



## MINUTES OF PADIHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers

### Present:

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

**Others:** Steve Watson (Town Clerk) and PC Chris McGee.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

### **TC/22/23/095 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor P. Turner who was unwell.

### **TC/22/23/096 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **TC/22/23/097 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**

PC Chris McGee gave comparison figures for crimes from February 2022 and 2023:

Assaults: February 2022 – 36, February 2023 – 25.

Burglary: February 2022 - 3, February 2023 – 6.

Criminal Damage: February 2022 – 1, February 2023 – 6.

Drug Offences: February 2022 – 0, February 2023 – 0.

Antisocial Behaviour: February 2022 – 40

Theft Offences: February 2022 – 2, February 2023 – 12.

Motorcycle anti-social behaviour is still a problem and the Police are asking for the public's help to identify the culprits. 2 motorbikes and 2 cars have been seized and several S69 warnings given.

The anti-social behaviour at Lidl and Tesco has quietened down and a group of 15 year olds 'out of education' are being targeted for possible apprenticeships.

There were 2 significant events thought to be by the same offender who has been identified.

Parking on the main road is still a problem, the Police have been working with the County Council on the issue, but this will be a County issue moving forward. Police visibility has been remarked upon, despite having the lowest numbers of staff and being down 3 PCSOs.

The Council is to send a letter of support for the vacancies to the Neighbourhood Policing Team to be filled as a priority.

PC McGee was thanked for his attendance and report and he left the meeting.

### **Town Centre Manager Report**

There was no report. The Council asked if there was any update available as they had not had one for 2 months.

### **There were no Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

### **County Councillors Report**

There was no report.

### **Borough Councillor Report**

Borough Councillor John Harbour reported that the Calder bridge repairs were with the Coal Authority who needed a permit from the Environment Agency to carry out further investigations. These may not be possible until May with water levels. The MP has been looking into this as well.

### **Padiham Organisations Reports**

The Committee looking at Grants on the Hill needs to meet and a report brought back to the next meeting. 2 shop fronts are to be fixed and the seating area still has stones missing.

The Gable Art project has agreed the 2 final drafts for the artwork and work is due to start on the 'Splendour' design with the 'Up the Hill' design starting on the 20<sup>th</sup> March

**TC/22/23/098            Formally reconvene the Town Council meeting.**

**RESOLVED:            That the meeting is formally reconvened.**

**TC/22/23/099            Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and the Town Council Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> February.**

The minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December and the Town Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were considered.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Town Council meetings held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 are approved as a correct record.**

**TC/22/23/100 Town Clerk's Report including Administration and Correspondence.**

There was no report. A letter is to be sent to Mark Jones with regards to parking.

**TC/22/23/101 Report back from Working Groups**

**Events Working Group.**

**Duck Race** – a risk assessment is to be carried out on the Duck Race due to the heightened wall of the flood defences. It was agreed that the Duck Race would be moved back to coincide with the Summer Fair if it was feasible to run it.

**Party in the Park** – due to cost increases and the loss of the Dog Agility feature, it had been forecast that Party in the Park would require additional funds. There is money in reserves that was precepted for events in 2020 that was not spent.

**RESOLVED: That the Party in the Park Budget is to be increased by £2,000 to be taken from reserves.**

**Junior Park Run** – the number of volunteers has fallen resulting in the cancellation of the event some weeks. Social Media is used to encourage volunteers and shop fliers were suggested. School visits were also suggested and a 'use it or lose it' approach could be taken. The Princes Trust, run by the Fire Brigade may be able to help with volunteers.

It was agreed to rebrand the Events Working Group the Events and Ballroom Working Group.

**General Maintenance** – It was agreed that the ladies toilets in the Ballroom would be the priority. 3 quotes have been obtained for a general deep clean.

**RESOLVED: That Clear Bright Services are given the contract for a one-off deep clean at £245 plus VAT.**

Telephone and on-line booking payments are to be checked for any costs and a clean up day with a skip hire was agreed. 3 potential dates and times that do not impact bookings are to be circulated.

A new ballroom booking form was circulated. It was noted that the Fire Assembly point needs to be temporarily amended to the Town Hall Plaza whilst the flood defence work is being carried out.

**RESOLVED: That the new ballroom booking form is approved.**

A request was submitted by Slimming World for an extension to the new Terms and Conditions.

**RESOLVED: That a 2 month extension to the new Terms and Conditions is given to Slimming World.**

**Planning Working Group** – There were no applications to be considered, and the group had not met.

**TC/22/23/102 Items for discussion as listed.**

Red Telephone Box – There was no update.

Technical College Gates update – The owners of the house also own the gates and will not give the Council approval to put the stones there. It was suggested that another site should be considered and Memorial Park and the Cricket Club were suggested. Photographs of the stones are to be circulated and further suggestions brought to the next meeting.

Naming of the six benches in front of the Town Hall – Suggestions are to be sent to the Clerk of organisation names not individuals.

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

The Council Chamber sound and loop system is to be checked if it a requirement under the Disability Discrimination Act and the possibility of a requirement for a Loop System in the Community Room is to be checked.

An office Shredder is to be sourced.

The Strategic Planning Committee is to consider the Council Vacancies and arrange any necessary interviews.

Problems with the Printer/Scanner were noted.

**TC/22/23/103      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.**

A limited spend debit card was discussed.

**RESOLVED:      That a £500 per month limited spend debit card is approved.**

**TC/22/23/094      Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Town Council meeting is at 7pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 in the Council Chambers, Padiham Town Hall.