**Minutes, Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council 24th March 2025 at the Civic Hall.**

**There were present:** Cllr. B Beeley – Chairman, Cllr H Bishop – Vice Chairman

S Al-Hamdani K Barton

R Blackmore K Dawson

L Dawson P Gaul

J Garner M Powell,

G Sheldon L Thompson

B Witt

The Chairman Cllr Barbara Beeley welcomed Councillors to the meeting and prayers were led by the Rev Barbara Christopher.

**3708. To receive Public Questions:** None received

**3709. To receive apologies for Absence:** Cllrs E Adamson, A Marland, K Phillips, A Wrigley.

**Absent:** Cllrs M Birchall, D Wall, P Walsh.

**3710. To receive Declarations of Interest:** None declared

**3711. A presentation by Sara Naylor (Senior Director, Finance & Estates NHS, Healthcare in Saddleworth).**

Cllr Beeley introduced Sara Naylor (Senior Director, Finance & Estates NHS, Healthcare in Saddleworth), Gillian Sorioglu (Strategic Partner Manager, NHS) and Stuart Lockwood (Chief Executive OCL). They presented to Councillors an update on progression for improved health care in Saddleworth. Ms Naylor explained the complex process involved when building new hospitals and health centres. She advised that the population in Saddleworth is growing and they had developed a strategic outline case to investigate the different options available. One option being considered is co locating a new health centre with Saddleworth Leisure Centre. Mr Lockwood explained how this would work in practice, by expanding the site, and offering additional facilities.

Cllr Beeley requested a timescale; Ms Naylor advised it could be between 18 months and up to 10 years. It was suggested in the interim that more community services could be developed in other buildings around the Parish. Ms Sorioglu advised they were already looking into this.

Cllr Sheldon expressed concerns about the option of a combined project developing the existing leisure centre due to access and parking concerns. He suggested the old Saddleworth School site would be a much more viable option. Cllr Bishop also seconded this. Ms Naylor advised that the business case will identify the best option available and that carparking and access will be considered.

Cllr Al-Hamdani expressed concern about a reduction in astro turf pitches with the proposed development of the leisure centre. Mr Lockwood advised this would be investigated along with the other challenges being faced.

Cllr Al-Hamdani was also concerned about the loss of facilities while the work was carried out. Mr Lockwood advised they would aim to maintain the existing provision as much as possible.

Ms Naylor advised this combined project is only one option being considered and that the business case, which would be developed following advice from architects and other experts, will advise the best option available.

Cllr Gaul asked for clarification around the Government’s plan to fully digitalise the NHS paper records within 10 years and he was advised one of the priorities was to free up space for clinical use.

Cllr Beeley asked whether the fact that Saddleworth is now in East District along with St James ward and Waterhead, both with very different demographics would impact on the proposals. Ms Naylor advised that services will be tailored, but Saddleworth is the priority.

There was discussion around a review of current medical facilities across Saddleworth, with empty spaces being identified to maximise clinical use.

Cllr Beeley allowed a question from the public, who stated that the old Saddleworth School site means a lot to the young people of Saddleworth and it would be appropriate to utilise that site.

Cllr Beeley thanked Ms Naylor, Ms Sorioglu and Mr Lockwood for their very helpful presentation on behalf of the Parish Council.

**3712. Chairman’s Urgent Business**

Cllr Beeley advised that at the September meeting of the Council, it was agreed the Clerk would contact Mr Dave Speller (RSPB) to arrange a visit to Dovestone in the Spring. Councillors were asked to advise the Clerk if they would like to visit and she will facilitate it.

**3713. Correspondence**

The Clerk advised she had once again sent a reminder letter to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) requesting further clarification on the response received in relation to the Parish Councils’ Planning & Healthcare Motion. She had received a call from the department confirmed receipt but was still awaiting an official response.

Correspondence received from Network Rail was discussed regarding the closure of Uppermill High Street over two weekends in April and May, due to essential works. Cllr Beeley advised there was a drop in information event being held at Saddleworth Museum on 27th March between 3pm and 6pm and invited councillors to attend. Cllr Beeley believed the consultation had been handled very badly, at very short notice and it would cause much disruption. She advised that Cllr Marland was chasing OMBC Highways to find out the planned diversion routes. Cllr Bishop advised that Highways also had only recently been notified of the closures.

Regarding the proposed closure of the Moorgate Crossing, it was agreed Cllr Beeley would write to Debbie Abrahams, MP, requesting further support.

**3714. To approve and confirm as a correct record the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 February 2025**

Cllr Garner requested if a response had been received from the local banks in relation to a banking hub in Saddleworth. The Clerk confirmed the letters had been sent 12th March but to date, had received no responses. It was agreed the Clerk would notify Debbie Abrahams, MP, who has been very supportive in the Parish Council’s quest for a banking hub, to update her with the actions taken so far.

The minutes were then accepted as a true record and signed at the meeting by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Al-Hamdani, seconded Cllr Bishop.

**3715. To note the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2025**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Bishop, seconded Cllr Garner and accepted.

**3716. To note the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held on 27 February 2025**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Beeley, seconded Cllr Al-Hamdani and accepted.

**3717. To note the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 3March 2025**

There was some discussion around the recent late receipts of some Planning applications from OMBC with less than the statutory 21 days’ notice. This was making it very difficult for the Parish Council, as consultees, to ensure their comments were shared with OMBC Planning before the decisions were made. It was agreed this would be added to the agenda of the next Planning meeting for discussion.

The minutes were then proposed by Cllr Beeley, seconded Cllr Garner and accepted.

