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| **Mossley Town Council** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **6 December 2023 at 8.00pm** | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Present:**  Councillor Frank Travis (Chair) (In the Chair); Councillors Hamza Aslam, Amelia Bayliss, Bev Bennett, Stephen Homer, Idu Miah and Mary Mitchell. | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | 5 members of the public were present at the meeting. | | | | | | | | | | |
| **2480** | **Apologies for Absence**  Apologies for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillors Dean Aylett and Pat Mullin. | | | | | | | | | | |
| **2481** | **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. | | | | | | | | | | |
| **2482** | **Public Engagement** | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Police  The Clerk advised members that the Police were unable to be represented at the meeting but that PC Bradley Wild had delivered an update on recent Policing activity in the town.  In addition to regular Police patrols and day to day activities:     * A prolific shoplifter had been arrested and charged. The Police were working with the Co-op, who had expressed gratitude, in order to bring as many charges as possible to the individual to achieve an outcome which would protect local stores. * Additional arrest warrants focused on taking more drugs and drug dealers off the streets of Mossley were being assembled. The Police could not publish details at this time. * The Police were working with a local teacher who is keen to submit an application for funding regarding the establishment of a club to work with disadvantaged youngsters who are struggling in school. If successful, the bid, would result in considerable funding being put into the local area to benefit Mossley children. It was anticipated that progress with this would be made in the coming weeks. * The Police emphasised the need for people to report anything they feel is worthy of bringing to Police attention through the usual channels (online chat, crimestoppers etc). * The Police also encouraged any member of the public to access ‘Bee in the Loop’ [Home Page - Bee in the Loop](https://beeintheloop.co.uk/) which required only an email address to enable the receipt of messages directly from PC Wild or the PCSO’s regarding safety tips, updates on daily patrols, or more general messages from GMP. | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | | (1) | | | | That PC Wild be thanked for providing this update. | |
|  |  | | | | | (2) | | | | That the Clerk be requested to publish the availability of the ‘Be in the Loop’ initiative on the Town Council website and social media. | |
|  | Hey Farm Estate - Request for Childrens Play Area  The Clerk reported the receipt of a communication from Laura Kemp-Smyth, a resident of the Hey Farm Estate, expressing concern about the lack of play facilities for children nearby and asking how residents can work together to make this happen.  The resident suggested the small grassed area in the woods between the bridle path and Roaches Lock Public House for use as a woodland adventure playground.  The Chair advised that the attention of the Greenspace Development Manager at Tameside MBC had been drawn to the request and the response would be forwarded to Ms Kemp-Smyth upon receipt. | | | | | | | | | | |
| **2483** | **Applications for Financial Assistance**  Mossley Time of Your Life Club (£300)  Anthony Bridge, the Chair of Mossley Time of Your Life Club and John Hepworth attended the meeting to elaborate upon the application for a grant to assist with local advertising aimed at increasing membership of the Club, and to respond to questions from Members.  The applicant was informed that the grant application would be determined at a later stage during the meeting. | | | | | | | | | | |
| **2484** | **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on Wednesday 18 October 2023**  The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 18 October 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. | | | | | | | | | | |
| **2485** | **Financial Update to 30 November 2023**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) showing the financial position as at 30 November 2023 and listing all bills paid since the last meeting as follows: | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | New Start Education | | | | | | | | | | £480.00 |
|  | PKF Littlejohn | | | | | | | | | | £378.00 |
|  | PAYE (September) | | | | | | | | | | £116.40 |
|  | ZOOM | | | | | | | | | | £15.59 |
|  | M Iveson (Salary and expenses October) | | | | | | | | | | £474.92 |
|  | Pyro Cartel | | | | | | | | | | £199.00 |
|  | Mossley Methodist Church | | | | | | | | | | £40.00 |
|  | Just Bin Bags | | | | | | | | | | £93.54 |
|  | Comtec | | | | | | | | | | £2,994.00 |
|  | Comtec | | | | | | | | | | £445.20 |
|  | Rachel Summerscales | | | | | | | | | | £50.00 |
|  | The Vale (defibrillator) | | | | | | | | | | £250.00 |
