



## MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**Meeting:** Thursday, 15 December 2022 at 7.15 pm in The Octagon, Pavilion Gardens, Buxton

**Present:** Councillor O Cross (Chair)

Councillors R Abbotts, T Ashton, R Atkins, R Baker, A Barrow, J Collins, C Farrell, S Gardner, D Greenhalgh, L Grooby, M Hall, P Hardy, D Kerr, K Kirkham, D Lomax, A McKeown, R McKeown, G Oakley, P Roberts, K Sizeland, F Sloman, M Stone, E Thrane, J Todd, G Wharmby, J Wharmby and S Young

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Burton, J Douglas, L Dowson, S Flower, J Haken, I Huddleston, E Kelly, T Kemp, E Lawson, E Longden, J Perkins, R Quinn and E Siddall

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Council held a minute's silence in memory of Private Josh Kennington from Glossop of the Mercian Regiment and former Mayor of Glossop, Ian Highton.

**23/10 TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST ON ANY MATTER BEFORE THE COUNCIL**  
(Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations made.

**23/11 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**  
(Agenda Item 3)

It was moved by Councillor Anthony McKeown and seconded by Councillor Greenhalgh that the minutes of the ordinary and annual meetings held on 5 May 2022 be approved as a correct record.

The motion was carried and the Mayor was authorised to sign the minutes.

**23/12 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
(Agenda Item 4)

The Mayor took the opportunity to thank people across the High Peak for selflessly giving their time, effort and skills to help others to support local communities and meet the fresh challenges raised by the cost of living. This included elected members, council officers, volunteer and community groups, local charities, churches and businesses.

23/13

**QUESTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

(Agenda Item 5)

**1. Question received from Cllr Nigel Gourlay for the Leader of the Council**

“What progress has been made by the Council to resolve the issues around 9 High Street, Chapel-en-le-Frith, which for almost two years have blighted the centre of this historic market town.”

**Response from the Leader of the Council:**

“The Council has exercised its powers under the Building Acts to deal with the immediate issue of the dangerous structure. The powers under that Act only allow us to take the minimum steps to remove the danger to the public. The propping and traffic lights achieve this, albeit that they create another problem in terms of the appearance and traffic issues. However, powers under the Building Act do not permit us to take action to undertake a permanent repair. The costs of the traffic lights and propping are being pursued with the owner.

Initially we had some very positive dialogue with the owner in terms of commissioning a structural survey and determining the cause of the problem and the necessary steps to remedy it. Unfortunately, however, the owner has failed to commission the necessary building works to date and is no longer engaging with the Council.

The Council initially reviewed an approach under the relevant conservation legislation, taking into account the building’s location on the edge of the Conservation area, however, upon taking advice from legal counsel, the Council is currently considering an alternative approach under other legislation which may be more appropriate to require a permanent repair to be undertaken. However, the powers available to the Council are limited and there are of course risks and costs involved. We have been discussing with our legal team the most appropriate powers to use and we believe that we now have a way forward and have taken initial steps which involve informal approaches to the owner.

If these approaches do not result in a positive response we will progress to more formal action.

An Individual Executive Decision report is currently being prepared for Members to update them on the current position and authorise officers to take any necessary further action.”

In response to a supplementary question the Leader of the Council stated that options would be explored with officers with regards to support for businesses/parish councils affected in the area.

**2. Question received from Mr Mark Wilson for the Leader of the Council**

“I would like to know what progress, if any, has been made by the Council in resolving the issue of the playpark at South Head Drive, Chapel-en-le-Frith?”

**Response from the Leader of the Council:**

“The condition of the land has been a cause of concern for some time.

The Council has taken part in a range of discussions with the current owners of the land (Barratts Homes), to try and reach a point where the Council would be willing to take on the future ownership and management of the land in line with the terms of the Section 106 agreement.

These discussions have also included a public meeting earlier this year and a range of condition surveys for some aspects of the land to ascertain the costs of bringing the line up to a satisfactory condition, with sufficient funding to deal with any of the potential future liabilities of the land at cost to the current owners rather than the local tax payer.

At this time, we have not yet been able to reach a satisfactory agreement with the current owners to consider a transfer of the land to the local authority. The Council remains in discussions with the current land owner to try and resolve the situation.”

In response to a supplementary question the Leader of the Council stated that the Council’s officers would work with the Police with regards to instances of anti-social behaviour.

**23/14 TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AUDIT AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE**  
(Agenda Item 6)

**23/14a EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021/22**  
(Agenda Item 6a)

It was moved by Councillor Thrane and seconded by Councillor Cross that the External Audit Plan be noted.

When put to the meeting it was RESOLVED accordingly.

**23/14b ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2021/22**  
(Agenda Item 6b)

It was moved by Councillor Thrane and seconded by Councillor Cross that the Annual Treasury Management Report 2021/22 be approved.

When put to the meeting it was RESOLVED accordingly.

**23/14c      TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATES**

(Agenda Item 6c)

It was moved by Councillor Thrane and seconded by Councillor Cross that the treasury management updates be noted. Councillor Thrane explained that as the September meeting of the Audit and Regulatory meeting was cancelled the report for this meeting was circulated to members but was not able to be formally moved.

When put to the meeting it was RESOLVED accordingly.

**23/15      TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LICENSING COMMITTEE**

(Agenda Item 7)

**23/15a     TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING POLICY REVIEW - RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION**

(Agenda Item 7a)

It was moved by Councillor Sloman and seconded by Councillor Baker that the revised Policy be approved as detailed in the report subject to the following amendments:

Vehicle Emissions/Air Quality

- At first application – Vehicles must meet or exceed Euro 6 (Diesel) Euro 4 (Petrol) emissions standards from 2025.
- At renewal – From 01/04/2027 vehicle licences will not be renewed in respect of any licensed vehicle that does not meet or exceed Euro 6 emissions standards (Diesel) Euro 4 (Petrol) emissions standards.

Vehicle Livery

- That the Policy be revised to allow vehicles to be grey or silver in overall colour.

When put to the meeting it was RESOLVED accordingly.

**23/16      TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

(Agenda Item 8)

**23/16a     REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

(Agenda Item 8a)

It was moved by Councillor Gardner and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the proposed revised Code of Conduct be adopted.

When put to the meeting it was RESOLVED accordingly.

The meeting concluded at 7.32 pm

**MAYOR**