



# **WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL**

## **REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 2017 - 2018**

# 1. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

From May 2017 to April 2018 the Town Council held 11 Town Council Meetings, 12 Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee Meetings, 1 Annual Meeting and 1 Annual Town Meeting.  
Councillors attended meetings as follows and received no payments or expenses:

COUNCILLOR	MAY				JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	
	AM	P	ATM	AM	P TC	P TC	P TC	P TC	P TC	P TC	P&TC	P TC	P TC	P TC	P TC	
<b>CONSERVATIVE</b>																
P J Ashcroft	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	vacancy
Mrs L J Winrow-Baker	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>INDEPENDENT</b>																
J Speight	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
<b>LABOUR</b>																
R A Battersby	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
D A Chadwick	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ms A Graham	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Mrs C J Harkin	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
K S Jones	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
Mrs J A Peplow	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
A Price	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
T D Robinson	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Miss S Watkin	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Mrs G F Williams	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
<b>LIBERAL DEMOCRAT</b>																
J R Ainscough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mrs A B Eckersley-Fallon	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Miss R S M Fairhurst	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
D J Gradwell	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Miss D J McGeown													Elected	8/3/18	1	1
D A Wilkinson	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1

In addition, some Town Councillors were appointed to the Daisy Hill in Bloom Committee and regular Meetings have been held.

From December, 2017, Cllr J Speight is no longer a member of the Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee

## THE FOLLOWING TOWN COUNCILLORS MAY BE CONTACTED DIRECTLY

### CENTRAL WARD

**Cllr R A Battersby (Lab)**, 344 Bolton Road, Westhoughton, BL5 3EJ

Tel: 07982 099 737 e-mail: ryanbattersby@hotmail.co.uk

**Cllr D A Chadwick (Lab)**, 16 Dale Lee, Westhoughton, BL5 3YE

Tel: 01942 818526 e-mail: david.chadwick@bolton.gov.uk

**Cllr Mrs C J Harkin (Lab)**, 6 Rutherglen Drive, Bolton, BL3 4PN

Tel: 07771 803 867 e-mail: colette.harkin1457@gmail.com

**Cllr K S Jones (Lab)**, 22 Common Street, Westhoughton, BL5 2BZ

Tel: 07931775357 e-mail: kevanjones29@gmail.com

### CHEQUERBENT WARD

**Cllr Mrs J Peploe (Lab)**, 45 Junction Road, Bolton, BL3 4LT

Tel: 01204 656756 e-mail: jackiepeploe13@virginmedia.com

**Cllr J Speight (Ind)** 60 Clough Avenue, Westhoughton, BL5 2NQ

Tel: 07977 262 022 e-mail: cllrjackspeight@hotmail.co.uk

### DAISY HILL WARD

**Cllr Miss R S M Fairhurst (Lib Dem)** 1 Caldbeck Avenue, Bolton, BL1 5PR

Tel: 07731 867 336 e-mail: rebekah@westhoughton-libdems.org.uk

**Cllr Mrs G F Williams (Lab)**, 17 Sanderling Close, Westhoughton, BL5 2SP

Tel: 01942 815638 e-mail: gillfwilliams@yahoo.co.uk

**Cllr Mrs L J Winrow-Baker (Con)**, 6 Mill Street, Westhoughton, BL5 3AL

Tel: 01942 816128 e-mail: lynda.winrow@ntlworld.com

### HOSKERS AND HART COMMON

**Cllr J R Ainscough (Lib Dem)**, 55 Dicconson Lane, Westhoughton, BL5 3NN

Tel: 01942 819728 e-mail: jainscough55@gmail.com

**Cllr D A Gradwell (Lib Dem)**, 21 Cow Lees, Westhoughton, BL5 3EG

Tel: 07947 509 714 e-mail: djgradwell@yahoo.co.uk

**Cllr D A Wilkinson (Lib Dem)**, 12 The Crescent, Westhoughton, BL5 2AE

Tel: 01942 819456 e-mail: david@westhoughton-libdems.org.uk

### WHITE HORSE WARD

**Cllr Miss D J McGeown (Lib Dem)** , 9 Churnet Close, Westhoughton, BL5 3LF

Tel: 07764 949 922 e-mail: dmcgeown@sky.com

**Cllr A Price (Lab)**, 11 Broomway, Westhoughton, BL5 3TZ

Tel: 01942 790497 email: arthurprice54@icloud.com

**Cllr T D Robinson (Lab)**, 15 Cherwell Road, Westhoughton, BL5 3EY

Tel: 01942 813794 e-mail: tomrob129@hotmail.co.uk

**Cllr Miss S Watkin**, 1 Fairhaven Avenue, Westhoughton, BL5 3HE

Tel: 01942 811659 e-mail: samantha.watkin1@gmail.com

### WINGATES WARD

**Cllr Mrs A B Eckersley-Fallon (Lib Dem)**, 2 Sandyway Close, Westhoughton, BL5 3LW

Tel: 07500 016 523 e-mail: bernadette@westhoughton-libdems.org.uk

**Cllr Ms A Graham (Lab)**, 10 The Mortons, Westhoughton, BL5 3QX

Tel: 07913 417 353 e-mail: annegraham1@sky.com

## 2. CIVIC MATTERS

During the year, the Town Mayor has attended numerous official functions by invitation. The Mayoral Sunday Service, the Remembrance Day Parade, the Pretoria Pit Disaster Memorial Services and the annual Carol Service were well supported.

