



## WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on Monday 14th August 2023 at 7pm in Carnegie Hall**

Present: Councillors Arthur Price (Chair) David Chadwick, Sarita Chohan, Derek Gradwell, Ryan Hough, Alan Kaufman, Alison Jackson, Linda Maher, Deirdre McGeown, Christine Strawbridge, John Strawbridge, David Wilkinson and Gillian Wroe  
Pauline Rowley (Town Clerk)

Members of the public: Councillor Susan Howarth (Bolton MBC), Ollie Younge, Amanda Armstrong, Mr N & Mrs C Smith.

#### **FGP75/23 Fire Safety Information (Chair)**

The fire safety information was read out by the Chair.

#### **FGP76/23 To receive apologies for absence and record reasons**

Councillors Anna Homfray (work), Neil Maher (attending Bolton Council Meeting), Jack Speight (work)

#### **FGP77/23 To read the notice convening the meeting**

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

#### **FGP78/23 To record declarations of interest from members in any item to be discussed**

Councillor David Wilkinson on planning matters as a member of Bolton Council's planning committee (item 6) and Accounts for payment (item7).

**FGP79/23 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 Amanda Armstrong:</b> Has the Town Council looked into the development of the Slack Lane field as a battery farm and is it correct that they had no opposition to it?</p> <p>The Town clerk suggested that she email the wording of the question, so that it could be correctly recorded and an appropriate answer given by the council as an agenda item at the next meeting.</p>
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**FGP80/23 Planning and Development Matter:**

The Town Council raised no objections to any of the planning applications:

16471/23	Westhoughton Industrial Estate, Part Unit 8, James Street BL5 3QR
Change of use of vacant building to shop (class E2)	

**Planning appeals** - none

**Planning decisions** - lists circulated

**FGP 81/23 Accounts for payment during which time Cllr Wilkinson left the room.**

- £7,881.98 - BT for CCTV (annual payment)
- £11,109.31 - Bolton Council for the 2023 town council elections
- £206.14 - Reimbursement to M Wilkinson for payment of 1 year hosting for the Westhoughton Town Council website (including one free year of the town clerk's new email address, normally costing approximately £65)
- £6,600 - Bolton Play and Youth Services for provision of summer activities and fun day
- £280-Boston Bulbs for 4,000 daffodil bulbs.

**FGP 82/23 To note the minutes of the meeting of 10 July 2023 (previously approved)**

**FGP 83/23 Public benches update**

Councillor Wilkinson asked for this to be deferred as he is waiting for up to date costs.

**FGP 84/23 Update from the Town Council communications working group**

Councillor McGeown informed the council that the new website should be working by the end of August and that the new Town Clerk email address is in place.

**FGP 85/23 Update from the CCTV working group.**

Councillor Wroe outlined a number of meetings and site visits the group had had to investigate the current CCTV situation and needs of Westhoughton accompanied by the PS Robertson and PC Clarke. This also included a site visit to a NCP car park in Bolton. As a result, the group have made some important contacts with people in Bolton Council, who will advise the group about the best solutions for Westhoughton in the future. It was also suggested that Engineers attend a Council meeting to explain the efficiency of the monitoring system, which links to the police, allowing them to respond immediately.

#### **FGP 86/23 Health facilities in Westhoughton**

Councillor Wilkinson outlined the issues surrounding the health provision in Westhoughton. This included the provision of GPs, Dentists, Hospital and Ambulance services. In light of the increased developments in the area, there is concern that the current infrastructure does not meet the needs of the community. It was suggested that information from the Planning Department at Bolton Council detailing the situation and possible provision of additional health surgeries be sought. Councillor J Strawbridge explained that the Unsworth Group Practice would like to work closely with the Town Council. Following a detailed discussion about potential provision of GP practices in Westhoughton with contributions from Councillor Chadwick, Councillor Jackson and Councillor C Strawbridge, Councillor Price suggested that all three GP Practices be contacted for their comments.

#### **FGP 87/23 Historic England consultation on proposed addition of Westhoughton Town Hall and Library to the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest - and to approve any action (documents circulated).**

The documents circulated relate to an external visit to the building and the listing would be for the external features. Thanks were given to the resident who brought this matter to the attention of the Council. There have been repairs made to the inside of the Council Chamber due to significant damp. A motion was made to support the listing and met with full support. Councillor Chadwick explained that, whilst the internal rooms are very small and the building will need to bring in a financial return in the future, it is a very important building in Westhoughton, which is much valued and appreciated by the community.

Councillor Wilkinson proposed support for the motion; Councillor Chadwick seconded it and the Council approved unanimously.

#### **FGP 88/23 Grant application for £1,000 from Daisy Hill Cricket Club (details circulated) and to approve any action**

Councillor Wilkinson proposed that the full amount be given from another fund to support the potential local talent. Councillor Chadwick seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by the Council.

**FGP 89/23 Grant application for £435 from Wingates Band (details circulated)**

It agreed to increase the grant to £500 in recognition of the significance the Band has within the local community and how it proudly represents Wingates, especially in this 150th anniversary year. Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Chadwick and approved unanimously by the Council.

**FGP 90/23 Grant application for £500 from WHMT (details circulated)**

The Council requested that the Town Clerk obtain further details about the individuals who would benefit and clarify any payment from this grant.

**FGP 91/23 Items for reporting**

- Premises list 843
- Training courses run by Lancashire Association of Local Councils

Councillor Kaufman to email details to the Town Clerk

Date of next meeting - Town Council, Monday 29th August 2023

The meeting closed at 7.58pm