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| **Mossley Town Council** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **21 February 2024 at 8.00pm** | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Present:**  Councillor Frank Travis (Chair) (In the Chair); Councillors Hamza Aslam, Amelia Bayliss, Stephen Homer, Idu Miah, Mary Mitchell and Pat Mullin. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | There were 36 members of the public present at the meeting. | | | | | | | | | |
| **2515** | **Apologies for Absence**  Apologies for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillors Dean Aylett and Bev Bennett. | | | | | | | | | |
| **2516** | **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.  As members of the Fairtrade Mossley Steering Group, Councillors Hamza Aslam and Amelia Bayliss declared prejudicial interests and left the meeting during the consideration of the grant application received from that body (see minute 2535 below). | | | | | | | | | |
| **2517** | **Former Town and Tameside MBC Councillor Roy Etchells**  The Chair referred to the recent passing of former Town and Tameside MBC Councillor Roy Etchells.  Together with the Vice-Chair, he had attended the funeral and expressed condolences on behalf of the Town Council to the family.  A donation had been made by the Town Council to the Francis House Children’s Hospice in memory of Mr Etchells.  Members of the Town Council and all those present at the meeting then stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr Etchells | | | | | | | | | |
| **2518** | **Closure of the ‘Bottom’ Mossley Post Office**  The Chair referred to the recent closure of the ‘Bottom’ Mossley Post Office which resulted in the current absence of any post office facilities in the Town.  The deadline for the receipt of representations about the closure would expire on 28 February 2024 and members of the public were encouraged to make their views known before the deadline.  The Chair paid tribute to the service provided to the community by Councillor Idu Miah, the Postmaster of the ‘Bottom’ Mossley Post Office during the last 20 years. | | | | | | | | | |
| **2519** | **Transpennine Route Upgrade – Additional Funding**  Representatives of Network Rail attended the meeting to make a presentation about the Transpennine Route Upgrade, one of Britain’s largest rail programmes that will transform journeys for passengers in the North of England.  Network Rail were represented by the following:  Rachel Thomas - Programme Director Alex Richardson - Senior Programme Manager Vicky Cropper-Clarke - Regional Development Manager Chiquita Carolyne - Communications Executive Mark Ashton – Sponsor  (Note: The presentation by Network rail can be accessed via the following link:  <https://mossley-council.co.uk/notices/transpennine-route-upgrade/>  [Transpennine Route Upgrade – Mossley Town Council (mossley-council.co.uk)](https://mossley-council.co.uk/notices/transpennine-route-upgrade/) )  After the presentation, members and the public present at the meeting were given an opportunity to ask questions in response to which the following points were made:   * With the exception of a small length adjacent to ‘Manchester Cottages’, the entire length of the line between Manchester Victoria and York would be electrified. Electrified trains would still be able to run along the length adjacent to ‘Manchester Cottages’ but would ‘coast’ this length of track. * Future consultations by Network Rail would include a ‘postal drop’ in the locality. * The alignment of the electrified track would be similar with the addition of a third track between Marsden and Huddersfield. * Disruption during the necessary works would be inevitable for which Network Rail apologised in advance, but the completed project would deliver environmental improvements. * The location of the entrance to the proposed new Mossley Station had not yet been designed. Network Rail would involve the community wherever possible. * Whilst planned post construction services were not yet determined, it was hoped that there would be improved services for Mossley residents. * The Network Rail Marketing Team would be involved in setting up franchise arrangements to assist with the first mile/last mile problem in the context of passenger travel. * There were no further plans to close any ticket offices. * GPS signalling would assist with the line capacity of trains. * Car parking provision at the new Mossley Station would be considered in conjunction with the design of the station. There was no intention to demolish the existing station building which was a Grade 2 Listed building. * Where possible and practicable, Network Rail would work in consultation with local authorities in providing services and facilities including the use of S106 Agreement monies and work with builder/developers to encourage the use of public transport. * It was hoped that the relocation of the existing Mossley Station and the opening of the new station would be seamless. * Facilities for passengers at the new station would be included in the design brief. It was acknowledged that passengers deserved improved facilities as a reward for their commitment to rail travel. * Whilst it was proposed to carry out some improvement work overnight to reduce service disruption, disturbance to affected residents could not be ruled out. Affected residents would be notified in advance. * Network Rail would consider managing bus services replacing services disrupted during works. * The improved line would enable increased capacity for freight rail traffic but success of the service was dependent upon service take-up. * Network Rail undertook to provide a detailed consultation timetable for the proposed works.   