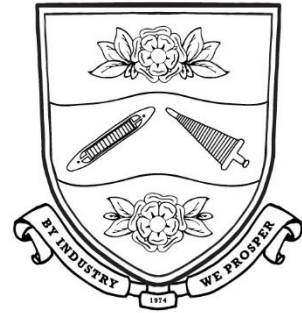


# TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk's Office,  
Todmorden Community College,  
Burnley Road, Todmorden OL14 7BX  
01706 548135

townclerk@todmorden-tc.gov.uk  
www.todmorden-tc.gov.uk



## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL Held in the Council Chamber, Todmorden Town Hall, Bridge Street, Todmorden, on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm

**Councillors Present:** Cllrs R Coleman-Taylor [Town Deputy Mayor], C Carrigan, M Doyle, M Holmstedt, A Greenwood, Revd G Kent, S Martin, C Potter, T Roberts, D Skelton, P Taylor, P Ripley, A Hollis, L Levick, L Needham, M Taylor

**Absent Councillors:** Cllr K White (late attendee from Item 12 onwards) Cllr J Williams

**Officers:** Colin Hill – Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (Minute Taker)

**Members of the Public:** One member public present, Sarah Richardson Assistant Director of Customer Services for Calderdale Council for Item 7

2019 (TC) 84	<p><b><u>ITEM 1 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b> To receive apologies for absence and consider any reasons given to the Clerk prior to the meeting</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr A Hollis and Seconded by Cllr P Taylor      Unanimous</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the apologies and reasons for absence namely family emergency and illness received from Cllrs K White and J Williams be formally received and reasons accepted.</p>
2019 (TC) 85	<p><b><u>ITEM 2 - DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u></b> Members are reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests. A Member must generally declare a disclosable pecuniary interest which he or she has in any item on the Agenda. A Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest may not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting and must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting. In addition, the Council's Standing Orders require a Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest to leave the room where the meeting is held while any discussion or voting takes place.</p> <p>None declared</p>
2019 (TC) 86	<p><b><u>ITEM 3 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u></b> To adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public to make representation on the business of the agenda for the meeting. No resolutions can be under public participation.</p> <p>Representative from Todmorden Information Centre invited Members to a launch of Todmorden's first universally collaborative town-wide promotional campaign with a film to be held at Bellholme Sports Centre Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 5.30 to 8pm</p> <p>Councillor R Coleman – Taylor took the opportunity to welcome to the Council Nicola Pugh who has started as the newly appointed Administrative Officer</p>

2019 (TC) 87	<p><b><u>ITEM 4 - MINUTES</u></b>  To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019</p> <p>Cllr Skelton advised on an amendment to the minutes in respect of minute ITEM 2019(TC)068 on that the word group should be plural – to read groups</p> <p>Cllr Cllr M Taylor advised on an inaccuracies regarding Minute 2019(TC) 066 regarding attendance in that Cllr A Hollis was not present. To replace Cllr A Hollis with Cllr M Holmstedt</p> <p>Subject to these amendments the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019 were accepted as true record.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr C Potter and Seconded by Cllr P Taylor                      Unanimous</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chair subject to amendments above.</p> <p>Action arising – Town Clerk to clarify minute regarding Green Mast</p>
2019 (TC) 88	<p><b><u>ITEM 5 - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC - PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT) 1960</u></b>  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>Proposed by Cllr C Potter and Seconded by Cllr P Taylor                      Unanimous</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the press and public be allowed to remain for the duration of the meeting.</p>
2019(TC) 89  2019(TC) 90	<p><b><u>ITEM 6 - COMMITTEE MINUTES</u></b>  To confirm the receipt of approved committee minutes previously circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extraordinary Staffing Committee 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019 – draft</li> <li>• Development Committee – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019</li> <li>• General Purposes Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019</li> <li>• Amenities Committee – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019</li> </ul> <p>Note: All council minutes are available on the Town Council website. Members are required to confirm the receipt of committee minutes. Any amendments to the draft committee minutes can only be made at the next relevant committee meeting where the meeting will be required to confirm the accuracy of the minutes and approve as a true record of proceedings. Any recommendations from committee minutes will be considered at agenda item number 7.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr M Carrigan and Seconded by Cllr L Levick</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To confirm receipt of Extraordinary Staffing Committee Minutes 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019 minutes previously circulated</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr C Potter and Seconded by Cllr L Needham</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To confirm receipt of Development Committee Minutes 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 minutes previously circulated</p>

