



MINUTES OF PADIHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 1st February 2016 at 7pm

at Padiham Football Club

Present:

Cllr J. Cunningham (Chair).

Town Cllrs: J Kirk (Vice-chair), K Buckley, R Clark, K Datkiewicz, A Fletcher, J Harbour, H Hudson, J Kenyon, V Pridden, A Ravenscroft, C Smith, A Tatchell, M Whittaker.

In attendance: County Councillor Marcus Johnstone, Stephen Hughes (Town Clerk).

The Mayor, Cllr Cunningham, opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

TC/15/16/048 Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr A Fletcher.

RESOLVED: That Councillor's apologies are accepted.

TC/15/16/049 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

None.

TC/15/16/050 Formally Adjourn the meeting to allow for Public Participation

RESOLVED: That the meeting is formally adjourned to allow for participation from the Public.

Public Questions

The Town Clerk had not received any questions from the public.

Police Report

No report had been received.

Borough Councillor Report

Signed:

Date:

Cllrs Harbour and Tatchell reported that the Borough Council's legal action against that the owner of the Perseverance Mill is continuing. The site owner did not attend a recent Magistrates Court hearing and three trial dates have been set for March. Discussions are continuing with a potential developer but they are confidential at this point.

Cllr Harbour also reported that the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Padiham Townscape Heritage Initiative had received first round funding amounting to £48,200 towards further development of the scheme. The expectation is that a second round submission will be made within a year, with the total requested being almost £1.5 million. The scheme would take place in the Conservation Area and would involve improvements to properties and street furniture amongst other things. Alongside the funding for the Town Centre Manager this illustrates the Borough Council's commitment to Padiham.

Cllr Harbour reported that the Borough Council budget setting process was underway and that £4 million in savings will need to be made over the next two years. 40% of work has already been outsourced so the cuts are likely to be made to the 60% of work still carried out in-house.

County Councillor Report

Cllr Johnstone reported that 250 redundancies in the County Council's waste processing service had been announced today.

The Chancellor's Autumn Statement had made the financial position for the County Council even worse. Even with using reserves and balances there will still be a shortfall of £200 million for 2017/2018 and the Council may not be able to set a legal budget.

The County element of Council Tax will increase by 4% (2% for social care and 2% for other needs).

Cuts to libraries, museums, day centres, transport for the elderly, bus subsidies etc. are needed to reduce the current budget by £70 million. There will be an announcement about proposed building closures in the second week in May – 264 buildings will reduce to 101.

Keith Ashcroft, the Environment Agency's Area Manager, is coming to Padiham on 9th February to look at several areas affected by the floods. He has already met with Cllr Johnson and Cllr Harbour.

The shops under the Youth Centre – the County Council's lost adjusters would not act until the properties had dried out. They have now visited the properties and the shops should be up and running soon.

Cllr Johnstone has received complaints that lorries going to the Burnley FC development at Gawthorpe have been travelling up Grove Lane very early in the day

Signed:

Date:

and at high speed. An officer of the County Council has spoken to the Football Club and the problem seems to have been resolved.

Highway resurfacing work around Manchester Road in Hapton will have to be carried out again as the contractor did not complete the work properly. The corrective work will be funded by the contractor.

Cllr Clark said that dredging of the river is no longer done and could be helpful around the bridge area. Cllr Johnstone will raise it with Keith Ashcroft of the Environment Agency when he visits Padiham next week.

Cllr Harbour said that he and Cllr Johnstone would be asking Mr Ashcroft what the Environment Agency's plans are for flood defence and resilience in the Padiham area. Cllr Smith suggested asking if the removal of the weir by the Fire Station would help.

Padiham Organisations Reports

Greenway

Cllr Clark reported that activity and meetings had been postponed due to the floods.

Padiham on Parade

The Town Clerk has circulated email copies of minutes received from the committee.

TC/15/16/051 Formally reconvene the Town Council meeting

RESOLVED: That the meeting is formally reconvened.

TC/15/16/052 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7th December 2015

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7th December 2015 were considered.

Page 3 – Borough Councillor reports – Cllr Harbour reported that the demolition of the old Baxi site has not yet started.

Page 5 – Cllr Cunningham reported that the refurbishment work on the Ballroom floor had not started when the Town Hall flooded.

There were no further matters arising.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7th December 2015 are approved as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Kirk, seconded by Cllr Kenyon.

TC/15/16/053 Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 25th January 2016

Signed:

Date:

The minutes were considered.

Item 3 – The Town Clerk has contacted the Borough Council again about 22 Church Street (former Tiger Gas) and is awaiting a response.

There were no further matters arising.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 25th January 2016 are approved as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Ravenscroft, seconded by Cllr Smith.

TC/15/16/054 Notes of the Working Group meeting held on 25th January 2016.

The notes were considered.

Cllr Tatchell reported that the Padiham Flood Fund is now up and running and is administered by the CVS, who are receiving donations and are writing to all residents who may be eligible for assistance from the fund.

Cllr Johnstone pointed out the availability of Flood Resilience Grants to better prepare properties for potential future flood events. He said take up is very poor.

Cllr Cunningham reported that government match funding for the Flood Fund had been extended to the end of March.

There were no further matters arising.

RESOLVED: That the Notes of the Working Group meetings held on 25th January 2016 are approved as a correct record.

Proposed by Cllr Datkiewicz, seconded by Cllr Buckley.

TC/15/16/055 Clerk's Report including Administration and Correspondence

The Town Clerk still has only limited access to his office following the flood. He is able to work from home and has access to emails via webmail.

Lancashire County Council has provided the form and guidance to apply for the path through Victoria Apartments to be declared a public right of way. The Town Clerk will be making the application soon.

Shuttleworth College is proposing to convert to an academy and is currently holding a public consultation, including a consultation event on Thursday 11th February at 6pm.

The Town Clerk will be writing to people who have Ballroom bookings explaining that we do not know when the facility will re-open and offering refunds.

Signed:

Date:

TC/15/16/056 Flood Update

Cllr Kirk reported that the Mayor, himself and the Town Clerk had met with the Loss Adviser and he is in the process of putting together the insurance claim and a request for compensation.

The Borough Council is drawing up a timeline for recovery of the Town Hall and once that is available we will have a good idea of timescales.

The boilers in the Town Hall are to be moved to the ground floor. Because of the value of the contract three tenders will be required.

Cllr Clark reported that he and Ann Clark had been invited into schools to continue the Archive Group's work.

TC/15/16/057 Planning Matters

No planning applications have been received since the last meeting of the Planning Committee.

TC/15/16/058 Items for decision

To ratify a donation of £1,000 to Padiham Flood Fund

RESOLVED: To ratify a donation of £1,000 to Padiham Flood Fund

TC/15/16/059 Date of next Meeting

The date of the next Town Council meeting is Monday 4th April 2016 at 7:00pm.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:20pm.

Signed:

Date: