**Minutes, Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council 27th November 2023 at the Civic Hall.**

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

E Adamson S Al-Hamdani

K Barton M Birchall

H Bishop R Blackmore

L Dawson J Garner

P Gaul A Marland

M Powell L Thompson

G Sheldon P Walsh

A Wrigley

Chairman Cllr K Dawson welcomed Councillors and our new Cllr and prayers led by the Rev Pat Gillian

**3501. To receive apologies for Absence:** M Bingley, K Phillips, D Wall.

**3502. To receive Public Questions**

None received

**3503. Chairman’s Urgent Business**

None to discuss

**3504. Correspondence**

* Response received by Mike Barker (NHS)
* Response from United Utilities regarding Cllr Wall’s question on Grouse Shooting
* Response from United Utilities regarding a meeting with the River Rangers

These responses had already been shared via email and the Clerk also gave an update to Councillors.

Regarding the United Utilities’ response to the Grouse shooting question, it was agreed this would be referred to the Environment Committee. As Cllr Wall was unable to attend the meeting it was requested that he provide a report to the Committee detailing the background of his request.

**3505. To receive Declarations of Interest**

None declared

**3506. Notice of Motion - Establish a community fridge in Saddleworth**

**Proposer : Cllr Al-Hamdani Seconder: Cllr M Powell**

This Council notes that:

* Around 9.5 million tonnes of food are wasted annually in the UK
* The UK’s food poverty rate is now among the highest in Europe, with 9 million adults and 4 million children experiencing food poverty last year
* Numerous councils across the country have established community fridges, or larders, to help reduce two primary problems- food waste and food poverty
* The basic concept is that food that might otherwise go to waste is given away, in particular, to those that need it most. There are several models for this, but it can be as simple as identifying a place for a fridge and/or store cupboard which can be accessed by members of the public, either supervised or unsupervised

This Council resolves to:

* Agree in principle to establish a community fridge in Saddleworth
* Delegate to committee the work to create a community fridge
* Explore and reach out to community buildings and groups across the parish to establish potential sites
* Once sites are confirmed, complete the necessary risk assessments and register with Oldham Council’s environmental health officer
* Use social media and other platforms to spread awareness of the community fridge amongst Saddleworth residents

Cllr Al-Hamdani and Cllr Powell gave Councillors more information on this Motion and it was discussed. Councillors expressed concerns about how it would work but were in support of a Task & Finish Group to be set up to discuss this further.

A Task & Finish Group to include a representative from Finance, Environment, Communications, Staffing and Assets Management was proposed by Cllr Al-Hamdani, seconded Cllr Birchall, all in favour.

*(post meeting note, Cllr Al-Hamdani, Cllr Powell, Cllr Wrigley, Cllr Birchall agreed to be part of this group. If anybody else wishes to be included please contact the Clerk ASAP).*

**3507. To approve and confirm as a correct record the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting**

**held on 23rd October 2023.**

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

**3508. To note the minutes of the Strategic Planning meeting held 26th October 2023**

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

**3509. To note the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 2nd November 2023**

Cllr Al-Hamdani explained the budget deadlines to Councillors. The minutes were then proposed, seconded and approved.

**3510. To note the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 6th November 2023**

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

**3511. To note the minutes of the Traffic & Transport meeting held 9th November 2023**

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

**3512. To note the minutes of the Assets Management Committee meeting held 20th**

**November 2023.**

Cllr Sheldon updated Councillors on the rebuild of the damaged bus shelter at Scouthead. He also advised them about the urgent works identified in the recent Fire Risk Assessment and the leaning car park wall. The Clerk advised that once all quotes had been received the Chairman would then call an extraordinary meeting of the Asset’s Committee to discuss and agree next steps.

Cllr Sheldon also advised that the go ahead had been given to Pennine Landscaping to create a disabled access to Dawson’s Field.

The issue of where to site the waste bin at Dawson’s Field was also discussed, and it was agreed Cllr Beeley would chase up OMBC again to agree a resolution. The minutes were then proposed, seconded and approved.

**3513. To note the minutes of the Extraordinary Strategic Planning Committee meeting held**

**21st November 2023.**

Cllr Beeley explained to Councillors why this meeting had been called so the Committee’s responses to the Places for Everyone consultation could be shared with Council before the deadline. This item is covered under 3514 below. The minutes were then proposed, seconded and approved.

**3514. Places for Everyone – Response to modifications to the plan (Strategic Planning Committee).**

The consultation responses had been shared via email prior to the meeting and it was discussed. Cllr Beeley explained that a Coopted member of the Strategic Planning Committee, Andrew Fletcher, had very kindly gone through the document and prepared a report which enabled the Committee’s response. Councillors agreed with the document to be submitted to Places for Everyone. Cllr Beeley and the clerk will now draft a letter to submit with the responses.

**3515. Oldham’s Playing Pitch Strategy (requested by Cllr Al-Hamdani)**

Cllr Al-Hamdani advised Councillors the OMBC were conducting a review of playing pitches across the borough. It is at information stage at the moment and he requested that Councillors ensure all the sports groups known to them are made aware of this process to ensure they are included. After some discussion it was agreed Cllr Al Hamdani will share the contact details with the Clerk so Councillors can contact them individually. Cllr Beeley stated that goal posts had been put on Bishop’s Park field by the District Partnership but they were subsequently moved to another field. She will also contact Jane Soriente for information on the playing field survey done under the District Partnership.

**3516. Accounts for Payment Income £14,467.80 Expenditure £41,560.88**

Accounts were proposed, seconded and approved.

**3517. Dates of the next meeting:- Monday 18th December 2023 (Christmas meeting) at 19.00hrs**

A Christmas buffet kindly prepared by the Chairman’s Charity and Carols in the lower hall will follow after the meeting.