|  | Royal British Legion (Wreath) | | | | | | | | | | £25.00 |
|  | Zoom | | | | | | | | | | £15.59 |
|  | PAYE (Oct) | | | | | | | | | | £116.60 |
|  | M Iveson (Salary and Exp. Nov 23) | | | | | | | | | | £475.72 |
|  | About Tameside | | | | | | | | | | £380.00 |
|  | Comtec (Eq and tech support) | | | | | | | | | | £625.20 |
|  | Comtec (Remainder of fee) | | | | | | | | | | £2,994.00 |
|  | Shaw Toilet Hire | | | | | | | | | | £588.00 |
|  | Frank Travis (reimb. For Rem Sun) | | | | | | | | | | £217.00 |
|  | Frank Travis (Reimb Xmas Lights sundries) | | | | | | | | | | £362.77 |
|  | Total: | | | | | **£11,336.53** | | | | | |
|  | The schedule showed actual expenditure against budget provision for the entire year.  There were a number of budget overspends. These were highlighted in the budget report included elsewhere on the agenda.  The invoice for the Christmas Tree works at Micklehurst had now been received from Tameside MBC. The cost £1975 plus vat amounted to £2370.  As a result of the work undertaken this year, the cost for next year should reduce to around £ 760.00 plus vat.  This brought the current cost of Christmas to £10,248 or £3248 over budget.  The Clerk suggested that members may wish to authorise the overspend on Christmas from the ‘Unallocated’ budget. | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | | | (1) | | | That the report be noted. | |
|  |  | | | | | | (2) | | | That overspendings above the £7000 allocation for Christmas lights be met from the ‘Unallocated’ budget. | |
|  |  | | | | | | (3) | | | That the Clerk be authorised to settle the invoice received from Tameside MBC. | |
| **2486** | **Town (Parish) Election Costs – May 2023**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated), advising the Town Council of the cost of the May 2023 elections provided by Tameside MBC.  The report also invited members to consider and put in place financial arrangements to meet the cost of future elections in 2027.  Members were advised that the cost (£8750) of the 2023 elections was £750 above the amount currently allocated in the Town Council’s budget.  This cost was attributable to only the Chesire and Lancashire Wards. The Yorkshire ward had not been contested.  Had the Yorkshire Ward been contested, the costs would have been considerably higher and in the region of £12000. | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (1) | | | | | | That the report be noted. | | |
|  |  | | (2) | | | | | | That the overspend of £750 above the £8000 allocation for election costs be met from the ‘Unallocated’ budget. | | |
|  |  | | (3) | | | | | | That the Clerk be authorised to settle the invoice received from Tameside MBC. | | |
|  |  | | (4) | | | | | | That in drafting the budget for 2024/25 and future years, the Clerk be requested to include an amount of £3,400 in each year to meet the anticipated cost of the elections in 2027. | | |
| **2487** | **Salary of the Clerk**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated), advising the Council about the pay settlement for Local Government staff and the settlement so far as the salary of the Clerk to the Council is concerned.  The ‘spot’ salary of the Clerk was based pro rata on Spinal Column Point (SCP) 15 which had increased from £25,878 p.a. to £27,803.  This represented an hourly rate increase of £1 per hour from £13.45 to £14.45.  The backdated pay to April 2023 would be paid and the revised salary implemented in the Clerk’s December 2023 salary. | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That the report be noted. | | | | | | | | |
| **2488** | **Draft Budget 2024/25**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated), inviting the Town Council to give initial consideration to the Budget for 2024/25 and subsequent years.  Understandably, at this stage in the financial year, it was difficult for final estimates of expenditure to be fully accurate, but the projected figures give the Council an approximation.  The report included some observations on the current year’s budget.  It was apparent from the draft budget that expenditure exceeded Precept income and this had over recent years been attributable to savings during the pandemic and underspends on policy options which had been ‘rolled forward’.  As an illustration, the Clerk pointed out that if everything in the current year budget was spent, there would be very little to roll forward. That was unlikely but some items such as Egmont St, Neighbourhood Plan and any other financial commitments would need to be rolled forward.  Expenditure on ‘running costs’ could be quite accurately predicted but it was for members to determine expenditure levels on the policy options.  The Precept must be set at the next Town Council meeting in January so that it could be fed into the Tameside MBC budget.  In previous years, the Chair and Clerk had drafted a more detailed budget for consideration at the January meeting at which the Precept is set.  Members considered the ‘earmarked’ allocation within the current budget for the provision of cabinets at the George Lawton Hall and Councillor Stephen Homer reported on a possible source from which they might be procured.  In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to seek confirmation from the Manager of the hall that permission to install cabinets with toughened glass was still available. | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (1) | | | | | | That the report and information presented by the Clerk be noted. | | |
