**Minutes from the Annual Council Meeting held at the Civic Hall, 20 May 2024**

Present: Cllrs K. Dawson (CH) B. Beeley (VC)

E. Adamson S. Al- Hamdani

K. Barton M. Bingley

M. Birchall H. Bishop

R. Blackmore L. Dawson

J. Garner P. Gaul

A. Marland K. Phillips

M. Powell D. Wall

A. Wrigley

**Prayers were led by Rev Ken McNally**

**1643. Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors, guests and members of the public to the meeting.

**1644. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs G. Sheldon, L. Thompson, P. Walsh

**1645. Declarations of Interest:** Pecuniary interest declared by Cllr Al-Hamdani on item 21, Accounts for Payment April 24.

**1646. Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 22 April 2024**

The minutes were agreed as a true record, proposed by Cllr Al-Hamdani, seconded Cllr Bishop, all in favour, and signed by the Chairman.

**1647. Election of the Chairman 2024/2025**

It was proposed by Cllr Marland, seconded by Cllr Adamson and resolved that Cllr B Beeley be elected Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

Cllr Beeley was invested with the Insignia of Office by the retiring Chairman Cllr K Dawson, following which the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was read out and signed by Cllr Beeley and witnessed by the Clerk.

The Chairman’s Consort Cllr A Marland, was invested with the Insignia of Office by the retiring Chairman’s Lady Cllr L Dawson.

Cllr Beeley presided over the rest of the meeting and made her speech, please refer to appendix 1.

**1648. Election of the Vice Chairman 2024-2025**

It was proposed by Cllr Blackmore, seconded by Cllr Adamson and resolved that Cllr H Bishop be elected as Vice Chairman. Her Consort, William, was invested with the Insignia of Office by Cllr is her son William. Cllr Bishop was presented with the Insignia of Office by the Chairman.

Cllr Bishop thanked her fellow Councillors for electing her as Vice Chairman. She thanked the staff at the Civic Hall for the excellent work they do in maintaining the Civic Hall and other Parish Council property and in running the affairs of the Parish Council so efficiently.

**1649. Vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman.**

Cllr Al-Hamdani proposed and Cllr Marland seconded a sincere vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman and his Lady for what they had done over the past year.

Cllr K Dawson congratulated Cllr Beeley and Cllr Bishop on their appointments and spoke about his year as Chairman.

He said it had been a great honour to be elected and he and his Lady Cllr L Dawson, despite some family heartache, had thoroughly enjoyed their year of office.

He paid tribute to all the outgoing councillors and thanked them for their dedicated service and contributions.

He said he had been delighted that the Council over the past year had done a great job for Saddleworth without party politics hindering their administrations.

He confirmed he had raised £5,640 for his chosen charities over the year and thanked the Chaiman’s Charity for all their hard work and commitment.

**1650. Annual Governance Statement for year ended March 2024**

Cllr Al-Hamdani (Chair of Finance Committee) explained that the AGAR will be approved once the internal audit is completed. The Accounts will be presented to the Ordinary Council meeting in July 2024.

**1651. Financial Regulations for the year 2024/2025**

Cllr Al-Hamdani advised that the revised NALC Financial regulations had just been released and will be presented to the Ordinary Council meeting in July 2024.

**1652. Statement of Internal Control 2024-25**

Cllr Al-Hamdani proposed, seconded Cllr Phillips, the adoption of the updated Statement of Internal Controls for the year 2024-25. A vote was taken, all in favour. It was resolved that the Statement of Internal Control be adopted.

**1653. To adopt the Standing Orders 2024-25**

It was proposed by Cllr Phillips, seconded by Cllr Al-Hamdani that the Standing Orders be adopted.

A vote was taken, all in favour. It was resolved that the Standing Orders be adopted.

**1654. To establish the Constitution of the Standing Committee of the Council.**

It was proposed by Cllr Beeley and resolved that the Standing Committees be established as follows:

**Planning Committee (12)**

Chairman: Cllr Bishop

Vice Chairman: Cllr Beeley

Cllrs: Dawson K, Dawson L, Adamson, Blackmore, Gaul, Birchall, Garner, Thompson, 2 vacancies to be filled.

