**Minutes, Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council 24 July 2023 at the Civic Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs K Dawson (Chairman), B Beeley (Vice Chairman)

S Al-Hamdani K Barton

M Bingley M Birchall

H Bishop R Blackmore

J Garner P Gaul

A Marland K Phillips

G Sheldon D Wall

P Walsh

Welcome by the Chairman Cllr K Dawson and prayers led by the Rev Ken McNally.

A minute’s silence was held for Mr Richard Darlington, a member of Saddleworth Parish Council 2019/20 and Councillors Al-Hamdani, Sheldon and Dawson made their appreciations.

**3445. To receive Public Questions**

None received

**3446. Chairman’s Urgent Business**

None to discuss

**3447. To receive apologies for Absence** Cllrs L Dawson, G Talboys-Smith, A Wrigley, E Adamson, M Powell.

**3448. Notice of Motion (Cllr Phillips on behalf of Environment Committee).**

Cllr Phillips read out her Motion.Cllr Bishop then read out an email reply she had received from the Environment Agency (copies had been emailed out previously to councillors and hard copies were tabled).

There was some discussion around this issue; all Councillors felt very strongly that the concerns of residents were not being taken seriously and the issues were not being addressed by United Utilities. It was resolved that the Motion would be amended to ask United Utilities to respond to each point separately and also to invite them to address Councillors at the next meeting in September.

Proposed by Cllr Phillips, seconded by Cllr Bishop, all in favour.

The Clerk will now write to United Utilities Chief Executive Louise Beardmore, with the amended Motion as follows:

**The amended Motion is as follows:**

*1. The data from the Canal and River Trust shows details of raw sewage discharge into Saddleworth streams, including along the River Tame at Delph, Greenfield and other Saddleworth sites.*

*2. The water sampling at Pingle Mill which found 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid, PFOS, and pFoctanoate.*

*3. That despite United Utilities reporting £788m profits in the year to 31st March 2023 and paying dividends of £300m to their shareholders, UU proposes to add the costs of any clean up to our bills.*

*Saddleworth Parish Council resolves to write to United Utilities requesting they respond to each of these 3 points separately, giving detailed plans, including a timetable, to ensure these discharges into our local waters are prevented in future and calling for the clean-up costs to be met by United Utilities and their shareholders and not paid for by customers.*

*Saddleworth Parish Council also supports calls for mandatory monitoring of sewage outlets and increased fines for sewage discharges.*

*Saddleworth Parish Council would like to invite representatives of United Utilities to address their concerns at the next meeting of the Full Council on Monday 25th September at 7.30pm.*

**3449. Correspondence**

The Clerk read out a letter received from Simon Elliott, Head of Rail Programme, TfGM in response to her letter regarding the Parish Council’s concerns regarding future Rail Strategy for Saddleworth.

There was some discussion around this. The Clerk confirmed that she had still not received a reply from The Department of Transport or Transport for the North regarding this Motion. It was agreed the Clerk would resend the Motion to these two departments and extend the invitation again to address the full council at the 24th September meeting.

It was also suggested that a press release be prepared for the Saddleworth Independent stating our concerns. Cllr Al-Hamdani to action.

Cllr Beeley confirmed this would be taken up again by the Strategic Planning Committee; Traffic and Transport Committee will also monitor.

**3450. To receive Declarations of Interest**

None declared

**3451.** **To approve and confirm as a correct record the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th June 2023**

Following an amendment regarding the title of Debbie Abrahams, theminutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

**3452. To note the Minutes of the Strategic Planning Meeting 29th June 2023**

Cllr Phillips requested further information regarding the Habitat Assessment required. Cllr Beeley explained it was a legal requirement and it will look at the impact of the Neighbourhood Plan on Sites of Biological Importance etc. Cllr Al-Hamdani also confirmed the costs to be incurred were in the budget.

The minutes were then proposed, seconded an approved.

**3453. To note the Minutes of the Planning Meeting 3rd July 2023**

The minutes were proposed, seconded an approved.