|  |  | | (2) | | | | | | That further consideration be given to the Budget for 2024/25 to 2026/27 and the setting of the 2024/25 Precept at the next meeting. | | |
|  |  | | (3) | | | | | | That the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair be requested to consider policy options for inclusion in the budget. | | |
| **2489** | **Mossley Town Council Public Clock (See minute 2467 of 18 October 2023)**  At the last meeting, the Town Council had asked the Clerk to obtain alternative quotes for the repair of the Mossley Town Council Public Clock.  The Clerk advised members that quotes appeared to be from either bespoke repairers or those whose skills or expertise could not be verified.  The Clerk had invited the local press to publicise the Town Council’s search for a suitable contractor in case there was a local provider with the necessary skills.  That had now been publicised via the Tameside Correspondent and responses were awaited.  Councillor Bev Bennett reported that the Pennine Medical Centre was to give consideration to making a contribution towards the cost of repairing the clock. | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | That the report be noted. | | | | | | |
| **2490** | **Christmas 2023 Events in Mossley**  The Chair reported on the successful Christmas 2023 events in Micklehurst and Mossley.  Members discussed arrangements for future years including the possibility of reinstating the lantern parade and the need to encourage more volunteering in implementing the events.  The Chair informed members that it was proposed to give a small token of appreciation to the volunteer ‘Father’ and ‘Mother’ Christmas who had appeared at the events. | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the report and action proposed by the Chair be noted. | | | | | | | |
| **2491** | **Community Christmas Tree Festival – Sponsorship**  Members were invited to note urgent action taken under Standing Order 10 to sponsor a Christmas Tree as part of a seasonal community event and to promote the Town Council at a cost of £25.00.  The Decision Record had been circulated with the agenda. | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | | That the report be noted. | | | | | |
| **2492** | **Request for a Right Turn Filter Lane at Stamford Rd**  This item had been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor Bev Bennett.  Councillor Stephen Homer advised members that he had received from Tameside MBC Environmental Services, an email outlining why it was not practical to provide a 'right turn' filter lane on Stockport Road at the junction with Stamford Rd/Stamford St.  Councillor Homer undertook to provide the Clerk with a copy of the email for issue to members for information. | | | | | | | | | | |
| **2493** | **Tree Planting Initiative**  This item has been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor Dean Aylett.  In the absence from the meeting of Councillor Aylett, members confirmed that finance was allocated in the current budget for tree planting and confirmed that the initiative lead by Councillor Aylett should continue.  Members invited the Clerk to seek advice from Councillor Aylett on his proposals for the current planting season. | | | | | | | | | | |
| **2494** | **Planning Issues**  The Council considered the following planning applications: | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (i) | Non-material amendment to planning application 23/00560/FUL. Amendment to include re-location of doorway and window at Rock House 229 Stockport Road Mossley (23/01024/MATCH) | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (ii) | Proposed single storey front, side and rear wrap around extension at 52 Lower Hey Lane Mossley (23/00973/FUL) | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (iii) | Development of 36 one-bedroom affordable apartments, with associated parking, landscaping, and works necessary to facilitate the development at land off Egmont Street Mossley (23/00921/FUL) | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (iv) | Proposed single storey rear extension at 8 Earnshaw Clough Mossley (23/00922/FUL) | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (v) | Proposed dropped kerb to existing car park space at 233 Stockport Road Mossley (23/00892/FUL) | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (vi) | Change of use from outbuilding to coffee take-away at Colliers Barn Broadcarr Lane (23/01022/FUL) | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (vii) | Proposed