3. The Town Council has continued to consider all Planning Applications during the year and has tried in every case to obtain the best decisions for the people of the town.  
The Town Council has been active with Bolton Council on various highway, environmental, Town Centre issues and other relevant matters affecting the town. The Town Council has vigorously objected to the proposed Greater Manchester Spatial Plan, which proposes that 4,500 houses are built in Westhoughton. The Town Council has also objected to the developments at Bowlands Hey, land North of Platt Lane and Hulton Park, and has supported the Over Hulton Neighbourhood Plan.
4. The Town Council has made grants to a number of deserving causes, as listed in the 2017-2018 accounts.
5. The Town Council repeated its successful Christmas Lights initiative along Market Street, with a donation of £250 from Bolton Council, and provided Christmas Trees for the Town Hall balcony and Westhoughton Market.
6. The Westhoughton Town Council web site address is: [www.bolton.gov.uk/westhoughton](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/westhoughton)
7. The Town Council continues to maintain liaison with the Police.
8. The Homewatch Liaison Officer has encouraged the formation of new Homewatch Schemes and Bolton Council funds and sites the Homewatch Signs.
9. The Town Council supports the Market Traders and the retention and improvement of the Market Hall.
10. The Westhoughton Town Council funds the Westhoughton Town Centre CCTV scheme.
11. With the co-operation of Bolton Council and BTCV the Town Council has donated £3,000 towards the repair of footpaths which are part of the Definitive Footpath Network.
12. In the interest of highway safety, the Town Council's two Solar Powered Driver Feedback signs and a sign on loan from Bolton Council have been sited at various locations in Westhoughton.
13. The Town Council's digital camera has been used on Town Council business and on civic occasions. A Code of Conduct has been established to govern the use of the camera and personal use is prohibited.
14. The Town Council has donated £6,000 towards the cost renovating Westhoughton Local Nature Reserves.

15. The Town Council has helped the youth of the town by providing finance for youth/sporting and recreational facilities.
16. The Town Council has funded the Get Active Westhoughton Youth Project. This exciting initiative is a partnership scheme between the Town Council and Bolton Council and is providing schemes and activities for the youth of the town. The Town Council has also funded Youth Workers and transport for the Bolton Lads & Girls Club Westhoughton Outreach and Detached Programme.
17. The Town Council produces a Newsletter, which is circulated quarterly to shops and outlets throughout the Town.
18. The Town Council has purchased and arranged the siting of an inscribed Harold Daniels M.B.E. Memorial Flag in Ditchfield Garden.
19. The Town Council awarded a Civic Medal to Mr Raymond Dainton in recognition of his outstanding charitable works and great service to Westhoughton. Mr Dainton was also awarded with the Harold Daniels Memorial Trophy, which he will keep for one year. Members of the public nominated the recipient.
20. The Town Council awarded an Environmental Award Certificate and £50 to Friends of Daisy Hill Station in recognition of the group's outstanding environmental work at Daisy Hill Station. Members of the public nominated the group.
21. The Town Council awarded a Young Citizen of the Year Certificate and £50 to Jamie Faulkner in recognition of his outstanding voluntary work in the community and help to young people. Members of the public nominated the recipient.
22. Town Councillors regularly attend the Westhoughton with Chew Moor Area Forum.
23. In 2010, the Pretoria Pit Disaster Centenary Memorial was sited in Ditchfield Garden by the Town Council and is a permanent memorial to the 344 victims of the Pretoria Pit Disaster of 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1910.  
On 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2017, the Town Council organised two special Anniversary Services of Remembrance - at the Pretoria Pit Disaster Centenary Memorial in Ditchfield Garden at 7.45 a.m. and at the Parish Church of St Bartholomew at 10.00 a.m.
24. The Annual Accounts for 2016-2017 were duly signed off and no items were raised by the auditor.
25. The Town Council has appointed a Daisy Hill in Bloom Committee which comprises of Town Councillors and members of the public. The Committee has a £1,000 budget from the Town Council and is to be congratulated on working hard to improve Daisy Hill Village by arranging litter-picks and planting out baskets and tubs. The Committee also organised a very successful Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show, which is to become an annual event.

