

WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

PLANNING AND FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

12TH AUGUST 2019

PRESENT: Town Mayor Cllr D A Wilkinson and Councillors R M Brennan,
T J Hewitt, Mrs C H Kirkman, Miss M Maley, Miss D J McGeown,
C Reilly, Mrs L M Reilly and Mrs A M Seddon.
Town Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT:

Members of the public.

Resolved that in the absence of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee the Town Mayor, Cllr D A Wilkinson, chair the Committee Meeting.

PFGP102/2019 FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

The Chairman, Cllr D A Wilkinson, explained the Fire Safety Procedure.

PFGP103/2019 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO ACCEPT REASONS

Resolved that the following apologies for absence and reasons be accepted by the Town Council: Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Mrs A B Eckersley-Fallon and Councillors – D J Bullock, M Cox meetings and Councillors Miss R S M Fairhurst, N Maher, A P Morgan, Mrs J M Nicholson, Mrs M E M O’Riordan – Personal Commitments.

PFGP104/2019 TO READ THE NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING

The Chairman, Cllr D A Wilkinson, read the notice convening the meeting.

PFGP105/2019 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED

Cllr D A Wilkinson declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 8 – To Discuss Planning and Development Matters and to approve any action because he is a member of the Bolton Council Planning Committee and reserved the right to speak and vote, and to re-consider his decision at a Bolton Council Planning Committee, if additional information is presented.

PFGP106/2019 ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW PUBLIC QUESTION TIME RELATING TO TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND ITEMS WITHIN ITS POWERS

A member of the public asked if the Town Council intends to circulate advice regarding flooding. The Town Council has no powers but the Town Clerk will obtain a copy of Bolton Council’s Planning Guidance re Flooding.

PFGP107/2019 THE ATTENDANCE OF THE TREE AND ASSET OFFICER RE THE RENOVATION OF LOCAL NATURE RESERVES TO BE FUNDED USING THE TOWN COUNCIL'S £7,000 BUDGET AND TO APPROVE ANY ACTION

The Tree and Asset Officer explained how the 2018-19 budget had been used and listed his proposals for improving Westhoughton Local Nature Reserves in 2019 – 20 using the Town Council's £7,000 budget. The Town Council thanked him for the presentation and for his work over the past years.

Resolved that the Town Council approve a budget of £7,000 to be used in 2019-20 for the renovation of Westhoughton Local Nature Reserves and the Tree and Asset Officer will arrange the work.

This is in accordance with the Highways Act 1980.

PFGP108/2019 THE ATTENDANCE OF A PRETORIA FOOTBALL CLUB OFFICIAL RE A REQUEST FOR A GRANT

The Pretoria Football Club Official explained the Grant Application and answered questions from the Town Council.

PFGP109/2019 TO DISCUSS PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MATTERS AND TO APPROVE ANY ACTION

(a) TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Town Council requested that its comments on the following Planning Applications are placed before the Bolton Council Planning Committee:

06541/19 The Town Council raised no objections

06580/19 The Town Council raised no objections. The Town Clerk is to ascertain how long the portable buildings will be sited

06531/19 The Town Council raised no objections

06490/19 The Town Council raised no objections

(b) DISCUSSION ON PLANNING APPEALS

Nil.

(c) TO NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS

Resolved that the Planning Decisions, as circulated, be received and noted.

**PFGP110/2019 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND FINANCE
& GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON
MONDAY, 8TH JULY, 2019**

The Town Clerk informed the Town Council of illegal acts and explained that she had been unable to correct the matter at the meeting because she had not been consulted beforehand and it was inappropriate to stop the meeting to check legalities because guests were present:

PFGP94/2019 – Resolved that the Town Council suspend non-mandatory Standing Orders in accordance with Standing Order No. 32a in order to allow Cllr Speight – the member of the public to take part in the Agenda Item:

- (a) This was illegal as suspending non-mandatory Standing Orders does not allow a member of the public to take part in an Agenda item
- (b) Cllr Speight is sanctioned for lying about the Town Clerk in the Bolton News and for harassing her for more than 4 years and as a result of the sanctions he cannot take part in Committee or Sub-Committee Meetings. The sanctions link in to Duty of Care to an Employee - National Employment Law, which is paramount to Town Council Standing Orders/Agenda Items
- (c) Councillors who voted for this course of action had breached the sanctions – Duty of Care to Employee – National Employment Law and Code of Conduct 2.9 – Duty to uphold the Law. Cllr Speight knows that he is sanctioned and should not have taken part in the Agenda item.

The Town Clerk pointed out that the above action was unnecessary as Cllr Speight, the member of the public, could have asked his questions under the Agenda Item – Adjournment to Allow Public Question Time and answers would have been given during the Agenda Item PFGP94/2019.

Resolved that the minutes of the Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting, held on Monday, 8th July, 2019, as circulated, be approved.

**PFGP111/2019 DISCUSSION ON PREFERRED PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY
TO BE RENOVATED AND FUNDED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL'S
£4,000 BUDGET AND TO APPROVE ANY ACTION**

This item was deferred as the Town Clerk had not received all the required information.

**PFGP112/2019 DISCUSSION ON THE TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER AND TO
APPROVE ANY ACTION**

Resolved that the Town Council Newsletter be approved with amendments. The Town Clerk will circulate the Newsletter throughout Westhoughton.

**PFGP113/2019 TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION FOR
1.7.19 – 31.7.19**

Resolved that the Bank Reconciliation for 1.7.19 – 31.7.19, as circulated, be approved.

**PFGP114/2019 DISCUSSION ON THE REQUEST FOR A GRANT FROM THE
PRETORIA FOOTBALL CLUB AND TO APPROVE ANY ACTION**

Resolved that the Town Council approve a grant of £500 for the Pretoria Football Club towards the cost of coaching and equipment.

This is in accordance with Section 19d of the Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976

PFGP115/2019 TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved that approval be given to the signing by two members and the Town Clerk of an authorisation for payment of accounts totalling £3,307.35.

AP31	WPS Insurance Broker	Insurance 2019 – 2020	£ 3,281.98
DD	Talktalk	Internet & telephone	25.37
TOTAL:			----- 3,307.35 -----

PFGP116/2019 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The following correspondence was noted by the Town Council:

1. Premises Licenses (1)

**PFGP117/2019 DATE OF THE NEXT PLANNING AND FINANCE & GENERAL
PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, 9th September, 2019.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.