

## TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

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### MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING Held in the Cockcroft Room, Todmorden Town Hall, Bridge Street, Todmorden, on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7:30pm

**Councillors Present:** D Skelton [Chair], K White (Ex officio) M Holmstedt, C Potter,  
L Needham, P Ripley, A H Greenwood, J Williams, P Taylor,  
M Taylor, M Carrigan.

**Absent Councillors:** M Doyle

**Observing Councillors:**

**Officers:** Colin Hill – Town Clerk/RFO (minute taker)

**Members of the Public:** 3 representing Incredible Edible Farm 4 others present

2019(A) 092	<p><b><u>Item 1 Apologies for Absence</u></b></p> <p>To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Clerk prior to the meeting</p> <p><i>Apologies received from Cllr M Doyle for reasons of illness</i></p> <p>Members agreed to receive their apologies and reasons</p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr M Taylor and Seconded by Cllr P Taylor</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Unanimous</i></span></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:-</b></p> <p><i>That the apologies of Cllr M Doyle and reasons for absence, illness, be accepted.</i></p>
2019 (A) 093	<p><b><u>Item 2 Declarations of Interests</u></b></p> <p>To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from members on matters to be considered at the meeting. Officers are required to make a formal declaration about council contracts where the employee has a financial interest.</p> <p><i>None</i></p>
2019 (A) 094	<p><b><u>Item 3 Public Participation</u></b></p>

To adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public to make representation on the business of the agenda for the meeting. Note: No resolutions can be under public participation.

Dr Robin Asby addressed the meeting  
Todmorden Town Council 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2020 – Incredible Farm

1. **Invitation** to a tree planting event on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to be opened by the Mayor of Calderdale supported by 3 Grants from Bettys Tea House, a Community Foundation, and the Postcode Lottery. The purpose of the tree planting is to alleviate flooding in Todmorden, part of our remit.
2. **Corrections**
  - a. **Point 6 Private school** Todmorden schools Walsden, Ferney Ley and Cross Ley as well as Junior Farmers going long enough for the original attenders now being secondary school age supporters and volunteers, other special school students, and Princes trust students.
  - b. **Point 6 Extended stays** extended stays are usually students from France as part of their academic course for 6 months or 3 months. This is because the film Demain is viewed by all secondary schools in France. Todmorden and the farm are major features. These people rent accommodation in Todmorden and are sometimes visited by their parents who of course also are accommodated in Todmorden. People on short stays use the Youth Hostel and do occasional stay at the farm.
3. **To Address your Concerns**
  - a. **Point 4** – The farm is within the Todmorden parish boundary the Centenary way and the Boundary walk so I would say despite changing political boundaries it is in Todmorden.
  - b. **Point 9** – I would ask what other bodies have been required to list the numbers of Todmorden people involved as opposed to others? As you point out in point 11 our application was partly to improve our administration which we require done. We are very happy to record volunteer postcodes and think this would be to our benefit.
  - c. **Point 10** – We apologise that the councillors did not receive a briefing. This is normally done for children on site but the full documentation is not in place. Fortunately we now have a volunteer with considerable experience who will undertake this for us. I would say to the council that we have been and are inspected regularly for health and safety and welfare issues and have never had a problem.
  - d. **Planning-** As councillors will know a planning enforcement notice was issued to remove our temporary buildings and greenhouse which had Agricultural Permitted Development (APD) permission as was required. The situation is now rather confused. The Planning Inspectorate summarily dismissed the enforcement notice, and since that time Calderdale have granted APD permission for our permanent replacement barn and we have sought full planning permission for the greenhouse. In the last week Calderdale have issued an unchanged enforcement notice.
4. **The future**

What we seek principally is the support of the Town Council in an important development for jobs in Todmorden part of the new college initiative. We are in a Climate Emergency as the Council has decided. Food supplies are becoming increasingly insecure. We must develop alternatives to the industrial farming processes that have increasingly dominated food production for the last 70 years resulting in excessive carbon dioxide emissions and soil degradation. Todmorden is known worldwide as a pioneer in the new industrial revolution.