26. In the interest of security and in order to comply with the Data Protection Act, the Town Council has a high security level shredder for the Town Clerk, and the shredder is also available for Town Councillors' use. The Town Council is committed to recycling and all paper is recycled.
27. The Town Council Notice Board is sited on the pavement at the front of Westhoughton Town Hall and Town Council Agendas, Minutes and information are regularly displayed.
28. In order to support the Police, the Town Council has funded a hire car for 12 months, which is used as a Policing Team vehicle in Westhoughton.
29. The Town Council funded the installation of a feeder pillar and double socket, and a PA System for the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.
30. In February, 2016, Historic England added the Westhoughton War Memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Historic Architectural or Historic Interest and the War Memorial is now listed at Grade 11.
31. In the summer of 2015, Bolton Council funded the siting of planters and plants in the Town Centre. In the ensuing years, the Town Council has ensured that the Town Centre is bright and cheerful by funding the planting and maintenance costs.
32. The Town Council has removed Cllr J Speight from the Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, informed him that he is no longer eligible to be appointed to any Town Council Committees or Sub-Committees in the lifetime of the current Town Council, informed him that he is no longer eligible to represent the Town Council on outside Committees or outside bodies in the lifetime of the current Town Council, informed him that he is ineligible to be Deputy Town Mayor or Town Mayor currently or in the future, and has approved a vote of censure in Cllr Speight's conduct as a Town Councillor as he has brought the Town Council into disrepute on several occasions:  
Falsely taking credit on social media for the Town Clerk's work, falsely stating on social media that he was the only Councillor to vote against two planning applications, falsely stating that he voted against a pre-planning application letter when no vote was taken, making personal quotes in the press on a confidential Town Council matter, consistently voting against financial items which have been legally prepared by the Town Clerk and independently audited by a qualified auditor, making false statements to the Bolton Council Monitoring Officer, falsely accusing the Town Council of holding secret meetings, falsely stating that "he only received these papers a few days ago" when the Town Clerk had previously hand delivered a letter to his house, stating in the press "I will not be bullied" but failing to invoke the Town Council's Complaints Procedure or Anti -Harassment Policy or give details of the alleged incident/s. Cllr Speight was given the opportunity to apologise but he left the meeting.
33. Thanks are due to the retiring Town Mayor Cllr Miss Samantha Watkin for her efforts on behalf of the town in the past year.  
The Town Mayor's charity fundraising will see the presentation of funds to Bolton Samaritans, Hope for Homeless and Bolton Neighbourhood for Enterprise.

34. Town Council Officers:

Mrs C Morris, Town Clerk, Town Hall, Market Street, Westhoughton, BL5 3AW.

Tel: 01942 819802 E-Mail: [westhoughtontc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:westhoughtontc@tiscali.co.uk)

Mr K Jackson, Homewatch Liaison Officer, Tel: 0790 403 8176.

### SECTION 137 PAYMENTS

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables Parish Councils to spend up to the product of £7.57 per head of electorate in 2017/18 for the benefit of people in the Westhoughton Parish area on activities or projects not specifically authorised by other powers. (Electorate approximately 18,982)

The following payments were made in 2017/18:

#### GENERAL GRANTS

27/06/17	Central Park Veterans	180.50
19/10/17	Local History Group	1,080.00
12/12/17	Howfen Radio	500.00

#### SENIOR CITIZEN GRANTS

09/01/18	Tuesday Club	500.00
09/01/18	Senior Solutions	500.00
13/02/18	W.A.S.P.	500.00

#### CIVIC MEDALS/YOUNG CITIZEN/ENV. AWARD

09/01/18	Environmental Award	50.00
09/01/18	Young Citizen Award	50.00

NET TOTAL:

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£3,360.50  
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### BANK RECONCILIATION AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2018

**CURRENT ACCOUNT** 3,088.81

#### UNCLEARED PAYMENTS

Bacs	830.79-
Chq 123	100.00
Chq 124	500.00
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	1,430.79

**CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE** 1,658.02

**LIQUIDITY MANAGER RESERVE ACCOUNT** 40,943.44

**LIQUIDITY MANAGER CAPITAL FUND** 14,022.75

**TOTAL:** 56,624.21

## GRANTS 2017-18

26.06.17	Park Veterans Bowling Club	Plants	180.50
30.10.17	Westhoughton History Group	Timeline	1,080.00
11.12.17	Howfen Radio	Equipment	500.00
08.01.18	Tuesday Club	Christmas Party	500.00
08.01.18	Senior Solutions	Christmas Party	500.00
12.02.18	W.A.S.P.	Christmas Party	500.00
12.03.18	Eatock Primary School	Pupils' trip to ballet	500.00

## BALANCE SHEET 2017– 2018

Total Assets	61,795.95
Funds:	
Prepayments	6,023.76
Liquidity Manager Reserve Account	40,943.44
Liquidity Manager Capital Fund	14,022.75
Current Account	1,658.02
VAT to be reclaimed	2,833.94
	65,481.91
Creditors (outstanding invoices)	3,685.96-
	61,795.95

## CHARITIES ACCOUNT

### BANK RECONCILIATION AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2018 CONFIRMED BANK BALANCES

Current Account	200
Reserve Account	00
	200

### SUMMARY 2017-18

Balances Forward	
Current Account	1,257
Reserve Account	00
	1,257
Add Total Receipts	200 +
Less Total Payments	1,257-
	200
Balance shown in Receipts & Payments	200



**TOWN MAYOR'S CHARITY 2017/18**

**The former Town Mayor, Councillor Ms Anne Graham has made the following charitable donations from the funds which she raised during her Mayoral Year 2016-17:**

<b>Fortalice</b>	<b>£628</b>
<b>Daytrippers</b>	<b>£629</b>