**3454. To note the Minutes of the Communications Meeting 5th July 2023**

The minutes were proposed, seconded an approved.

**3455. To note the Minutes of the Traffic & Transport Meeting 6th July 2023**

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

**3456. To note the Minutes of the Assets Management Meeting 10th July 2023**

Point 676, Cllr Sheldon asked the Clerk for an update on the Civic Hall decoration. The Clerk advised the decorator was due to start this week. Colour scheme still needs to be approved so it was agreed Cllrs Beeley and Birchall would meet this week.

Point 680, Cllr Sheldon asked the Clerk for an update on the push bar release for the front entrance. After some discussion it was agreed Cllr Sheldon would instruct a joiner to visit and prepare a quote.

Point 684, Cllr Sheldon also asked about the progress on developing more ashes plots in the cemetery. The Clerk replied she had been waiting for both Cllr Sheldon and the Contractor to return from holiday, but now she could arrange a meeting.

Point 681, the planned meeting between Assets Management and Environment Committee to discuss the possible extension of the allotment site was discussed. Cllr Sheldon thanked Cllr Phillips for sending out a document previously prepared for the Parish Council, to Councillors earlier on in the day. After some discussion it was resolved to discontinue plans to develop the space and to leave the area in its current state to encourage flora and fauna. It was agreed this would be discussed again in 12 months. Proposed Cllr Beeley, seconded Cllr Sheldon, 15 in favour with one abstention.

The minutes were then proposed, seconded and approved.

**3457. To note the Minutes of the Finance Meeting 20th July 2023**

The Clerk explained that this meeting had been postponed as we had not received the Final Accounts/AGAR report back from the Internal Auditor in time. After speaking to Cllr Al-Hamdani (Chairman of Finance) she had asked the RFO to apply for another extension to 14th August.

Cllr Al-Hamdani explained to new Councillors that this is procedural and it does happen in other Parish Councils, and although not ideal, it wasn’t overly concerning and we hadn’t been notified of any issues.

It was agreed that an Extra-ordinary meeting of the Finance Committee would be called on Monday 7th August at 7.10pm, followed by an Extra-ordinary meeting of the Full Council to ratify the accounts, with just the one item on the agenda.

**3458. Request from Cllr Birchall for Council consideration of pronoun identification.**

Cllr Birchall spoke about this. They would like to make the council inclusive for transgender people**.**

Cllr Al-Hamdani believes it would be a very positive step out of consideration and kindness. Cllr Gaul stated he already uses pronouns on his email signature.

After some further discussion it was agreed it was a personal choice. If any Councillors wish their pronouns to be added to Council documents, they are asked to contact the Clerk with their preferred pronouns and she will facilitate this.

**3459. To consider the request received to record and broadcast Ordinary Meetings (Cllr Bishop).**

Cllr Bishop read out emails received from Ken Bennett regarding his wish to record and broadcast full Council meetings on Oldham Community Radio and there was some discussion around this. It was resolved that the Clerk would advise Mr Bennett that he is welcome to record and broadcast our Ordinary Council meetings but we are not in a position to offer any remuneration towards this. Proposed Cllr Bishop, seconded Cllr Marland. 15 in favour with one abstention.

**3460. Vacant positions on Committees**

There are still have two vacancies on the Planning Committee.

The Clerk explained that the terms of reference had been amended to request 2 councillors from each of the 6 wards. After some discussion it was agreed this wouldn’t be possible at this time and to leave as is.

**3461. To receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report**

* **AGAR Section 1, to approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-2023**
* **AGAR Section 2 – To consider, approve and sign the Accounting Statements for 2022-2023**

This has been covered on point 3457.

**3462. Accounts for Payment June 2023 Income £8,863 Expenditure £29,589.55**

Accounts for payment were proposed. Seconded and approved.

**3463. Dates of the next meetings:-**

**Monday 7th August 2023 at 19.20hrs. Extra-ordinary Meeting to ratify Final Accounts**

**Monday 25th September 2023 at 19.30hrs**