



MINUTES OF PADIHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 6th February 2023 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers

Present:

Town Councillors: Councillor M. Whittaker (in the Chair), Councillors, P. Haigh, M. Harrison, A. Lewis, P. McCann, V. Pridden, C. Smith, A. Tatchell, C. Turner and P. Turner.

First Officer: Jennifer Sutcliffe (Acting Town Clerk), Inspector Damian Pemberton, County Councillor Alan Hosker, Borough Councillor Jamie McGowan.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

TC/22/23/084 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors D. Alexander, M. Duckworth and J. Harbour. Borough Councillor Karen Ingham and Town Centre Manager, Katie Nolan also submitted apologies.

TC/22/23/085 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

TC/22/23/086 Formally Adjourn the meeting to allow for Public Participation.

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

Police Report

Inspector Damian Pemberton the local policing Inspector introduced himself as he had recently returned to the area after a period of secondment. He gave comparison figures for crimes from January 2022 and 2023:

Assaults: January 2022 – 33, January 2023 – 24.

Burglary: January 2022 - 4, January 2023 – 3.

Criminal Damage: January 2022 – 8, January 2023 – 8.

Drug Offences: January 2022 – 1, January 2023 – 0.

Antisocial Behaviour: January 2022 – 58, January 2023 – 48.

Public Order: January 2022 – 9, January 2023 – 3.

Theft Offences: January 2022 – 5, January 2023 – 18.

Parking issues still continue being of concern and on the 27th January 2023, a joint patrol with LCC resulted in 12 parking tickets issued and the appropriate people were spoken to. Speeding on Manchester Road, Hapton is also of concern and is an area to be looked at with the Community Road Watch team.

In respect of the theft offences, these relate mainly to shoplifting and two people had been identified as responsible for the majority of them.

The Police take several calls weekly relating to motorcycle nuisance which the Neighbourhood Policing Team are working on. The culprits are wearing ski masks which makes identifying them difficult. Due to the risks involved, the force policy is not to chase motorcycles and therefore are reliant on residents reporting the issues and notifying them of where the bikes are stored etc. Members of the public can report any activity anonymously and the police can use their Section 59 powers to seize vehicles. Residents are encouraged to forward any images they have to PC McKie, the Community Beat Manager.

There had been a significant reduction in antisocial behaviour. Two cohorts of youths had been identified and the police are currently evidence gathering which will be ongoing. In due course, they will be looking to impose injunctions and antisocial behaviour orders.

Enforcement officers are working to identify inconsiderate parking issues however, Inspector Pemberton stressed that the police had their powers to enforce parking issues removed several years ago and LCC are now responsible for enforcement. The police do, however, have powers to deal with unnecessary obstruction and parking on zig zag lines in front of zebra crossings.

Inspector Pemberton was thanked for his report and left the meeting.

Town Centre Manager Report

The Town Centre Manager had submitted her apologies therefore, there was no report.

There were no Public Questions

There were no public questions.

County Councillors Report

County Councillor Alan Hosker attended for questions. He reported that he had accompanied and observed the police enforcement team and had felt intimidated whilst out with the police and thought that the team were generally being intimidated and threatened and that was a concern. Parking issues were of particular concern to him as cars parking on pavements were causing the paving stones to become unbalanced. He intends to take this matter up with the relevant bodies. He had previously been asked if the removed old lamp from the top of Hollins Street could be found as it had been replaced by a modern lamp in the conservation area. This is still ongoing.

The railings at the Bridge Inn had now been replaced. He was asked if the wall had been repaired where the flower beds are, however, he was unaware and would make enquiries.

He encouraged the Town Council to make representations to the local schools and to LCC about inconsiderate and dangerous parking.

County Councillor Hosker was thanked for his attendance and his report and he then left the meeting.

Borough Councillor Report

Borough Councillor Karen Ingham had sent apologies.

Borough Councillor Jamie McGowan advised members that a resident had enquired about the reopening of the bridge over Green Way which had been closed for a number of years. He had raised this at the full council meeting and reported that in 2021, work had been carried out and due to the mine workings found there, the Coal Authority had been monitoring the bridge. They had drilled into the voids and filled them with grout and movement had reduced. It had been established that the charity Sustrans were responsible for the bridge. The local MP, Sustrans, the Environment Agency and the Coal Authority were all involved in putting a plan together and seeking funding. There was no quick fix and this could take a number of years. He was asked if a temporary arrangement could be put in place to allow people access into the park but it was thought that realistically, it would not be cost effective. He was pleased to note that Padiham on Parade had been mentioned in Parliament last week.

Borough Councillor McGowan was thanked for his attendance and his report and he then left the meeting.

Padiham Organisations Reports

There were no reports.

TC/22/23/087 Formally reconvene the Town Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the meeting is formally reconvened.

TC/22/23/088 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 5th December 2022.

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 5th December 2022 were considered.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 5th December 2022 are approved as a correct record.

TC/22/23/089 Town Clerk's Report including Administration and Correspondence.

Due to absence, there was no report.

TC/22/23/090 Report back from Working Groups

Events Working Group.

Christmas Light Switch On – The debrief had gone very well and the event had been successful. There were a few items that needed attention in relation to safety and a plan for every event, with a complete checklist will be done for future events.

Dates had now been confirmed for future events which will be:

6th - 8th May – Kings Coronation

13th May – Painting Padiham

3rd June – Duck Race

24th June – Padiham on Parade

5th August – Summer Fair

3rd September – Party in the Park

15th -17th September – Beer Festival

11th/12th November – Remembrance Service

25th November – Christmas Lights Switch On

Plans for the Kings Coronation were discussed and it was thought that residents would be organising their own street parties. It was agreed to submit a bid to the National Lottery in the sum of £3000 which would be used to decorate the town with bespoke bunting, flags etc.

Two rides for the Party in the Park event had been booked and the Snow Globe had also been booked for the Christmas Lights event.

Planning Working Group – There were no applications to be considered, and the group had not met. Councillor Tatchell reported that the Grants Board set up approximately three years ago to provide grants for the properties on The Hill had now been reactivated.

TC/22/23/091 Items for discussion as listed.

Red Telephone Box – There was no update.

Technical College Gates update – There was no update.

Naming of the six benches in front of the Town Hall – There was no update.

The Local ‘Neighbourhood’ Plan – There was no report.

TC/22/23/092 Bookings Policy

The condition of the public areas, toilets and kitchen were discussed and it was agreed that ‘General Improvements’ would become a monthly agenda item. Improvements are to be made to the kitchen, toilets and office as complaints had been received.

The bookings policy was to be updated and enforced with a non-refundable deposit payable upon booking. The deposit would be 25% of the cost of the booking with the full balance due 14 days before the event. If the event was booked within 7 days, then full payment would be due immediately.

The Town Council currently has a card machine for payments and it is to be established if this can be used without the cardholder present to take payment for bookings over the phone.

The Deposit would be refunded if the cancellation was up to three months before the event.

TC/22/23/093 Finances

The Budget Monitoring Report and Bank Reconciliation was circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Budget Monitoring Report and Bank Reconciliation are approved.

A Payment list, a Receipts List and a Petty Cash Report of were circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Payments, Receipts and Petty Cash are approved.

TC/22/23/094 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Town Council meeting is at 7pm on Monday 6th March 2023 in the Council Chambers, Padiham Town Hall.

Items for Next Agenda

General Improvements

Card Machine – for telephone payments

Councillor Vacancies

Loop System in Council Chamber

Purchase of office shredder

The meeting closed at 20.23.