**Minutes, Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council 25 March 2024 at the Civic Hall.**

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

S Al-Hamdani K Barton

H Bishop R Blackmore

L Dawson J Garner

A Marland K Phillips

M Powell G Sheldon

L Thompson D Wall

P Walsh

The Chairman Cllr K Dawson welcomed Councillors to the meeting and prayers were led by the Rev’d Ken McNally.

A minute’s silence was held for former Councillor Jackie Stanton, and Councillors were invited to make their appreciations.

**3560. To receive Public Questions**

None received

**3561. Chairman’s Urgent Business**

The Chairman asked Cllr Sheldon to update Council on the unsafe car park retaining wall.

Cllr Sheldon read out an email received from the Loss Adjuster, addressed to the Clerk, stating that our claim to repair/replace the leaning car park wall would be covered by our insurers.

Cllr Sheldon advised that any additional work above a rebuild like for like, ie installing a crash barrier, would be the responsibility of SPC.

It was agreed that the Clerk would now request the Structural Engineer to prepare the wall rebuild design report which we will them be able to share with construction companies when we begin the tendering process.

Cllr Sheldon advised that the insurers should be able to give us a decision on our second claim for the drain running under the car park entrance shortly.

Cllr Garner asked how long the car park would be closed for and how much disruption would be caused. Cllr Sheldon advised the drain repair work was expected to take one day and a full closure of the car park. The car park wall rebuild would take longer, but only part of the car park would need to be cordoned off for this work to be carried out.

Cllr Garner suggested we look into railway sleepers (available from British Rail) rather than a crash barrier and that they would do the same job and be much cheaper. It was agreed this would be considered.

Cllrs Bishop and Thompson thanked both the Clerk and Cllr Sheldon for all their hard work on this project,

**3562. Correspondence**

None received

**3563. To receive apologies for Absence:** Cllrs E Adamson, M. Bingley, M Birchall,

P Gaul, A Wrigley

**3564. To receive Declarations of Interest**

None declared

**3565. To approve and confirm as a correct record the Draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26th February 2024**

Point 3550 Motion on banking facilities, Cllr Garner suggested that Tesco Greenfield are contacted to ask them to reopen their second ATM machine which was closed during COVID. There was some discussion around this and it was agreed the Clerk would contract Tesco and Natwest.

Cllr Garner asked for an update on the LINK application for a banking hub in Saddleworth. The Clerk confirmed that the application had been submitted and she was waiting their response.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Phillips, seconded by Cllr Al-Hamdani; all in favour.

**3566. To note the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held 29th February 2024**

Cllr Al-Hamdani explained the huge progress made on this following the meeting held last week. All the Consultancy documents were now displayed on our website with the SEA Screening and HRA documents to be added later in the week. Consultation to start 2nd April until 10th June, all documents were with the printers to be distributed first 2 weeks in April. Hard copies of the Neighbourhood Plan would be available from the Civic Hall, libraries and Community Centres across the Parish. Freepost for responses had been set up and a Consultation meeting was arranged for the Civic Hall 9th April at 7pm.

Cllr Sheldon asked for further information about Fletcher’s Mill point 5; after some discussion it was agreed the minutes would be amended.

Cllr Garner thanked the Strategic Planning Committee for all the work put into this project; he also asked whether social media was being used to promote the Consultation, Cllr Al-Hamdani confirmed it was.

The minutes were then proposed by Cllr Beeley, seconded by Cllr Al-Hamdani; all in favour.

**3567. To note the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 4th March 2024.**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Biship, seconded by Cllr Garner; all in favour.

**3568. To note the minutes of the Traffic & Transport Committee meeting held 7th March 2024 (to follow).**

Cllr Garner expressed his concern regarding the lack of information and responses from OMBC Highway’s Department to all the queries raised by the Committee. Cllr Beeley responded this was typical in recent months and suggested writing to Mr Anderson. Cllr Bishop suggested copying in Nasir Dad, Head of Environment. After some discussion it was agreed the Clerk would contact them with the Councils’ concerns.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Beeley, seconded by Cllr Marland; all in favour.

**3569. To note the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held 12th March 2024 (to follow).**

Point 602 Rewilding/Grouse Shooting progress. Cllr Sheldon advised he had been contacted by the landowner regarding this who wished to be involved in the discussions being arranged with the RSPB and United Utilities. Cllr Wall advised that the Clerk had already made contact requesting a meeting. Cllr Wall advised that once further discussions had taken place and more facts established the Environment Committee would be bringing a Motion to the Council. There was some more discussion around this. Cllr Wall explained that this would cover all game shooting which includes grouse and pheasant and the primary concern discussed by the Environment Committee was restrictions to public access to land designated as 'open land' under the Countryside Rights of Way Act caused by shooting activity, although he and some others do have an anti-blood sports stance. Cllr Bishop expressed concern as she had previously experienced shooting being carried out while she was travelling on the A635 Isle of Skye Road above Yeoman Hey reservoir and it was a health & safety issue.

The minutes were then proposed by Cllr Phillips, seconded by Cllr Garner; all in favour.

**3570. To note the minutes of the Assets Committee Meeting held on 18th March 2024 (to follow).**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Dawson, seconded by Cllr Beeley; all in favour.

**3571. Community Fridge – update from Task & Finish Group.**

Cllr Powell updated Councillors on the progress so far. He advised that Cllr Al-Hamdani had contacted the library requesting a meeting to take this proposal further. There are three other successful Community Fridge Schemes in the area; Greenacres, Trinity Methodist Church, Royton, and Coop Academy, Failsworth and it was suggested the Task & Finish Group contact these for further advice. There was some discussion around how we target it and that it should be promoted as a way of helping the environment and saving waste.

**3572. Accounts for Payment Income £6054.18 Expenditure £18,298.06**

Cllr Sheldon asked for further information on the payment to Pickering Lifts for repairs to the disabled platform lift. The Clerk explained that the company that had previously serviced the lift were unable to support us anymore so she had struggled to find a company due to age and type of lift. She agreed this company was too expensive and had recently entered into a service contract with another company recommended by Oldham Council.

The accounts were then proposed by Cllr Al-Hamdani, seconded by Cllr Sheldon; all in favour.

**3573. Date of the next meeting:** Monday 22nd April 2024 at 19.30hrs

**3574. Advance Notice of meetings:** Annual Meeting Monday 20th May at 19.30hrs

Annual Parish Meeting Monday 20th May at 18.30hrs

Association of Councillors meeting Monday 13th May at 19.30hrs.

Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Meeting – Civic Hall Tue 16th April at 19.30hrs (amended date).