In concluding the debate and expressing thanks to the Network Rail representatives for their attendance, the Chair emphasised the potential benefits to Mossley of rail travel for economic, educational, social and leisure activities. It was important that the local community was consulted and involved in the improvement works at all stages.  The Network Rail representatives left the meeting at this point. | | | | | | | | | |
| **2520** | **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:   * An additional warrant had been taken out against a property resulting in issues caused to the community being discontinued. The occupiers will be under no illusion that their criminal activity will not be tolerated in Mossley. * A team effort had been taken against an individual trying car doors and stealing items from unlocked vehicles. Within an hour of the Police being made aware of this person, he had been arrested. The team had spoken with residents and asked to check their various CCTV cameras. As a result, the individual had been interviewed and pleaded guilty to 12 various offences. The team had worked beyond their shift and into the early hours of the morning to make sure that the individual was placed on remand and would not be bothering anyone in Mossley for the foreseeable future. * An update regarding the ARIS funding bid was awaited. * Following regular checks, a persistent local shoplifter had ceased offending and was due to attend Court next week thanks to the work undertaken in conjunction with the Co-OP. * The community was encouraged to visit the various Police social media channels and to report anything they regarded as suspicious. The public were also encouraged to contact the Police direct or use Crimestoppers to provide intelligence. This may be unusual activity at a house, individuals acting suspiciously or cars being driven recklessly etc. * The number of successful warrants executed recently in Mossley was largely due to the intelligence gathered from residents informing the Police of their concerns. The local Police were keen to ensure that the number of warrants issued in Mossley continued but this required the Police gathering intelligence so that they can show that a warrant is required. If in doubt, inform the Police. Crimestoppers is anonymous.   The Clerk informed members that arrangements had been made for a presentation to be made at the next Town Council meeting by the applicant for the ARIS Bid discussed at the previous meeting. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | | That PC Wild be thanked for providing this update. | | | | |
| **2521** | **Applications for Financial Assistance**  Fairtrade Mossley Steering Group  Members considered an application from the Fairtrade Mossley Steering Group for a grant of £300 to meet the cost of providing funding to all primary schools in Mossley to assist with ‘Fairtrade Fortnight’ activities.  Janet Davies from Fairtrade Mossley attended the meeting to respond to any questions from members.  Brunswick Dam Project  Members considered an application from the Brunswick Dam Conservation Group for a grant of £300 to meet the cost of providing tools and equipment to enable the project to proceed.  Liam Charles attended the meeting to respond to any questions from members.  Mossley AFC  Members considered an application from Mossley AFC for a large grant of £999 to assist with costs associated with hosting the Whit Friday Band Contes.  Martyn Cowsill attended the meeting to respond to any questions from members.  The applicants were advised that the applications would be determined at a later stage during the meeting. | | | | | | | | | |
| **2522** | **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on Wednesday 17 January 2024**  The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 17 January 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. | | | | | | | | | |
| **2523** | **Financial Update to 31 December 2023**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) showing the financial position as at 31 January 2024 and listing all bills paid since the last meeting as follows: | | | | | | | | | |
|  | PAYE (December 2023) | | | | | | | | £194.60 | |
|  | M Iveson (Office equipment reimbursement) | | | | | | | | £11.00 | |
|  | M Iveson (Salary and expenses January 2024) | | | | | | | | £505.45 | |