2019(TC)91	<p>Proposed by Cllr M Carrigan and Seconded Cllr S Martin</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To confirm receipt of General Purposes Committee Minutes 17th July 2019 minutes previously circulated</p>
2019(TC)92	<p>Proposed by Cllr D Skelton and Seconded by Cllr L Needham</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To confirm receipt of Amenities Committee Minutes 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 minutes previously circulated</p>
2019 (TC) 93	<p><b>ITEM 7 - Walsden Library</b> To receive an update from Calderdale Council concerning the future of this library.</p> <p>Sarah Richardson Assistant Director of Customer Services for Calderdale Council addressed the meeting and advised of the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cabinet resolution to close library at Walsden was made on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019</li> <li>▪ Entering 12 week period to consult further to see if any alternative location to be found.</li> <li>▪ Building at end of useful life and not viable to invest given extensive costs – c£200k plus refit £25k</li> <li>▪ The the following concerns had been approached to provide alternative provision but were not able to assist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Walsden Cricket and Bowling Green Club</li> <li>○ Gordon Riggs</li> <li>○ St Peters Church</li> <li>○ Hollins Mill Management</li> <li>○ St Peters Primary</li> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Usage – 109 active users (who had taken an item out in last 12 months) and 500 visits to library</li> </ul> <p>Member then proceeded to raise a number of questions which were responded to in turn by Sarah Richardson (SR)</p> <p>Cllr Revd G Kent thanked SR for efforts to date. Enquired as to whether consideration has been given to purchasing the Chapel building next door as was vacant SR – no funds available to do so. Also advised that the school had also been approached but unable to help</p> <p>Cllr A Greenwood queried costs of £200k and commented that in view of state not surprised usage low. Suggested Chapel may be more attractive option if spare land adjoining included parking provision and as incentive to gain such permission to house library.</p> <p>SR – Costs prepared by their professional team. Parking availability adjacent land had been consider and in discussion with potential buyers of Chapel they were not interested in housing a library. Chapel still for sale</p> <p>Cllr C Potter recalled that Planning permission for the Chapel allowed conversion into residential units option and helpful if the option of additional parking provision were included in future discussions with potential purchaser/developers.</p>

Cllr M Taylor Expressed disappointment that another facility lost to Walsden. Hoped Calderdale Council would pursue the opportunity of potential purchase of Chapel. Suggested alternative of Hollins Mill.

SR advised Hollins Mill had been approached and were not able to assist

Cllr P Taylor – enquired of provision of mobile library

SR- Advised do not have mobile library service but operated a Home delivery service to door to those not able to access other library outlets.

Cllr M Doyle- stated that this was unforgiveable to close this service and that Calderdale Council had failed Walsden.

Cllr D Skelton enquired as to scale of book scheme

SR – 22 libraries of which 7 hub and 15 community. Home delivery 135 users but have built in flexibility to enable this service to expand if required to meet need in Walsden

Cllr D Skelton acknowledged to SR that given severe cuts to Local Govt funding by the Conservative and Liberal Democrats parties whilst in Government, that thanks are due to Calderdale Council for having kept so many open.

Cllr R Coleman- Taylor- enquired if this was a service for public use.