**3718. To note the Minutes of the Traffic & Transport Committee Meeting held on 6 March 2025**

Cllr Gaul advised that the replacement hazard signs he had requested on the corner of Old Lane and Thorpe Lane, Austerlands. were now in place.

The minutes were then proposed by Cllr Beeley, seconded Cllr Powell and accepted.

**3719. To note the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held 13 March 2025**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Al-Hamdani, seconded by Cllr Blackmore and accepted.

**3720. To note the Minutes of the Communications Committee Meeting held 13 March 2025**

Cllr Beeley advised an additional meeting had been held to discuss the arrangements for a VE Celebration on 8th May at the Civic Hall. It would be a 1940s tea party and posters would be distributed and advertised shortly.

The minutes were then proposed by Cllr Al-Hamdani, seconded Cllr Bishop and accepted.

**3721. Accounts for Payment February 2025** Income £13,125.20Expenditure £ 23,295.10

The accounts were proposed by Cllr Al-Hamdani, seconded Cllr Thompson and accepted

Payments List, see appendix 1

**Date of the next meeting:- Monday 28 April 2025 at 19.30hrs**

**Appendix 1**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **February 25 Payments** |  |  |  |  |
| **Bank Date** | **Supplier** | **Details** | **Code** | **Amount** |
| 03-Feb-25 | EASY WEB SITES | Website Management Fee - 2/25 | **440** | 30.36 |
| 10-Feb-25 | AMAZON | Disposable Clear Vinyl Gloves L/XL x100 | **306** | 12.36 |
| 10-Feb-25 | TV LICENCE | TV Licence | **324** | 15.00 |
| 10-Feb-25 | WATER PLUS | Water - 1/25 | **321** | 518.18 |
| 10-Feb-25 | REACH PLC | Refund of Site Mgr job ad payment from 12/23 | **106** | (198.00) |
| 11-Feb-25 | BRITISH GAS | Electricity 20/12/24 - 23/1/25 | **302** | 1,339.52 |
| 11-Feb-25 | PURE-TECH UK | Water Hygiene Monitoring (Full year) | **307** | 833.88 |
| 13-Feb-25 | POST OFFICE | Stamps - Restock 2nd class | **107** | 42.50 |
| 13-Feb-25 | DEREK SEDDON | E32S Burial 10/2/25 | **203** | 300.00 |
| 13-Feb-25 | PALM DEVELOPMENTS | Ballroom Balcony railings refurbishment | **307** | 2,806.80 |
| 14-Feb-25 | CENTRE GLASS | Cleaning Consumables | **306** | 216.37 |
| 14-Feb-25 | SALARIES | Admin -2/25 | **103** | 4,547.97 |
| 14-Feb-25 | SALARIES | Civic - 2/25 | **301** | 4,736.41 |
| 14-Feb-25 | GREENFIELD PUBLISHING | Monthly Advert - 2/25 | **441** | 98.40 |
| 14-Feb-25 | STAFF EXPENSES | Sandwiches - Working Lunch - VAT Meeting | **169** | 7.00 |
| 14-Feb-25 | STAFF EXPENSES | Office Milk | **169** | 3.30 |
| 14-Feb-25 | SEFTONS | Payroll - 1/25 | **161** | 48.00 |
| 14-Feb-25 | AMAZON | Near Miss Record Book | **105** | 4.87 |
| 17-Feb-25 | AMAZON | Accident Report Book | **105** | 5.99 |
| 17-Feb-25 | STAFF EXPENSES | Office Coffee / Tea | **169** | 13.86 |
| 17-Feb-25 | OMBC | Pest Control | **308** | 30.00 |
| 19-Feb-25 | OMBC | Premises Licence Variation fee | **324** | 89.00 |
| 19-Feb-25 | EDF ENERGY | Gas - 1/25 | **303** | 1,169.57 |
| 20-Feb-25 | COMMERCE BUSINESS | Copier/Printer Usage | **105** | 200.03 |
| 21-Feb-25 | HMRC | Tax & NI - Admin - 1/25 | **103** | 1,343.00 |
| 21-Feb-25 | HMRC | Tax & NI - Civic - 1/25 | **301** | 1,318.77 |
| 25-Feb-25 | ELCONS HR/LAW | HR/Legal Consultancy (28) - 2/25 | **120** | 121.20 |
| 25-Feb-25 | VIKING STATIONERY | Stationery | **105** | 74.66 |
| 25-Feb-25 | POST OFFICE | Stamps - Restock 2nd class | **107** | 42.50 |
| 25-Feb-25 | SHORROCK TRICHEM | Hygiene | **316** | 149.26 |
| 28-Feb-25 | EDMONDSON (BIBBY) | Piano Lifter Repair - new wheels & brake adj | **307** | 204.85 |
| 28-Feb-25 | CAPRICORN SECURITY | Grappling Event - 1/2/25 | **318** | 151.20 |
| 28-Feb-25 | GMPF | Pensions - Admin - 2/25 | **103** | 1,085.44 |
| 28-Feb-25 | GMPF | Pensions - Civic - 2/25 | **301** | 1,059.81 |
| 28-Feb-25 | KEYSTAFF AGENCY | Casual Staff - (Sick Leave cover) | **301** | 128.04 |
| 28-Feb-25 | MBHARRINGTON | D35S Burial - 19/2/25 | **203** | 320.00 |
| 28-Feb-25 | MBHARRINGTON | Ashes Interment - Th 30/1/25 | **206** | 65.00 |
| 28-Feb-25 | MEMORIES MEMORIALS | Ashes Slipper - F 7/3/25 | **206** | 360.00 |
|  |  |  |  | **23,295.10** |