|  | Zoom reimbursement | | | | | | | | £15.59 | |
|  | ICO | | | | | | | | £35.00 | |
|  | Town Team Planter sponsorship | | | | | | | | £50.00 | |
|  | Mossley Methodist Church | | | | | | | | £40.00 | |
|  |  | | | | | | | |  | |
|  | Total | | | | | | | | £851.64 | |
|  | The Clerk reminded members that Tameside MBC were likely to issue an invoice for the ‘earmarked’ expenditure of £5,000 being the Town Council’s previously authorised contribution towards the cost of the new skatepark at Mossley Park.  The Clerk invited the Town Council to authorise him to settle the account upon receipt from Tameside MBC. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (1) | | | | That the report be noted. | | | |
|  |  | | (2) | | | | That upon receipt from Tameside MBC, the Clerk be authorised to settle the account for the new skatepark at Mossley Park.  . | | | |
| **2524** | **Draft Budget and Precept 2024/25**  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) inviting the Town Council to give further consideration to the Budget for 2024/25.  The report advised the Town Council that they had an estimated £38,000 available to allocate to policy options. This amount may change depending on the financial position at the end of the financial year.  The Clerk reminded members that there was currently no financial provision for the following:   * large and small grants, * Christmas 2024, * Partnership working * Community Action   After considering the position, it was: | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (1) | | | | That the report be noted. | | | |
|  |  | | (2) | | | | That the following Policy Options be included in the 2024/25 draft Budget: | | | |
|  |  | |  | | | | Section 137 General Expenditure | | | £2,000 |
|  |  | |  | | | | Section 137 Small Grants | | | £2,400 |
|  |  | |  | | | | Section 137 Large Grants | | | £2,000 |
|  |  | |  | | | | Christmas Lights 2024 | | | £10,000 |
|  |  | |  | | | | Community Action | | | £10,000 |
|  |  | |  | | | | Creative Space Funding | | | £500 |
|  |  | |  | | | | Partnership Working | | | £5,000 |
|  |  | |  | | | | Cycling/Walking Initiatives | | | £3,000 |
|  |  | |  | | | | Project Support | | | £1,000 |
|  |  | | (3) | | | | That the final budget be submitted for approval to the April meeting by which time the end of year financial position will be known. | | | |
| **2525** | **Meeting with Leader of Tameside MBC**  Members were informed that the Chair and Tameside MBC Mossley ward representatives had met with Councillor Ged Clooney, the Leader of Tameside MBC to discuss a range of issues relating to Mossley, including:   * The recent introduction of revised car parking charges in the Town * The promotion of Mossley as a centre for culture and the arts * The expansion of the Town as a centre for outdoor activities. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | That consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting. | | | | | | | |
| **2526** | **Closure of the ‘Bottom’ Mossley Post Office**  This item had been dealt with earlier during the meeting. | | | | | | | | | |
| **2527** | **Publicising the Work of the Town Council**  Members were advised that arrangements were in hand to publish a regular feature in future editions of the Mossley Browser on the role, decisions made and actions proposed by the Town Council. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the Clerk in consultation with the Chair, be authorised to pursue the arrangements for publicising the work of the Town Council. | | | | | | |
| **2528** | **Tree Planting Initiative** (See minute 2506 of 17 January 2024)  The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) confirming that all primary schools in the town had agreed to participate in the Town Council tree planting initiative.  The Clerk added that St George’s CE Primary School had now confirmed that they wished to participate and had 19 Year 6 children.  Members were invited to consider the inclusion of requests for trees received from the Friends of Egmont St and ‘Incredible Edible’. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (1) | | | | That the report be noted. | | | |
|  |  | | (2) | | | | That the requests from Friends of Egmont St and ‘Incredible Edible’ to be included in the Town Council tree planting initiative be approved and that the necessary expenditure be authorised. | | | |
| **2529** | **Planting and Maintenance of Town Council Planters**  The Clerk reported that Mossley Town Team had offered to take over the planting and maintenance of the 2 large wooden planters in ‘Top’ and ‘Bottom’ Mossley at Market St and Micklehurst Rd corner with Station Rd, respectively.  The Town Team had confirmed that there would be no charge to the Town Council for this service. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the offer from the Town Team to take over the planting and maintenance of the 2 large wooden planters in ‘Top’ and ‘Bottom’ Mossley at no cost, be approved. | | | | | | |