SR – advised that the Home Library Service was available to anyone. Work closely with our Staying Well programme which generally helped with housebound clients but recognised benefits to users from a mental health point of view, especially to those possibly isolated and this service can be accessed through Staying Well initiative, via phone or on line.

advised that was under scheme of Staying Well which generally helped with housebound clients but recognised benefits to users from a mental health point of view, especially to those possibly isolated and this service can be accessed through Staying Well initiative, via phone or on line.

Cllr C Potter enquired as to whether there were any vacant shop units that could be considered.

SR- asked if Members knew of any vacancies to which Cllr M Carrigan thought not.

Cllr A Greenwood stated that given the Town Council own the Cricket ground we should have some involvement in their decision not to assist and have Yew Tree Lane properties been considered?

Cllr D Skelton asked in regard to The Yew Tree Court & Cricket Ground suggestions if consideration could be given to improving accessibility if the Cricket Club had indicated interest.

SR - that these could be considered further.

A further suggestion of use of the local primary school St Peters

SR – advised that access restrictions prevented this from being used as a new provision.

SR thanked the Town Council for their time and advised that if they have any ideas for alternative venues to operate the library service from, then could they have discussions with the relevant organisations. If any positive conversations, then

	<p>please pass to her and she will look into them.</p> <p>All Members had generally expressed their concerns at this loss of facility.</p> <p>Cllr R Coleman – Taylor responded to the debate that The Town Council wished to take this away and for Members to give further thought to any possible alternatives and for the Town Clerk to coordinate a formal response to Calderdale Council on this, noting the timescales involved</p>						
2019(TC) 94	<p><b>ITEM 8 - Budget update</b> To receive a report updating Members on the financial position of the Council.</p> <p>Members were presented with an updated Financial Summary indicating a projected year end general reserves figure of £88,300 before any potential future earmarking of reserves of and noted its contents.</p> <p>Cllr M Carrigan thanked the Town Clerk for provision of this information in this format.</p>						
2019(TC)95	<p><b>ITEM 9 - IT Provision</b> To receive a report on the current state of IT provision and to consider establishing a budget of £8,500 in order to deal with the issues currently being experienced</p> <p>Members considered a report for future provision of IT and recognised the need for this.</p> <p>Cllr M Taylor reaffirmed his support given at General Purposes Committee to assist in this process given some experience in this area.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr M Carrigan and Seconded by Cllr R Coleman – Taylor Unanimous</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> : That a budget provision of up to £8500 is made and that this be Earmarked for IT project, and that this sum is moved from General Reserves, and that in doing so the Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer be authorised to prepare a brief for future IT provision and to seek quotations from a minimum of four potential suppliers, and that the General Purposes Committee be delegated to authorise the procurement of new IT provision and to advise Full Council in due course of such procurement having been made.</p>						
2019 (TC) 96	<p><b>ITEM 10 - GRANTS</b> To ratify the decisions made by the Amenities Committee in awarding grants to:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="461 1599 1374 2054"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="461 1599 1038 1653">Applicant</th> <th data-bbox="1038 1599 1374 1653">Amount Requested</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="461 1653 1038 1720">Age Concern Todmorden Reg Charity 1145993</td> <td data-bbox="1038 1653 1374 1720">£6,854 over two years</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="461 1720 1374 2054"> <p>Project funding to raise profile of Age Concern Todmorden and to improve effectiveness and sustainability in Community.</p> <p>Project two years from September.</p> <p>Total project cost £8,854.</p> <p>Other Funders £1000 – Hillyard Trust £1000 – Charles and Elsie Sykes Foundation</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Applicant	Amount Requested	Age Concern Todmorden Reg Charity 1145993	£6,854 over two years	<p>Project funding to raise profile of Age Concern Todmorden and to improve effectiveness and sustainability in Community.</p> <p>Project two years from September.</p> <p>Total project cost £8,854.</p> <p>Other Funders £1000 – Hillyard Trust £1000 – Charles and Elsie Sykes Foundation</p>	
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To support unique Drop In service once per week  
Secure staff time to improve high street presence  
Distribute information  
Build sustainable links

Cllr The Revd G Kent welcomed this grant application and affirmed what valuable support given to the town, but felt a more effective review of outcomes is needed both in respect of our specific grant, but also generally what the grant beneficiaries achieve on all of their work.

