

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 13th March 2023 in the Carnegie Hall, Westhoughton at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs N. Maher, D. McGeown, D. Wilkinson, A. Younge, L. Maher, A. Jackson, A. Price, G. Wroe, J. Speight, R. Brennan, C. Kirkman, M. Tighe and D. Bullock.

Members of the public: Gaynor Ratcliffe, Matthew Kemp and Richard Bates

Cllr. N. Maher chaired the meeting.

FGP 37/23 Fire Safety Information:

The chair stated the fire safety information

FGP 38/23 Apologies for absence:

C Reilly, L Reilly, M Cox (meeting), and B Eckersley-Fallon (ill).

FGP 39/23 Notice conveyancing the meeting.

The chair read the notice conveying the meeting

FGP 40/23 Declarations of Interests by members.

Item 6 Cllr David Wilkinson as member of Bolton Planning Committee

FGP 41/23 Public Question Time

Gaynor Ratcliffe asked:

"On two occasions Council Andy Morgan stated "he can't see the use of benefits for having a parish council". He's said this in the public domain. My question is should he not stand down and remove himself immediately or should a vote of no confidence take place because he is damaging the integrity of the Town Council and undermining the hard work you all do". He seemed to see the point of the Town Council when he was put up for mayor!!"

FGP 42/23 Discussion of planning and development matters

7A. Planning and Development Matters.

15516/23 - Bank Top Farm, Aspull - no objection raised except in relation to the public footpath adjacent to the building, that the footpath be secured during development to allow public use.

15518/23 - 495 Wigan Road, Hart Common - no objection raised

15509/23 - Hoskers Nook Farm, Eatock Way - no objection raised as the site had previously received permission for 6 properties,

however raised concern with proposed access as it is located on a bend

Radio base installation on grass island, Manchester Road - ask CK Hutchison if another location in a less visible area could be found

7B. Planning Appeals

None

7C. Planning Decisions

List circulated

FGP 43/23 Minutes of the Planning and Finance and General Purposes Committee held on the 13 February were noted.

FGP 44/23 Request by Cllr B Eckersley-Fallon for the addition of Any Other Business

Email from Lancashire Association of Local Councils circulated, which stated that AOB should not be part of any council agenda.

FGP 45/23 Town Clerk job description

No major modifications and therefore could proceed to job advert.

FGP 46/23 Update on footpath WES173

Costs of scrape back to be £2,478. Deferred to 27 March.

FGP 47/23 Accounts for payment were approved

FGP 48/23 Grant applications

Grant of £200 approved for In Your Corner brew club.

FGP 49/23 Future of BLGC building

Given the fact that Bolton Lads and Girls Club had left the building, that Bolton Council be contacted as to the future of the BLGC part of the Central Drive site; the future of The Hub part of the site, and also the former Hope Church building, given the condition of the roof.

FGP 50/23 Possible uses of funding from BLGC contract

Around £6,000 would be available from this year's contract. To contact Play and Youth to see if additional services could be provided in Westhoughton.

FGP 51/23 Alterations to the Town Hall

Agreed that the council write to Bolton Council expressing its concerns to removal of the windows and alterations to the front facade.

FGP 52/23 Discussions of Bolton Council development document

- A. Former Mill Street car park: council agreed that the proposals from the Westhoughton Town Centre Steering Group that the Mill Street car park should revert back to car parking and not be developed for housing.
- B. Land between Wigan Road and The Welland: council agreed that the proposals from the Westhoughton Town Centre Steering Group that the site should be a public open space and not be developed for housing.
- C. Comments in the document: that the surrounding areas of the above two sites are in poor condition. This comment is detrimental to the residents and businesses surrounding the sites and, unless evidence can be provided by Bolton Council, it should be withdrawn from the document.

FGP 53/23 Attendance list of members

Councillor Kirkman had finalised the list, however there were some amendments. Final list to be circulated at the next meeting.

FGP 54/23 Cost of hanging baskets and street planters

The information from Bolton Council was circulated and noted at this time.

FGP 55/23 Big Spring Clean update

To note the three dates and also the Big Spring Clean thank you event on 1 April at St Bartholomew's Church.

FGP 56/23 Items for reporting

Temporary road closure at Church Street

Temporary road closure at Collingwood Way

Premises list 821

Fattorini's Coronation Link and Medals

All items noted

FGP 57/23 Date of Next Meeting

Town Council on 27 March 2023 in Carnegie Hall

FGP 58/23 Exclusion of the press and public - civic awards nominations

Civic Medal and Harold Daniels Trophy awarded to Cindy Richie

Environmental Award awarded to Danielle Ward

Young Persons Award awarded to Catarina Frappola

Meeting ended at 21:03