



WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 2022 - 2023

**WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL, WESTHOUGHTON LIBRARY, LIBRARY STREET,
WESTHOUGHTON, BL5 3AU. TEL: 01942 819802 E-MAIL: westhoughtontc@tiscali.co.uk**

1. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

From May 2022 to April 2023 these meetings were held - 9 Town Council, 10 Planning, Finance & General Purposes, 1 combined, 1 Annual and 1 Annual Town. Councillors attended meetings as follows and received NO payments or expenses:

COUNCILLOR	MAY			JUN		JUL		AUG		SEP		OCT		NOV		DEC		JAN		FEB		MAR		APR			
	AM	P&AM	ATM	P	TC	P	TC	P	TC	P	TC	P	TC	P	TC	P&TC	P	TC	P	TC	P	TC	P	TC	P	TC	
CONSERVATIVE																											
M Cox	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Mrs AB Eckersley-Fallon	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Mrs CH Kirkman	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
A P Morgan	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M Tighe								1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
D J Bullock	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
LIBERAL DEMOCRAT																											
Mrs A Jackson								1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Mrs L Maher								0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
N Maher	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Miss D J McGeown	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
A Price	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
D A Wilkinson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mrs G Wroe	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
A Younge	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
WESTHOUGHTON FIRST INDEPENDENTS																											
R M Brennan	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
C Reilly	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mrs L M Reilly	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
J Speight	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1

NB Councillors M Tighe, Mrs A Jackson and Mrs L Maher were elected on 28th July in by-elections

Cllrs Miss M Maley and Mrs A Seddon had resigned and Cllr Mr T Hewitt was disbarred due to non-attendance

WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCILLORS 2022-2023

CENTRAL WARD

Cllr R M Brennan – Westhoughton First Independents

Cllr Mrs C H Kirkman – Conservative

Cllr N Maher – Liberal Democrats

Cllr Mrs A M Seddon - Liberal Democrats (resigned)

Cllr Mrs L Maher – Liberal Democrats (elected 28th July 2022)

CHEQUERBENT WARD

Cllr D J Bullock - Conservative

Cllr J Speight – Westhoughton First Independents

DAISY HILL WARD

Cllr Miss D J McGeown - Liberal Democrats

Cllr Mrs G Wroe - Liberal Democrats

Cllr A Younge - Liberal Democrats (co-opted)

HOSKERS AND HART COMMON WARD

Cllr T J Hewitt - Conservative (disbarred)

Cllr Alison Jackson - Liberal Democrats (elected 28th July 2022)

Cllr Mrs L M Reilly - Westhoughton First Independents

Cllr David Wilkinson - Liberal Democrats

WHITE HORSE WARD

Cllr Martyn Cox – Conservative

Cllr Miss M Maley - Westhoughton First Independents (resigned)

Cllr Martin Tighe – Conservative (elected 28th July 2022)

Cllr A P Morgan - Conservative

Cllr C Reilly - Westhoughton First Independents

WINGATES WARD

Cllr Mrs A B Eckersley - Fallon – Conservative

Cllr A Price - Liberal Democrats (co-opted)

2. CIVIC MATTERS

During the year, the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor have attended 33 official functions by invitation including The Mayoral Sunday Service, the Remembrance Day Parade, the Pretoria Pit Disaster Memorial Services and the annual Carol Service.