**Finance Committee (9)**

Chairman: Cllr Al-Hamdani

Vice Chairman: Cllr Sheldon

Councillors: Barton, Bishop, Blackmore, Dawson K, Dawson L, Phillips Walsh,

**Assets Management Committee (7)**

Chairman: Cllr Sheldon

Vice Chairman: Cllr Dawson L

Councillors: Beeley, Dawson K, Gaul, Phillips, Thompson, Wall

**Communications Committee (5)**

Chairman: Cllr Al-Hamdani

Vice Chairman: Cllr Bishop

Councillors: Birchall, Dawson L, Marland, Powell, Wrigley

**Staffing Committee (5)**

Chairman: Cllr Phillips

Vice Chairman: Cllr Sheldon

Councillors: Barton, Bishop, Blackmore

**Disciplinary Committee (5)**

Chairman: Cllr Beeley

Vice Chairman: Cllr Phillips

Councillors: Barton, Marland, Wall

**Appeals Committee (5)**

Chairman: Cllr Dawson L

Vice Chairman: Cllr Bishop

Councillors: Adamson, Al-Hamdani, Walsh

**Environment Committee (6)**

Chairman: Cllr Phillips

Vice Chairman: Al-Hamdani

Councillors: Adamson, Bingley, Bishop, Dawson L, Garner, Wall, Wrigley

**Traffic & Transport Committee (6)**

Chairman: Cllr Beeley

Vice Chairman: Dawson K

Councillors: Birchall, Bishop, Gaul, Marland, Powell

**Strategic Planning Committee (6)**

Chairman: Cllr Beeley

Vice Chairman: Al-Hamdani

Councillors: Blackmore, Barton, Dawson K, Gaul

**Civic Functions Committee (6)**

Chairman: Cllr Beeley

Vice Chairman: Bishop

Councillors: Adamson, Dawson L, Wrigley, Clerk

**1655. To accept the calendar of meetings of the Council for the ensuing year**.

It was proposed by Cllr Beeley and resolved that the calendar of meetings be adopted.

**1656. To appoint representatives on outside bodies**

It was proposed by Cllr Beeley that the representatives to outside bodies be established as follows:

Standards Committee (1) - Cllr Blackmore

Peak Park Parishes Forum (1) – Cllr Beeley

Millgate Arts Centre (2) – Cllrs Dawson K, Dawson L,

Huddersfield Canal Society (1) – Cllr Garner

**1657. To appoint Representatives to Saddleworth Educational and other Charities**

It was proposed by Cllr Beeley that the representatives to outside bodies be established as follows:

Hawkyard & Whitehead Educational Foundation (2) –, Cllrs Bishop, Marland

Trustees of the Rochdale United Charity (2) – Cllrs Al-Hamdani, Adamson

**1658.** **To approve the Bank Account authorised signatories for 2024/2025**

Chairman: Cllr Beeley

Vice Chairman: Cllr Bishop

Chairman of Finance Committee: Cllr Al-Hamdani

Vice Chairman of Finance Committee: Cllr Sheldon

Chairman of Assets Management: Cllr Sheldon

Clerk to the Council: Mrs K Allott

RFO: Mr J Price

**1659. To approve the Accounts for Payment for April 24**

Total Income £ 7,235.60 Total Expenditure £63,275.68

It was proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Blackmore and resolved that the list of Accounts for Payment for April 24 be approved. There were no payments made in accordance with Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Appendix A

Chairman’s Speech 2024

Well, here we are again. I am, however looking forward to the coming year and to once again going out and about in the community and meeting many amazing people who are quietly serving and helping in Saddleworth.

Saddleworth Parish Councillors have once again worked hard on behalf of all the communities of Saddleworth, and I am sure this will continue throughout the coming year.

It is taken as read that we shall continue to consult, stand up for and support the communities and the many voluntary societies in our unique corner of the world. Saddleworth in Bloom, the Christmas illuminations and the Whit Friday Brass Band contest will take place again, together with other events such as Yorkshire Day and the Rush cart.

This year sees the celebration of 50 years of the formation of the Saddleworth Parish Council after the boundary changes of 1974. Look out for celebrations taking place, although to be honest being a Yorkshire girl through and through I was not happy about the change at all. We always seem to be on the edge of everywhere – previously on the edge of the West Riding of Yorkshire, now on the edge of Oldham Borough and the extreme perimeter of Greater Manchester. Some would say the place that gets missed and is always at the back of the queue. We hope that some of these issues will be addressed by the Neighbourhood Plan. Currently out to consultation until mid June, there are 2 more hurdles for the Plan to cross. After the current consultation, any adjustments will be made and then it goes to an inspector. He checks it for contradictions against national and local planning law, and, if it passes that hurdle all electors in Saddleworth will get to vote on whether it should be adopted. It is a simple majority vote and if or when a majority say yes it will be adopted and become part of the planning framework.

There are however, two long standing problems which really irritate me. The first is health care in Saddleworth. I am not getting at the health professionals who are doing a great job. It is the loss of clinics such as retinopathy and the blood donor service who no longer visit Saddleworth and the necessity to travel all over the Manchester area in order to access some services. What do you do if you don’t drive, have no kind friends willing to give up a day or have an appointment at 9.00am and rely on public transport. If you have a bus pass it isn’t usuable before 9.30am. I tried it once. I got a taxi to Wythenshawe to make sure I didn’t miss my appointment (megabucks) and came back by tram and bus. It took 2 trams and a bus and took over 2 hours. A new health centre would be great but I am sure that there are currently ways and means of bringing services to the patients not the other way around.

The second irritation I am sure will be shared by other communities in this borough and that is that all the investment seems to go into one of the seven townships that make up this Borough. We need to lobby for the right investment agreed in consultation with the people of Saddleworth and the guidance of the Neighbourhood Plan.

It is traditional for the Chairman to choose charities for which to raise funds during their year of office helped by the Charity Committee. My main charities will be the emergency services you call upon when your life is in danger. The RNLI, the Mountain Rescue team and the Air Ambulance. I shall of course support local charities which I hope to meet during my year in office. I know the members of the Charity Committee are keen to get started and our first meeting will be on 10th June followed by our first event in July.

Finally, my thanks go to Revd Ken McNally for agreeing to be my chaplain, my fellow councillors for electing me as their Chairman once again and I hope for their continued support in the coming year. My thanks also go to the Civic Hall staff and Madam Clerk Karen and Deputy Clerk Hazel for doing a sterling job in keeping the Council running in spite of having to contend with the councillors.

Thank you

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