Cllr D Skelton agreed with this statement

Cllr M Taylor advised of the restriction to fund only for this year as part of delegated powers to GP , given a two year request if Full council were indeed minded to do so they could consider this evening agreeing to fund the full amount requested over the two years.

Cllr D Skelton advised that in view already of substantial spend against limited resources and the need recognised already to review the Grants policy it would be previous to prejudge the outcome in terms of awarding grants out of next year's budget prior to determining the make-up of this for next financial year and to have carried out this Policy review to determine the effectiveness of grants overall.

Cllr S Martin offered to assist in the revision of policy process given his own area of experience in this.

Cllr R Coleman- Taylor advised that as Deputy Mayor she had attended the AGM and was aware of the extent of excellent work carried out by Age Concern Todmorden

The Town Clerk advised the meeting that this Item in future should be brought as an information advice only item rather than needing ratification given Delegated powers to General Purposes Committee already but would make this clearer in the review of Overall Scheme of Delegation under review.

The Town Clerk also advised that Amenities Committee had already tasked a review of the Grants Policy.

#### **ITEM 11 - Todmorden Bandstand**

To receive an update of the Scrutiny decision by Calderdale Council and to consider any actions of support for local led initiatives.

Cllr D Skelton referred to the minutes of the Calderdale Council Scrutiny Decision already circulated which made the process clear of what was going to be happening.

Cllr T Roberts advised that he had not attended in an official capacity as a representative of the Town Council but another group and that these minutes were therefore inaccurate in that regard and asked the Town Clerk to bring this to the attention of Calderdale Council.

Cllr M Taylor stated to Members that this Town Council was in a unique situation in that it could either do nothing and see the Bandstand demolished or step in and take ownership of the Bandstand and proceeded to put a motion to Full Council to consider as follows:-

1. The Town Council believes that the Bandstand in Centre Vale Park should be retained and renovated.

2. If Calderdale MBC is unwilling to undertake this work, then Todmorden Town Council should take over the Bandstand from Calderdale to ensure it is not demolished. To that end the Clerk be instructed to write to Calderdale MBC to start discussions on the transfer of the Bandstand to Todmorden Town Council.
3. The Town Council should launch a community effort to raise funds and offers of help to renew the bandstand, along with proper security features to protect it in the future.
4. Todmorden Town Council should also be prepared to borrow money to contribute towards the repairs. In negotiating with Calderdale, Todmorden should seek a contribution towards the cost of restoration from Calderdale MBC equal to the cost of demolition and also Calderdale MBC should be asked to pass over the budget that goes with the bandstand.

which prompted further debate

Cllr Revd G Kent advised that many residents had approached him and commented that what was required was a multi-use facility for use by all and a facility requiring less maintenance and costs going forward

Cllr D Skelton advised that he wished to support the efforts of community groups taking this forward but cannot see a position where the Council could take this on . Whilst the Town Council had commissioned the condition and feasibility report to facilitate determining the way forward, we cannot justify borrowing or future revenue commitment and reminded Council that this was not our building.

Cllr A Hollis expressed concern that this motion had been presented to Council without prior advice and agreed that it would be great if the Bandstand could be saved and noted that the group working on this had been formally constituted and was actively working on proposals.

Cllr A Hollis would like to know from Calderdale Council what was being proposed in terms of performance space and specifically about the acoustics proposed.

Cllr M Holmstedt – noted that this had been an issue since 1999 and advised that the Building still retained original construction features and therefore that the group was taking forward discussions with English Heritage regarding grants and listing. Cllr M Holmstedt advised that within the condition and feasibility report commissioned by the Town Council a figure of £150k was mentioned re material cost of renovation.