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.
4. The Town Council has been active with Bolton Council on various highway, environmental, Town Centre issues and other relevant matters affecting the town.
5. The Town Council has approved 6 grant applications – Westhoughton Bowling Club, Friends of Eatock Lodge, In your Corner Brew Club, Westhoughton Inner Wheel, The Hub and Daisy Hill Cricket Club. The last two were grants for the 'Warm Spaces' initiative which were offered to other venues but only these two took them up.
6. Grants of £500 (up to a £4000 total) were also available for the King's Coronation Celebrations – no groups came forward to apply.
Grants for charities/groups are available for up to £500, the application form can be found on the Town Council Website - www.bolton.gov.uk/westhoughton.
7. The Town Council repeated its successful Christmas Lights initiative in the town centre, with a donation of £250 from Bolton Council and donations from local businesses, and also paid for the siting of the Christmas Nativity scene.
8. The Westhoughton Town Council web site address is: www.bolton.gov.uk/westhoughton
9. The Town Council has met with the Police at PACT (Police And Communities Together) meetings and police surgeries.
10. The Town Council has funded 3 additional Driver Feedback Signs on Manchester Rd, Park Rd and Wigan Rd in addition to those provided by Bolton Council.
11. The Westhoughton Town Council funds the Westhoughton Town Centre CCTV scheme and is looking to improve, and possibly expand the current CCTV system in the town centre.
12. With the co-operation of Bolton Council the Town Council has paid towards the repair of footpaths which are part of the Definitive Footpath Network. This was increased to £5000 during this year.
13. The Town Council has donated £7,000 towards the cost renovating Westhoughton Local Nature Reserves.
14. 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. This has ceased due to the condition of the building on Central Drive. The council is looking at alternative provision.

15. The Town Council has recognised the work of individuals and organisations with memorials to Harold Daniels and WW1, NHS and Tony Berry benches.
16. The Town Council awarded a Civic Medal to and the Harold Daniels Memorial Trophy to Cindy Richie for 20 years charitable service in Westhoughton.

A Certificate of Achievement for the Environmental Award was presented to Danielle Ward for her work organizing Howfen Litter Pickers.

A Certificate of Achievement for the Young Citizen Award was presented to Catarina Frappola for running and organizing Westhoughton Walkers group.

Members of the public nominated the recipients after the request for nominations was posted on the council website.

17. 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 21st December, 1910. In December 2022 the memorial was restored at a cost of £1,100 after it was noted that some names had faded.

Each year the Town Council organises 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.

18. The Annual Accounts for 2022-23 are yet to be completed and signed off by the auditor, this is due to no or limited access to the office and staffing issues.
19. 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.

20. 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 to use. The Town Council is committed to recycling and all paper is recycled.

During the Covid pandemic the council moved to electronic documents to Councillors to reduce the use of postage and paper. The council continues to use electronic versions of agendas and minutes, as is the norm in local government, to reduce to a minimum any paper footprint.

21. The Town Council has not produced newsletters due to current staffing issues. The council is looking to move away from paper newsletters to alternative formats.
22. The Town Council notice board is sited on the pavement at the front of Westhoughton Town Hall where Town Council Agendas, Minutes and other information is regularly displayed. The council also has a website where information can be found - www.bolton.gov.uk/westhoughton

23. In previous years the Town Council has funded a hire car which was used as a Policing Team vehicle in Westhoughton. Senior officers in GMP declined to take up this option this year.
24. 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 plus a wreath and street poppies around the town centre.
25. 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.
26. In the summer of 2015, Bolton Council funded the siting of planters and plants in the Town Centre. Since 2015 the Town Council has ensured the funding for the planting and maintenance costs.
27. In March 2023 the Town Council held its first 'Big Spring Clean', over the weekend of the 17th-19th, as part of the National Spring Clean bringing together councilors and volunteers. In April a 'Thank You' event was held to say thanks to all those who took part or who regularly litter pick.
28. Town Council meetings have taken place in John Holt Community Centre from May – June 2022 due to ongoing building works in the Town Hall. The council moved back into the Council Chamber from July to December. Since January the meetings have been held in the Carnegie Hall. The Town Clerk has had an office in Westhoughton Library.

29. Town Council Officer:

Mrs A Hopkins, Deputy Clerk, fulfilled the role of Town Clerk from October 2021 until her retirement in early July 2022

Ms K. Jefferys, Locum Town Clerk, from July to October 2022.

The position of Town Clerk is currently being advertised.

Town Clerk, Westhoughton Library, Library Street, Westhoughton, BL5 3AU.

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