided by William Potts and Sons, the original provider of the clock. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That in view of the scale of the estimated costs involved in repairing the clock, the Clerk be requested to seek additional estimates for consideration by members. | | | | | |
| **2468** | **Partnership Working – ‘Moving Forward Together’ (See minute 2449 of 6 September 2023)**  The Chair updated members on further discussions which had taken place with the Managing Director of Comtec regarding the partnership working initiative which had been approved in principle at the last meeting of the Town Council. | | | | | | | | |
| **2469** | **Christmas 2023 Events in Mossley**  The Chair updated members on arrangements in hand for the Christmas 2023 events in Micklehurst and Mossley. | | | | | | | | |
| **2470** | **Remembrance Sunday – 12 November 2023**  The Clerk updated members on arrangements made for the Mossley Remembrance Sunday event on 12 November 2023 which included:   * The provision of a Maroon by Pyro Cartel (£200) * Rev. Robert Balfour from Mossley Methodist Church had agreed to officiate * Qualified first aider, Andrew Stone had agreed to be in attendance.   Stewarding arrangements were still under consideration, but it was anticipated that those who act at the Band Contest would be in attendance.  The Chair reported further on the initiative discussed at the last meeting, involving young people in the town downloading a ‘Tommy’ related image for subsequent colouring and window display which would provide a significant display throughout the town.  The Chair added that the initiative would involve some printing costs.  The Chair reported also on an initiative proposed by Matt Bennett to provide a montage based on newspapers published during World War 2.  (Note: the initiative proposed by Matt Bennett was subsequently postponed to 2024) | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | (1) | | | That the report be noted. | |
|  |  | | | | (2) | | | That any necessary expenditure on printing costs for the ‘Tommy’ display be authorised. | |
| **2471** | **Neighbourhood Plan - Update**  The Chair and Councillor Amelia Bayliss updated members on helpful and positive discussions which had taken place with officers at Tameside MBC regarding arrangements to progress the formulation of the Mossley Neighbourhood Plan.  It was acknowledged that preparations had not yet progressed as had been hoped but that arrangements would now gear up. | | | | | | | | |
| **2472** | **Mossley Walking and Cycling Strategy**  **‘Step into Autumn’ and GM Walking Festival 2024**  Councillor Amelia Bayliss updated members on the ‘Step into Autumn’ initiative involving Mossley Council and Emmaus Mossley supporting Mossley Food Bank by encouraging local people to walk for 30 minutes every day in October and collecting a £1 for each walk to be paid at the end of the month to Mossley Food Bank.  Councillor Bayliss added that arrangements had been made for Transport for Greater Manchester Active Travel Mission to attend a meeting for those involved in the GM Walking Festival in 2024 at which arrangements for the 2024 event would be discussed. The meeting would be held at 5.30pm on Monday 23 October 2023 at The Vale. | | | | | | | | |
| **2473** | **Planning Issues**  The Council considered the following planning applications: | | | | | | | | |
|  | (i) | Proposed single storey extension to front elevation to extend lounge at 5 Shire Croft Mossley (23/00852/FUL) | | | | | | | |
|  | (ii) | New male and female toilet block and new detached disabled toilet and viewing facilities at Seel Park Football Ground Market Street Mossley (23/00828/FUL) | | | | | | | |
|  | (iii) | Single storey rear extension at 40 Shire Croft Mossley (23/00807/CPUD) | | | | | | | |
|  | (iv) | New first floor window positions to the front elevation at 29 King Street Mossley (23/00729/FUL) | | | | | | | |
|  | (v) | Tree works at Abney Congregational Church (Micklehurst Branch) Huddersfield Road Mossley (23/00085/TPO) | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | (1) | | | That in respect of the following applications:    New male and female toilet block and new detached disabled toilet and viewing facilities at Seel Park Football Ground Market Street Mossley (23/00828/FUL)  The Town Council fully supports this application on the grounds that the proposal will improve much needed facilities at the club which is a landmark facility and recreational amenity for the many supporters of the club residing in and beyond the town;  Tree works at Abney Congregational Church (Micklehurst Branch) Huddersfield Road Mossley (23/00085/TPO)  The Town Council fully supports this application on the grounds that the proposal will result in judicious works to improve the site which will enhance the visual amenity of the immediate locality. | |
|  |  | | | | (2) | | | That remaining applications be noted. | |
| **2474** | **Chair’s Report**  No additional items were reported. | | | | | | | | |
| **2475** | **Updates and reports from Town Team and Other Agencies**  Members were advised that a Christmas Market would take place at the methodist church on Saturday 4 November 2023. | | | | | | | | |
| **2478** | **Correspondence**  Apsley Side Public Footpath  The Clerk reported the receipt of an email from a resident expressing concern at the condition of the public footpath at Apsley Side. The resident had raised the issue with Tameside MBC but no action had been taken,  The issue had been raised with the Greenspace Development Manager at Tameside MBC who had agreed to look into the issue in due course and report further.  (Since the meeting, a response from the Greenspace Development Manager had indicated that whilst the path is not on Council owned land, it is a right of way and the local authority will arrange for the vegetation to be cut back on the winter programme. Apparently this has been actioned in the past on occasion but the local authority does not have the resources to include it on a regular programme.)  Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document: A Joint Development Plan Document for 9 Greater Manchester Local Authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) – Proposed Modifications Consultation  The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority setting out the current position on the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan.  Members noted the correspondence.  Mill Street Car Park, Mossley  A member drew attention to the current situation following the re-installation of the car parking charging station at the Mill Street Car Park.  A minimum parking charge of £2.00 had been introduced resulting in vociferous concern being expressed from both the local business and resident communities.  The Town Council fully acknowledged that charges to use the car park were necessary to avoid all day parking, but the £2.00 minimum charge was considered excessive in this location.  The business community was concerned that the charge would dissuade residents from visiting local shops and amenities in the area which are often brief in nature. There was evidence to suggest that local trade had markedly diminished since the charge has been introduced. It was unlikely that local residents would pay £2.00 to park when visiting local shops (e.g., the post office, an amenity valued by the community) for a brief period and will take their business elsewhere.  Alternatively, the charge will exacerbate on-street parking in adjacent areas resulting in further congestion and loss of amenity to those residents affected.  The Town Council understood the Tameside MBC policy for parking in Ashton Town Centre and local shopping centres and the need to generate income but holds the strong view that Mossley ought not to be compared to those centres.  A solution to the current local opinion expressed by members following the introduction of the £2.00 charge would be to make the first half hour free of charge. This would recognise the comments of those residents wishing to visit local shops and amenities for a brief period which it is suggested are the main users of the car park. The introduction of the half hour allowance would also harmonise with the existing waiting restriction on the Manchester Road lay-by.  Members accepted that the introduction of the suggestion would need enforcement by Tameside MBC but that was already in place as witnessed by the significant number of fixed penalty notices issued and which have been waived following intervention by local Councillors. | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That the Clerk be requested to convey the views of the Town Council to relevant officers at Tameside MBC with a request that a response is received for the next Town Council meeting. | | | | | | |
| **2479** | **Application for Financial Assistance**  This item had been dealt with earlier during the meeting. | | | | | | | | |
|  | The meeting closed at 10.20pm. | | | | | | | | |

Chair