Cllr A Greenwood – advised that we should move into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and could not vote for an open cheque on a resolution where no notice had been given.

Cllr M Doyle was mindful of a petition of over 2000 signatures supporting the saving of the bandstand that had been collected.

Having provided the opportunity for Members to comment Cllr R Coleman Taylor then returned to the motion presented

Proposed by Cllr Taylor and Seconded by Cllr M Holmstedt.

1. The Town Council believes that the Bandstand in Centre Vale Park should be retained and renovated.

2019(TC)98	<p>2. If Calderdale MBC is unwilling to undertake this work, then Todmorden Town Council should take over the Bandstand from Calderdale to ensure it is not demolished. To that end the Clerk be instructed to write to Calderdale MBC to start discussions on the transfer of the Bandstand to Todmorden Town Council.</p> <p>3. The Town Council should launch a community effort to raise funds and offers of help to renew the bandstand, along with proper security features to protect it in the future.</p> <p>4. Todmorden Town Council should also be prepared to borrow money to contribute towards the repairs. In negotiating with Calderdale, Todmorden should seek a contribution towards the cost of restoration from Calderdale MBC equal to the cost of demolition and also Calderdale MBC should be asked to pass over the budget that goes with the bandstand.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>For the motion 7 Against the motion 10 - Motion not carried</b></p>
2019(TC)99	<p><b>ITEM 12 - Report from outside bodies</b> To receive any update reports from Councillors appointed to outside bodies.</p> <p>Cllr M Holmstedt updated Members on the following:</p> <p>Todmorden Information Centre – AGM has recently been held and officers have been appointed and that they have launched a “Friends Group” and Town Councillors are welcome to join this group noting that they are also recruiting for volunteers.</p> <p>That the already established Friends of the Town Hall Group are organising a Health Awareness event in two weeks’ time which will include stalls, exhibitions and charity stalls.</p> <p>Cllr A Greenwood reminded Members of the Hepstonstall Exhibitions Charity and Clough School Trust that financial help with assistance for getting back into work may be available.</p>
2019(TC)100	<p><b>ITEM 13 - Staffing Update</b> To receive an update for the Chair of Staffing Committee on recruitment for the vacant posts of Assistant Town Clerk and Administrative Assistant.</p> <p>Cllr. M Carrigan Chair of Staffing Committee advised Members that interviews had taken place and that Nicola Pugh was appointed as the Administrative Assistant and Susan Miles as the Assistant Town Clerk. Cllr. M Carrigan welcomed Nicola who has started today and advised Members that Susan will start on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019.</p>
2019 (TC)101	<p><b><u>ITEM 14 - CHEQUES</u></b></p> <p>To receive the schedule of cheque payments that require signing in accordance with the Financial Regulations.</p> <p>Four cheques were presented for signature to the value of £5431.11</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr. R Coleman Taylor and Seconded by Cllr M Holmstedt Unanimous</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That the cheques be signed in accordance with Council procedures.</p>
2019 (TC)102	<p><b><u>ITEM 15 - 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>• Welfare Network – Cllr M Holmstedt to bring back report</li> <li>• Patient Participation Group – Cllr M Holmstedt to bring back report</li> <li>• Doctors Appointments to go to General Purposes Committee for discussion (Cllr M Holmstedt did advise that the Health Centre had experienced some recruitment issues but this was now resolved with more doctors in post.)</li> </ul> <p>Proposed by Cllr D Skelton and seconded by Cllr C Potter                      Unanimous</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That an item for Doctors Appointments be included on the next General Purposes Committee</p>
2019 (TC)103	<p><b><u>DATE OF THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING</u></b></p> <p>The date of the next meeting of the Council is due to be held on Wednesday 6<sup>TH</sup> November 2019 at 7:30pm in the Council Chambers, Todmorden Town Hall, Todmorden. Meeting closed at 9.10pm.</p> <p>There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.10pm</p>