| **2530** | **Mossley Town Council Public Clock** (See minute 2505 of 17 January 2024)  The Clerk informed members that discussions were continuing to find a suitable contractor to repair the clock. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | | That the report be noted. | | | | | |
| **2531** | **Proposed Cabinets at George Lawton Hall** (See minute 2507 of 17 January 2024)  Councillor Stephen Homer reported that discussions to source the cabinets were ongoing. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the report be noted. | | | | | | |
|  | **Planning Issues**  The Council considered the following planning applications: | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (i) | Removal of existing conservatory. Proposed single storey rear extension and rendered finish to existing dwelling at 21 Roaches Way Mossley (24/00058/FUL) | | | | | | | | |
|  | (ii) | Construction of a Motor Control Centre (MCC) Kiosk in association with wider permitted development works off Manchester Road Mossley (24/00051/FUL) | | | | | | | | |
|  | (iii) | Single storey flat roof extension and associated internal alterations to the EYFS area of the School at St Josephs Roman Catholic Primary School Curzon Street Mossley (24/00043/FUL) | | | | | | | | |
|  | (iv) | Single storey side extension, first floor rear extension and loft conversion. including patio and retaining wall to front of property. (Re-submission of 23/00041/FUL) at Wellswood The Elms Mossley (24/00039/FUL) | | | | | | | | |
|  | (v) | First floor extension and conservatory replacement with masonry walls and solid roof with roof lights at 29 The Spindles Mossley (24/00028/FUL) | | | | | | | | |
|  | (vi) | Proposed agricultural building for the storage of farmyard manure and hardstanding area at Hole House Farm Huddersfield Road Mossley (24/00104/FUL) | | | | | | | | |
|  | (vii) | Change of use of the rear part of an existing warehouse (Use Class B8) to an indoor football and cricket sports facility (Use Class E) Royal Works Waggon Road Mossley (24/00091/FUL) | | | | | | | | |
|  | (viii) | Full discharge of Condition 27 (Protected Species) and Condition 28 (Eradication of Cotoneaster) of planning reference 23/00680/FUL at former Mossley Hollins High School, Huddersfield Road Mossley (24/00015/PLCOND). | | | | | | | | |
|  | The Clerk reminded members that the response received from the Interim Head of Planning at Tameside MBC in response to the Town Council’s concerns about recent planning applications for residential developments at Hey Farm and Mossley Hollins; and the non-determination of an application at Manchester Road, had been circulated to members for information. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | | That the report of the Clerk and the planning applications listed above be noted. | | | | | | |
| **2532** | **Chair’s Report**  No additional items were reported. | | | | | | | | | |
| **2533** | **Updates and Reports from Town Team and Other Agencies**  Members were advised of the following events:   * The Greater Manchester Walking Festival * The Mossley Spring Fair on Saturday 9 March 2024 * The Celebration of Mossley Volunteering on Saturday 23 March 2024 | | | | | | | | | |
| **2534** | **Correspondence**  The Clerk advised that there were no items of correspondence to consider. | | | | | | | | | |
| **2535** | **Application for Financial Assistance**  Members considered the following grant applications: | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Fairtrade Mossley  An application from the Fairtrade Mossley Steering Group for a grant of £300 to meet the cost of providing funding to all primary schools in Mossley to assist with ‘Fairtrade Fortnight’ activities. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (1) | | | | | That the application from the Fairtrade Mossley Steering Group for a grant of £300 to meet the cost of providing funding to all primary schools in Mossley to assist with ‘Fairtrade Fortnight’ activities be approved. | | |
|  |  | | (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. | | |
|  | Brunswick Dam Project  An application from the Brunswick Dam Conservation Group for a grant of £300 to meet the cost of providing tools and equipment to enable work on the project to proceed. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (1) | | | | | That the application from the Brunswick Dam Conservation Group for a grant of £300 to meet the cost of providing tools and equipment to enable work on the project to proceed be approved. | | |
|  |  | | (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. | | |
|  | Mossley AFC  An application from Mossley AFC for a large grant of £999 to assist with costs associated with hosting the Whit Friday Band Contest. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | RESOLVED: | | (1) | | | | | That the application from Mossley AFC for a large grant of £999 to assist with costs associated with hosting the Whit Friday Band Contest be approved | | |
|  |  | | (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. | | |
|  | The meeting closed at 10.26pm. | | | | | | | | | |

Chair