

CLITHEROE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on Monday 13 February 2023
In the Council Chamber, Clitheroe Town Hall

PRESENT:- The Town Mayor, Councillor Jenni Schumann, in the Chair
The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Jonathan Hill
Councillors Stewart Fletcher, Mark French, Gaynor Hibbert, Donna O'Rourke,
Simon O'Rourke, Mary Robinson, County Cllr Sue Hind, Town Clerk
One member of the public

01.23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

02.23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

03.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

04.23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 26 September 2022 were approved and signed.

05.23 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Town Mayor updated the meeting on engagements since the previous Council meeting.

06.23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications received for weeks ended 20 & 27 January and 03 & 10 February 2023

RESOLVED:

- (1) That no objections be raised to the following applications:-
3/2022/1103, 1188, 3/2023/0023, 0024, 0025, 0050, 0066
- (2) That RVBC be advised that the Town Council has no objections to application 3/2023/0046 but has concerns regarding the construction of new gates in a conservation area where none had existed previously.
- (3) That RVBC be advised that the Town Council wishes to strongly object to applications 3/2023/0001, 0003 & 0007 on the grounds that the proposed structures will be totally out of character in a historic market town. The expression "monstrous carbuncles" was used to describe the proposals.

07.23 TOWN AWARDS 2023

A sub-Committee of the Town Mayor, Cllrs Hibbert and Donna O'Rourke had been requested to suggest proposals for a re-categorisation of the Town Awards for 2023. Details of the proposals had previously been circulated. It was agreed that the suggested re-categorisation was acceptable and that future Awards should be for Neighbourhood Champion, Young Citizen, Good Citizen, an Environmental Award and the Clitheroe Champion. The sub-Committee was thanked for its work on the matter.

RESOLVED: THAT the re-categorisation of the Town Awards, as detailed, be implemented and communicated externally.

08.23 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

There was considerable discussion regarding various options for the use of SpIDs and the collection of speed data. It was agreed that it may be most sensible for the Town Council to look into purchasing its own SpIDs and to incorporate the costs thereof into the next budget. Indicative costs had been obtained from a SpID manufacturer. It was noted that appropriate approvals would be required from LCC for SpID posts or the use of lighting columns. It was also reported that LCC were intending to buy 24 SpIDs for use across the Ribble Valley but the exact location of these had yet to be determined.

New guidelines for the use of the LCC "slow down, save lives" banners were discussed. It was noted that all intended locations for the banners required prior approval from LCC and that banners could now only be left in place for 12 weeks before being moved to a different location.

RESOLVED: THAT the option of the Town Council buying its own SpIDs be explored further subject to budgetary constraints.

09.23 ALLOTMENT ACCOUNTS

The allotment accounts for the year 2021/22 were tabled. It was noted that all rents due in respect of the year under review had been received. The Town Clerk advised that all rents due for the year 2022/23 had also been received, except from two tenants who had therefore been evicted for failure to pay following appropriate notification. It was noted that a significant minority of tenants had elected to pay by card so it had been worth purchasing the card machine.

10.23 ACCOUNTS PAID JANUARY 2023

It was noted that the largest item of single expenditure in January 2023 had been payment for the annual Christmas lights. Lesser expenditure had also been incurred for singers for the Mayoral Christmas visits and Christmas lights switch on.

Resolved: THAT the accounts paid in January 2023 be approved.

11.23 APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

i) 1st Clitheroe Guides

An application for financial assistance had been received from 1st Clitheroe Guides who were going on a trip to Berlin. It was noted that the Town Council had previously not supported groups such as guides and scouts due to there being more than one group in the town so supporting one group would set a precedent for the others. It was agreed that the applicants be encouraged to apply to the two local Rotary Clubs for financial assistance and if there was still a shortfall the Town Council would make an overall donation of £150.

RESOLVED: THAT the applicants be encouraged to apply for financial assistance from the two local Rotary Clubs and, if funds were still required after such application, the Town Council would make an overall donation of £150.

Part II

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the fact that the following items of business be exempt information under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be now excluded from the meeting

12.23 STAFF ABSENCE REPORT

It was reported that there had been no absences since the last report in January 2023.

RESOLVED: THAT the staff absence report be noted.

13.23 TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION 2023

Cllr Simon O'Rourke reported that a preliminary meeting to discuss the possibility of holding a Torchlight procession in 2023 had not yet been held as the parties who were interested in organising it had been unable to get together. It was noted that, if a preliminary meeting was not held in the near future, it would be very difficult to be able to host a Torchlight in 2023 due to the amount of work required and the lack of time.

Cllr Mary Robinson reported that RVBC had indicated their support for a live screening of the Coronation in the Castle Grounds on 06 May 2023. The practicalities of holding such an event were discussed further.

The meeting closed at 20.10 pm.

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Chair

