



Skipton Town Council

EXTRA ORDINARY FULL COUNCIL Council Chamber

Wednesday 12th August 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors P Madeley (Chairman), A Barrett, S Bentley, G Bell, J Dawson, W Feather, R G Heseltine, A Hickman, E Jaquin, C Nash, R Judge, K McIntyre, D Painter, D Shaw.

Dave Parker (Chief Officer), Jenny Dean (Acting Administration & Member Services Manager)

Present: Lesley Tate (Craven Herald), Larry Mowlam, Wendy Mowlam, Trevor Burton, Stefan Bodnarczuk, Mark Robinson, Kerry Wheelwright and Judy Probst (Skipton Town Council Staff)

At the beginning of the meeting Cllr Nash asked to raise a point of order, that she did not feel a physical meeting of the Council was appropriate during the on going COVID-19 pandemic, and that the meeting should not be taking place and that Cllr Solloway was not able to attend as he did not have enough notice. The Mayor said that due to the serious nature of the meeting he had asked for a physical meeting to be held.

The Chief Officer reported that all notices for the meeting had been sent within the Statutory Deadline, so proper notice had been given for the meeting. Whilst holding a physical meeting was against NALC and SLCC Guidelines, it was still a legal meeting and staff had undertaken a risk assessment and put mitigation measures in place.

Cllr Nash left the meeting.

1. To accept representations from the Public between 7.00 pm and 7.15 pm.

Trevor Burton read a statement on behalf of all Skipton Town Council Staff, and a separate statement from Joel Henderson. Hard copies of the statement were distributed to those present.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr Andy Solloway

3. To record declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda.

None.

4. To consider the recommendations of the Chief Officer relating to requests for dispensations to Members on items requiring a declaration of pecuniary and non pecuniary interests.

None

5. To consider a motion of no confidence in the Leader of the Council. Motion proposed by Cllr Darren Shaw and seconded by Cllr Richard Judge.

Following an opening statement from the Mayor, Cllr Shaw said he wished to make some amendments to his original motion. He read his motion in full.

The Chief Officer explained the process of the proceedings, as set out in the Standing Orders.

Cllr Shaw proposed his original motion, and it was seconded by Cllr Judge.

Cllr Shaw proposed an amendment to his original motion, that being that the words 'and staff' be removed from the two places where it was stated in the motion. This amendment was proposed by Cllr Shaw, and seconded by Cllr Judge.

Cllr Feather wished to make a statement regarding information relating to the ongoing investigation.

The Chief Officer objected to this, as details were confidential and not for public record.

Cllr Barratt made a statement to Members

Cllr Dawson made a statement to Members

Cllr Feather made a statement, mentioning the confidential investigation.

The Chief Officer objected, due to reasons of confidentiality.

Members **VOTED** on the amendment. The amendment was passed with 6 votes.

Cllr Shaw made a statement on his reasons for putting forward his motion.

Cllr Jaquin made a statement to Members

Cllr Bentley made a statement to Members

Cllr Hickman raised a point of order, that he did not know that Cllr Shaw would be mentioning him in his statement regarding his reasons for putting the motion forward.

The Chief Officer again explained the process, and that Members would be voting on the motion, based on the reasons contained in the motion, as amended.

Cllr Barratt made a statement to Members

Cllr Heseltine made a statement to Members.

The meeting moved to the vote on the Motion. The Mayor requested a recorded vote.

Members who voted in favour of the Motion were:

Cllrs Shaw, Judge, Painter, Feather, Bentley and Hickman

Members who voted against the Motion were:

Cllrs McIntyre, Dawson, Heseltine, Barratt and Bell

Cllr Jaquin abstained, and so did Cllr Madeley, The Mayor.

The Motion was passed with 6 votes to 5.

A discussion followed on the appropriate appointment of a Leader of the Council, once the position became available. The Mayor is currently Deputy Leader, if he were to step into the role of Leader, the Deputy Mayor would need to step into the position of Mayor and Chairman. The Mayor stated that he did not wish to be Leader.

Members **RESOLVED** that as there is no legal requirement to have a Leader, that the position would remain vacant and be discussed at a future meeting.

Cllr Painter thanked the Council for the Funds that were allocated to the Mortimer family. Cllr Barratt also thanked the Council for the funds that were allocated for homeless people living in Skipton.

Cllrs **AGREED** that an update should go to all Councillors on funds that had been allocated from the Trusts.

The meeting closed at 8:02 pm