



## WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on Monday 12 June 2023 at 7pm in Carnegie Hall**

Present: Councillors David Chadwick (Lab), Sarita Chohan (LD), Martyn Cox (Con), Derek Gradwell (LD), Alison Jackson (LD), Neil Maher (LD), Deirdre McGeown (LD), Arthur Price (LD), Jack Speight (WF), Martin Tighe (Con) and Gillian Wroe (LD)

Members of the public: Michelle O'Riordan, James Copper, Carol Kirkman, Anna Marie Watters, Jane Oakley

#### **FGP52/23/23 Fire Safety Information (Chair)**

The fire safety information was read out by the Chair.

#### **FGP53/23 To receive apologies for absence and record reasons**

Councillors Alan Kaufman (personal), Anna Homfray (holiday), Ryan Hough (work), Linda Maher (work), Christine Strawbridge (holiday), John Strawbridge (holiday) and David Wilkinson (illness).

#### **FGP54/23 To read the notice convening the meeting**

The notice convening the meeting was read out by the Chair.

#### **FGP55/23 To record declarations of interest from members in any item to be discussed**

Cllr Deirdre McGeown is on The Daisy Hill in Bloom Committee, Gillian Wroe is a social member of the bowling club, and her husband is a full member, Neil Maher is a governor at Westhoughton High School.

**FGP56/23 Adjournment to allow public question time, relating to Town Council activities. This is the only opportunity for members of the public to speak at the meeting unless the question/statement relates to a planning application.**

a.	<p><b>Question from Anna Marie Watters:</b>  Anna Marie Watters, CEO at The Hub, asked if the council could agree in principle to funding for The Hub to provide additional services for young people in view of the gap left by the Bolton Lads and Girls Club not being in a position to continue their provision.</p> <p>Mrs Watters was told that funding for The Hub could not be assured as a detailed proposal would first be required, outlining not only the activities but also providing evidence of workers involved having appropriate safeguarding checks and qualifications to ensure children's safety.</p>
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b.	<p><b>Questions from Richard Bates:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Over the past 4 years, since May 2019, how much has each Mayor been paid to represent Westhoughton in Civic duties? Broken down by each mayor please.</li> <li>2. Does this money come from the extra Westhoughton Precept, paid for by residents in Council Tax? If not, where does this come from?</li> <li>3. Over the past 4 years, since May 2019, how much has each Mayor raised for charities, broken down by Mayor and charity, please?</li> <li>4. Has any extra money been requested by the Mayor to hold events pertaining to their Mayoral status, over the past 4 years (since May 2019)?</li> <li>5. How many events over the past 4 years, since May 2019, has each Mayor attended. If the Mayor cannot attend, has the deputy stood in their place?</li> </ol> <p>A written response will be provided to Mr Bates by the meeting of 26th June.</p>
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b.	<p><b>Question from James Copper:</b> What CCTV provision was on the Library Street and Ditchfield Gardens car parks following the recent vehicle damage?</p> <p><b>Town Council response:</b> Mr Copper was informed that these car parks are under the control of Bolton Council and are not covered by cameras owned by Westhoughton Town Council. As additional information, Bolton Council has been contacted regarding the recent damaged cars and they have replied to say that they are happy for the Town Council to expand CCTV coverage to the car parks, but would provide no funding toward this. The issue of CCTV and the possibility of improving the current system will be an agenda item for Monday 12 June.</p>
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## **FGP57/23 Planning and Development Matters**

16062/23 The Stables, 241b Hindley Road, Westhoughton, BL5 2DY  
Decision to refer to Bolton Council.

10636/23 3 Market Street, Westhoughton, BL5 3AH  
No objections raised.

15983/23 2 Fairstead Close, Westhoughton, BL5 3LL  
No objections raised.

15749/23 Westhoughton High County Secondary School, Bolton Road, Westhoughton,  
BL5 3BZ  
No objections raised.

15944/23 130 Leigh Road, Westhoughton, BL5 2LE  
No objections raised.

15985/23 34 Greensmith Way, Westhoughton, BL5 3DR  
No objections raised.

15886/23 85 Wingates Lane, Westhoughton, BL5 3LP  
Rejected. The Town Council was concerned about the lifting of so many restrictions and  
so could not approve.

15794/23 15 Whitsundale, Westhoughton, BL5 3LQ  
No objections raised.

15978/23 17 Anderby Walk, Westhoughton, BL5 3BW  
No objections raised.

## **Planning Appeals**

None

## **Planning decisions have been circulated**

## **FGP58/23 Accounts for payment**

Daisy Hill in Bloom-fertiliser £8 agreed and for plants and compost £462.50 agreed  
(£529.50 remaining in the budget)

Mayor's Inauguration and Civic Awards (the two events were combined):

- Reimbursement of D McGeown - £52.49
- Reimbursement of D Wilkinson - £95
- Reimbursement of L Price - £101

All agreed

**FGP59/23 Grant application from Westhoughton Park Bowling and Social Club**  
£300 for planters approved (£7,700 remaining in grants budget)

**FGP60/23 Working Groups** (up to 3 Liberal Democrats, 1 Labour, 1 Conservative, 1 Westhoughton First to be appointed to each working group)

**a. Town Centre CCTV**

To review current provision and consider improvements

Appointed: Councillors Ryan Hough, Arthur Price, Gillian Wroe, Jack Speight, Martin Tighe and David Chadwick

**b. Defibrillators**

To review coverage and identify any gaps and assess costs for improvements if required

Appointed: Deirdre McGeown, Neil Maher, Jack Speight and Martin Tighe

**c. Big Plant**

Initiative to commence in October 2023 and to involve voluntary and residents groups and schools. Planting of daffodils to improve Westhoughton in the Spring.

Appointed: Jack Speight, Martin Tighe and Alison Jackson

**FGP61/23 Renew contract with Play and Youth Services and to consider any additional services that they could provide using the funding previously earmarked for BLGC.**

Full agreement to renew existing contract and to ask if additional services can be provided. Other organisations will be approached to ascertain their interest in providing additional youth provision.

**FGP62/23 Market Street Planters**

It was reported that Bolton Council had said they would put the planters in storage while footpath work takes place, but this had not yet happened. Bolton Council will be asked where the planters will be stored. This will release £4,500 from the budget.

### **FGP63/23 Items for reporting**

- Bolton Council Youth Consultation on serious violent crime - Noted
- Bolton Transport Strategy workshop dates - The council would welcome the group at a council meeting.
- Proposed zebra crossing at The Hoskers outside St George's primary school - Noted that the crossing will be going ahead
- Temporary road closure at Broadwalk - Noted
- Premises applications list 834 - Noted
- Consultation on post-16 year olds accommodation - Noted
- Late Night Levy consultation - Noted

Date of next meeting - Town Council, Monday 26 June 2023

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.