re-rendering of gable at 1 Hillside Farm Quickedge Road Mossley (23/01020/LBC) | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (viii) | Lawful Development Certificate (Existing Use) to allow for MOT testing, ancillary to the main Class B2 (General Industry) use Mossley Car Care LTD Unit 1D&E The Glover Centre Egmont Street Mossley23/00994/CLUD | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | | (1) | | | | That in respect of application no. 23/00921/FUL for development of 36 one-bedroom affordable apartments, with associated parking, landscaping, and works necessary to facilitate the development at land off Egmont Street Mossley, the Clerk in consultation with the Chair be authorised to submit to Tameside MBC, objections to the applications based on the views expressed at this meeting.  (Note: For ease of reference, the objections agreed with the Chair and submitted to Tameside MBC are appended to these minutes.) | |
|  |  | | | | | (2) | | | | That remaining applications be noted. | |
| **2495** | **Chair’s Report**  No additional items were reported. | | | | | | | | | | |
| **2496** | **Updates and reports from Town Team and Other Agencies**  Mill St Car Park (see minute 2478 of 18 October 2023)  Councillor Stephen Homer advised members that following representations made by the Town Council about the revised car parking charges on the Mill Street car park, the Leader of Tameside MBC had undertaken to meet with Mossley Councillors to discuss parking in the Town. | | | | | | | | | | |
| **2497** | **Correspondence**  The Clerk reported the receipt of an email from the Industry Programme Director / Sponsorship, Transpennine Route Upgrade outlining news about the Transpennine Route Upgrade. The upgrade was one of Britain’s largest rail programmes and would transform journeys for passengers in the North of England.    The Government had announced a £3.9bn funding boost for the programme. The increased commitment takes total funding to £6.9bn. This allowed movement into the next phase of plans, leading to reduced journey times, reduced carbon emissions and more reliable rail services between Manchester and York.  An offer to meet to discuss the funding announcement, its implications and plans for the Mossley area had also been made. | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That in consultation with the Chair, the Clerk be requested to accept the offer to meet and to make the necessary arrangements. | | | | | | | |
| **2498** | **Application for Financial Assistance**  Mossley ‘Time of Your Life Club (£300)  Members considered the application from Mossley ‘Time of Your Life Club’ for a grant to assist with local advertising aimed at increasing membership of the Club. | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (1) | | | | | That a grant of £150 be awarded to the Mossley ‘Time of Your Life Club’ for a grant to assist with local advertising aimed at increasing membership of the Club. | | | |
|  |  | | (2) | | | | | That in order to assist with the stated objectives of the club, individual members be requested to contact the club direct with offers of assistance with specific skills and areas of expertise available to them. | | | |
|  |  | | (3) | | | | | 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. | | | |
|  | The meeting closed at 10.20pm. | | | | | | | | | | |

Chair

**Development of 36 one-bedroom affordable apartments, with associated parking, landscaping, and works necessary to facilitate the development at land off Egmont Street Mossley (23/00921/FUL)**

This application was considered at the meeting of the Town Council on Wednesday 6 December 2023.

The Town Council has no objection in principle to the proposed development which utilises a former industrial site and which appears not to result in any amenity issues.

The Town Council notes that the development is in accordance with relevant policies by virtue of the specific nature of the residential accommodation proposed. The Town Council acknowledges the need for that type of accommodation in the borough.

Town Council acknowledges that the accommodation comprises ‘affordable’ accommodation but is concerned that ‘in due course’ the residential units will become no longer ‘affordable’ in the event of them being sold, thus removing much needed accommodation of the type now proposed. The Town Council would like to seek assurance that the future sale of the accommodation can be restricted.

The Town Council acknowledges also that letting rights will permit occupation by tenants from across the borough. However, the need for this type of accommodation for those Mossley residents seeking such accommodation is significant and the Town Council would like assurance that an agreed number of the units will be made available to current Mossley residents.

The Town Council also requests that ‘green’ initiatives including cycle storage and electric vehicle charging points are made available as part of the development.