

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23rd January 2023
at the Saddleworth Civic Hall.**

Present: Cllrs. Pam Byrne – Chairman
Kevin Dawson – Vice Chairman
Sam Al-Hamdani Rob Knotts
Luke Lancaster Helen Bishop
Jamie Curley Mick Scholes
John Hudson Brian Lord
Pat Lord Max Woodvine
Barbara Beeley Kathryn Phillips
Graham Sheldon

Welcome by the Chairman, Cllr. Pam Byrne

Prayers were led by Cllr Byrne

3366. To receive Public Questions

None received

3367. Apologies for absence Cllrs. Linda Dawson, Mavis Bingley, Donna Simpson, John Battye, George Hulme.

3368. Declarations of Interest None declared

3369. Correspondence

Motion for new Health Centre in Saddleworth – the Clerk gave a resume of the responses received from the Place Lead Oldham Integrated Care Partnership, and the Leader of Oldham Council. There was some discussion. Cllr Beeley requested that a member of SPC be involved in the decision-making process.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Place Lead and request that Cllr Beeley be invited to the working group and to be involved in the consultation.

Cllr Phillips advised that she and other Saddleworth residents had been invited to a meeting on 2nd February 2023 with Debbie Abrahams, MP, to discuss this project. The Clerk confirmed that SPC hadn't yet received an invite to this meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Debbie to request that Cllr Barbara Beeley, as a representative of SPC, be invited to this meeting. Cllr Phillips and Cllr Bishop advised they were planning on attending as residents, but not in an official capacity.

Council consideration of an email received requesting information on standing for the Parish Council Elections in May. The Clerk advised the meeting she had responded to the email, advising that all information on this is held by the Electoral Commission and OMBC Elections Office, but that we would be adding information to our website in due course. There was some discussion around this and it was agreed that Cllr Al-Hamdani and the Clerk would put together a piece of work to go on the website and to be published on social media and in the Saddleworth Independent with the information for residents on how to apply to be a Parish Councillor.

3370. To approve and confirm as a correct record the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19th December 2022 .

With an amendment from Cllr Battye and Cllr Bishop, the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3371. Matters Arising

Cllr Curley wished to point out that the proper place for debating Council business was in the Council Chambers where it can be Chaired and minuted and not to be conducted via email.

Cllr Phillips was asked by the Chairman to update the meeting on the Warm Spaces initiative. She advised that the extended trial into January hadn't been successful, some weeks there were no visitors; on others perhaps one or two visitor. She advised it was the same situation with all the organisations in Saddleworth. It was agreed not to continue with this initiative into February.

3372. To note the Minutes of the Environment Meeting held on 12th December 2022

There was some discussion around some apparent disagreement between Asset Management and Environment Committee regarding the proposal to extend the allotment. Cllr Byrne suggested that rather than setting up a Task & Finish Group, the two committees meet to discuss and agree a way forward and she volunteered to Chair it. This was agreed and the Clerk will send out a proposed date for this joint meeting.

The minutes were then agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3373. To note the minutes of the Communications Meeting held on 4th January 2023

Cllr Beeley queried why we were going ahead with new badges for Councillors when they had already been provided with one a couple of years ago and with the elections coming up there would be a change of personnel anyway. Cllr Al-Hamdani confirmed the committee had agreed on an enamel badge with the SPC crest for all councillors and it wouldn't be named so it would be transferrable. They had also asked the Clerk to look into official photo ID badges via OMBC for both new Councillors from May onwards and for staff.

The minutes were then agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3374. To note the minutes of the Assets Management Meeting held on 9th January 2023

Cllr Phillips queried the decision on the carpark fencing and Cllr Sheldon explained. The Clerk advised she was yet to speak to the neighbour in question with the decision the Asset Committee had made. After some discussion SPC agreed with the Asset's proposal to continue to cut the grass free of charge even though it wasn't their land, but that we did not have the funds available to pay for any fencing.

3375. To note the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 9th January 2023

Cllr Byrne advised that Cllr Beeley will be looking into the new housing development on Knowles Lane and will be feeding back at the next Planning meeting and any concerns will be added to OMBC's Late List. Cllr Al-Hamdani asked the Clerk request from OMBC a copy of the replies from the statutory consultees on Knowles Lane.

Following an amendment to the list of attendees, the minutes were then agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3376. To note the minutes of the Finance Meeting held on 12th January 2023

After a requested addition from Cllr Bishop, the minutes were then agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3377. Budget 2023/2024

Cllr Al-Hamdani explained to Councillors that to enable SPC to submit a balanced budget this year, which is a legal requirement, we would need to draw down £30k from Reserves to cover the predicted £33k increase in energy costs. There was some discussion around how much Reserve we should carry and what effect this would have on the overall figure.

Cllr Al-Hamdani confirmed that the Finance Committee had explored all other areas where savings could be made.

The Finance Committee also recommended an increase in the Precept on last year of 4.9%; this equates to an additional £1.19 per household based on Band D.

There was some discussion around how we could save money on energy and it was agreed the Environment Committee would look into solar panelling and any grants available. The Clerk will add this to their next meeting agenda.

It was agreed that an extraordinary meeting will be held on Monday 6th February 2023 at 6.30pm to further discuss and agree the budget proposal; and that the RFO/Clerk would share a more detailed budget breakdown comparison prior to this meeting.

3378. Accounts for Payment December 2022 Income £8,633.50 Expenditure £23,970.27

The accounts for payment were approved.

3379. Paper copies of Council Meetings agendas and supporting document

As, apart from two, all Councillors already receive their Ordinary Council agenda and supporting documents via email usually one week in advance. Cllr Byrne and the Clerk would like to cut down the number of full packs being posted out to Councillors due to postal issues and the costs involved.

After some discussion it was agreed that paper copies would still be made available on request in the office on for councillors to collect themselves prior to the meeting. Only the councillors who do not have access to email facilities will have their copies posted out.

3380. Date of the next meeting– Monday 27th February 2023 @ 7.30pm