2019(A) 095	<p><b><u>Item 4 Minutes</u></b></p> <p>To approve the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019</p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr J Williams and Seconded by Cllr K White - Unanimous</i></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:-</b></p> <p><i>That the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on the 27th November 2019 be approved as a true record of proceedings and signed by the Chair.</i></p>
2019 (A) 096	<p><b><u>Item 5 Exclusion of Press and Public – Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960</u></b></p> <p>To consider and confirm any agenda items that require the exclusion of the Press and Public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 for matters appertaining to confidential or exempt information.</p> <p><b>Item 15. To consider the exclusion of the public from the meeting before discussion takes place on the following item of business on the grounds that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, if the public were present, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information within the meaning of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.</b></p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr M Carrigan and seconded by Cllr C Potter Unanimous</i></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:-</b></p> <p><i>That the agenda item 15 for the meeting requires the exclusion of the press and public, and therefore that the public be allowed to remain for the duration of the meeting unit Item 15.</i></p>
2019(A) 097	<p><b>Item 6 . Grant Applications</b></p> <p>To receive a report recommending that the Town Council does not agree to a grant request submitted by Incredible Edible Farm for £6400 towards increasing the volunteer scheme</p> <p><i>Members discussed this application with many supporting the concept of increasing schools involvement and welcomed the applicant to submit a grant application in this respect.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr K White in acknowledging the way the town is promoted through the whole food story also recognised budget constraints and proposed that £2,000 be awarded but linked to criteria about regular reporting back. This was seconded by Cllr J Williams.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr D Skelton proposed that the recommendations of the report be followed seconded by Cllr C Potter</i></p> <p><i>For 4 against 5 and 2 abstentions – motion not carried</i></p> <p><i>Cllr D Skelton proposed that the recommendations of the report be followed seconded by Cllr C Potter</i></p> <p><i>5 for and 4 against 2 abstentions – motion carried</i></p>

**RESOLVED:-**

1. That this grant application is refused as per the report recommendations
2. That Incredible Farm CBS Ltd be encouraged to extend their schools outreach programme and to submit a grant application for consideration by this Committee.

2019 (A) 098

**Item 8 – Grant Feedback Forms**

**1. Grant Feedback Forms**

To receive the grant feedback forms inclusive of any audit expenditure receipts. The committee may request to recover any underspent grant funds previously authorised or may approve use of underspends to be allocated to another project.

*Proposed by Cllr M Taylor and seconded by Cllr A Greenwood Unanimous*

**RESOLVED:-** *That the feedback be received with thanks.*

Organisation	Grant amount	Town Hall hire refund amount	Amount used	Undersp
7a. Mid Pennine Arts	£1295	N/A	£1295	Nil

To support “Todmorden Treat” a project to give each Todmorden primary school an experience of working with the same artist or performer during spring term.

KS2 pupils working with visual artist to create portraits using simple materials.

**Outcomes:-**

- Explored historic and contemporary portraiture
- Devised portraits of their chosen subjects
- Experimented with different techniques
- Produced collection of art work of high quality displayed in school
- Children engaged in visual thinking.

**Reach**

Cornholme Primary	21
Ferney Lee Primary	23
Shade Primary	26
St Josephs Primary	31
Todmorden Junior	27
Castle Hill Primary	38
Walsden St Peter	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>191</b>

Volunteer time 49 hours – in kind contribution Leeds University – value £490

Schools contributed £100 each to cost of project

Total project cost £2485

*Members commented about the exemplary feedback and the increasing success of organisation in delivery of their projects.*

Organisation	Grant amount	Town Hall hire refund amount	Amount used	Underspend
<b>7b. Todmorden Book Festival</b>	<b>£3000</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£3000</b>	<b>Nil</b>

Grant used to apply for hire of venues, author fees and hire of PA equipment.  
Audience 4256  
41 events over 9 days  
19 free events  
11 events in community  
2 exhibitions  
30 Volunteers - time 800 hours on development and 330 hours on delivery.  
Event cost £23249.46

Organisation	Grant amount	Town Hall hire refund amount	Amount used	Underspend
<b>7c. Todmorden Riverside Improvement Group</b>	<b>£376.90</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£376.90</b>	<b>Nil</b>

Grant used for Public Liability Insurance for work parties and servicing of mower to help maintain appearance of Tipside.  
6 volunteers monthly ((238 volunteer hours) with appearance benefiting all users of the area.

Organisation	Grant amount	Town Hall hire refund amount	Amount used	Underspend
<b>7d.Friends of Overgate</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£71.13</b>	<b>£71.13</b>	<b>Nil</b>

Fundraising Coffee morning.  
30 attended – raised £133.

