

Minutes of the ordinary Council Meeting held 22nd November 2021 at Saddleworth Civic Hall, Uppermill.

Revd. Ken McNally opened the meeting with prayers.

Members were welcomed by the Chairman

Present: Cllr. B. Beeley (CH) P. Byrne (VC)
S. Al-Hamdani J. Batty
J. Curley B. Lord
P. Lord L. Lancaster
M. Scholes G. Sheldon
M. Woodvine

3217. To receive Public Questions None

3218. To receive apologies for absence Cllrs. K. Dawson, L. Dawson, Bingley, Knotts, Bishop, Phillips, Hudson, Simpson

3219. To receive Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Lancaster, Scholes and Woodvine declared a pecuniary interest in item 10.

3220. To approve and confirm as a correct record the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 25th October 2021

Minutes agreed as a true record and signed at the meeting by the Chairman

3221. To note the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held on 28th October 2021 Noted

3222. To note the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 1st November 2021 Noted

3223. To consider the response from OMBC, Unity Partnership with regard to a motion presented by Cllr. Dawson at Full Council April 2021

TfGM stated in their response that. *“Whilst it’s not possible to comment on specific services at this stage in the process, it is intended that the franchising scheme will reflect the current bus network at the time of being introduced in the franchised area. Once franchising is introduced, TfGM, on behalf of Greater Manchester Combined Authority, would set the routes and frequencies of all buses operating in Greater Manchester, with a small number of exceptions*

This would mean a fully joined-up approach to planning could be taken – for the bus network and linked to other public transport options too, such as tram and train. Any significant changes to routes or services would be subject to consultation”.

Cllr. Al- Hamdani said therefore TfGM need to proceed with a consultation. This was supported by Cllr. Scholes. It was resolved that the clerk and Chairman would respond to the letter.

3224. To consider the proposal by OMBC to site Electrical Vehicle Charging Points in Saddleworth School and Huddersfield Road.

Cllr. Byrne stated that the infrastructure had always been included in the new Saddleworth School car park but no actual charging points had been included. OMBC have now made the decision to fund the points.

It was resolved that the clerk and Chairman would send a letter stating the Parish Council’s support of all initiatives relating to electrical vehicle charging points in the Borough asking where other locations were pinpointed and sending comparisons to how far behind OMBC were compared to other boroughs in relation to installation.

3225. To consider the proposed artwork for the Peace Pledge Leaflet.

The leaflet was approved

3226. To consider a motion proposed by Cllrs. Lancaster and Woodvine as follows:

AF Covenant & Bronze ERS – Motion

Proposed by Cllr. L. Lancaster. Seconded by Cllr. M. Woodvine.

This Parish Council notes that:

- The Civil Parish of Saddleworth benefits greatly from residency of members of the Armed Forces community, and that in return for their willingness to sacrifice and place service before self, that community deserves the highest level of support.
- The Armed Forces Covenant, which was enshrined into law a decade ago through the Armed Forces Act 2011, determines that members of the Armed Forces community ‘should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services’ and that ‘special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved’.
- Transition into civilian life can be challenging for Service Leavers and veterans, and difficulties in securing worthwhile employment is often a feature of that transition experience.
- The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) encourages employers to uphold Forces-friendly employment practices.

As such, this Parish Council resolves to:

- Become a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant.
- Uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant by:
 - Promoting the fact that this Parish Council is an Armed Forces-friendly organisation, publicising our Armed Forces Covenant.
 - Supporting events and occasions associated to our Armed Forces community, such as Remembrance and Armed Forces Week.
 - Seeking to support the employment of veterans, young and old; working with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) on veteran employment opportunities and offering guaranteed interviews for veterans and Service Leavers that can demonstrate that they satisfy the required qualification criteria.
 - Striving to support the employment of Service spouses and partners; signing up to Forces Families Jobs.
 - Seeking to support employees who may choose to be members of the Reserve Forces, including by accommodating their training and deployment where possible.
 - Offering support to our local Cadet units, either in our local community or in local schools, where possible.
- Pursue Bronze Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) certification, subsequent to signing the Armed Forces Covenant.

Cllr. Beeley asked for further explanation in relation to the Bronze Defence Employer Recognition Scheme and Cllr. Lancaster said that the logo can then be displayed for any subsequent vacancies we may have. Cllr. Al-Hamdani said he could not foresee any practical issues relating to the application.

The motion was accepted unanimously and it was resolved that the clerk and Chairman would investigate further with a view to accepting all of the proposals above.

3227. To approve the accounts for October 2021.

Income:	£7,614.07
Expenditure:	£43,567.63

The accounts were accepted and signed at the meeting by the Chairman

Date and time of the next meeting: 20 December 2021
24 January 2022 both at 19.30