Organisation	Grant amount	Town Hall hire refund amount	Amount used	Underspend
<b>7e.Todmorden Choral Society</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£670.33</b>	<b>£670.33</b>	<b>Nil</b>

Town Hall hire fee for concert performance – Handel's Messiah  
Attendees 290  
Costs £2141 Income £2221  
To support Groups core costs.

Organisation	Grant amount	Town Hall hire refund amount	Amount used	Underspend
<b>7f.Todmorden Orchestra</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£732.04</b>	<b>£732.04</b>	<b>Nil</b>

Town Hall hire fee for concert performance – soloist from Sweden  
Attendees 150  
Costs £4370 Income £2210.

2019(A) 099	<p><b>Item 9 – Wheelspark Project</b> To receive an update following initial discussions with Calderdale MBC and Groundworks</p> <p><i>The Town Clerk updated Members on the progress of this project</i></p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr J Williams and seconded by Cllr M Holmstedt Unanimous</i></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:-</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>That the Town Clerk seek a formal quotation from Groundwork to provide the core elements of Consultation advice, Technical specification and applications for funding.</i></li> <li>2. <i>That on receipt of these quotations, depending upon the amount and complexity/specialist knowledge, consideration be given by the Town Clerk as to whether Standing Order 18d be waived.</i></li> <li>3. <i>That once all three elements of consultation, Groundwork quotation and proposals and formal agreement from Calderdale are all in place, that a report be taken to Full Council to confirm use of this Earmarked Reserve and if likely to be required consideration given to future Capital contribution.</i></li> <li>4. <i>That on approval by Full Council, consultation be commenced to identify current user needs and for the Town Clerk to then drive the project forward to the stage of applications being made.</i></li> </ol>
2019(A) 100	<p><b>Item 10. Trees</b> To receive an update on a proposed tree survey and related policy to be formulated.</p> <p><i>Members noted the commissioning of the survey and considered the Tree Policy and were in agreement to submit the policy to Full Council for adoption</i></p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr M Carrigan and seconded by Cllr L Needham Unanimous</i></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:-</b> <i>That:- The Tree Policy be submitted to Full Council with a recommendation to adopt.</i></p>
2019(A) 101	<p><b>Item 11 . Register of Outstanding items.</b> To receive an update of outstanding items.</p> <p><i>Members noted the register</i></p>
2019(A) 102	<p><b>Item 12. Buy a Tree Scheme</b> To consider our involvement in this scheme.</p> <p><i>Members supported this scheme and agreed that we should commission 3 trees – one at £200 to include the planting ceremony for the Mayor to attend and two at £150. Trees specified to be - one Sweet chestnut and the other two indigenous species.</i></p>

	<p><i>Proposed by Cllr M Carrigan and seconded by Cllr j Williams Unanimous</i></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:- That:-</b></p> <p><i>The Council purchases three trees one at £200 to include the planting ceremony for the Mayor to attend and two at £150. Trees specified to be - one Sweet chestnut and the other two indigenous species.</i></p>
2019 (A) 103	<p><b><u>Item 13 - Correspondence</u></b></p> <p>To receive any items of correspondence</p> <p><i>None received</i></p>
2019 (A) 104	<p><b><u>Item 14– Any Items for Discussion for a Future Agenda</u></b></p> <p>To notify the Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Bowling Greens</i></li> <li>• <i>Lobb Mill Visit (Town Clerk to coordinate)</i></li> <li>• <i>Walsden library</i></li> <li>• <i>Tour de Yorkshire</i></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Exclusion of the public from the meeting before discussion takes place on the following item of business on the grounds that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, if the public were present, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information within the meaning of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.</b></p>
2019(A) 105	<p><b>Item 15 - Christmas lights provision</b></p> <p>To receive a presentation and options to consider for future Christmas Lights provision.</p> <p><i>Members received a presentation from a Christmas lights provider offering suggestions for the future improvement of Christmas lights display in Topdmorden and an extension of offer to include Portsmouth and Eastwood, together with costings and funding proposals.</i></p> <p><i>There was insufficient time to discuss any detail and this will be bought back to another meeting for consideration.</i></p>
2019 (A) 106	<p><b><u>Item 16 – Date of the Next Committee Meeting</u></b></p> <p>The date of the next committee meeting was noted – Wednesday 19th February 2020 at 7.30pm, Todmorden Town Hall.</p> <p>There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.30 pm</p>