



# Skipton Town Council

## FULL COUNCIL

**Thursday 13 August 2020 at 7.00 pm**

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

Officers: Dave Parker (Chief Officer) and Jenny Dean (Acting Administration & Member Services Manager)

6 Candidates for the vacant seat on West Ward

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

None

2. To accept apologies for absence.

None

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 representations from candidates who have expressed an interest in the vacant seat in the West Ward of the Council - and to undertake a process of co-option to fill the vacancy.

Members **NOTED** an explanation of the voting process from the Chief Officer. Each Candidate will make a presentation, then voting to take place, with the successful candidate requiring an absolute majority. Names were drawn to determine the order of the presentations

- Ruksana Mahmood gave her presentation
- Timothy Forman gave his presentation
- Jahngeer Choudary gave his presentation
- Johnathan Stafford gave his presentation
- Hemalatha Shanmugan gave her presentation
- Brian McDaid gave his presentation

Following two rounds of voting Ruksana Mahmood was co-opted as Skipton Town Councillor representing the West Ward.

6. To note the procedure for the completion of the Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return for year-ending 31st March 2020

Members **NOTED** the order of proceedings required to complete the approval of the Council's Annual Governance and Accounting Return submission

7. To note and approve the Council's Financial Statements for year-ending 31st March 2020

Members **NOTED** and **APPROVED** the Council's Financial Statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and **AUTHORISED** the Chairman and the Chief Officer to sign the statement on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Feather requested that more detailed information should be included in the Financial Statements. The Chief Officer explained that the Financial Statement were produced by the Internal Auditor, and that changing the format would need to be discussed with him.

Cllr Judge requested that a more comprehensive breakdown of staff salaries be included.

Cllr Painter asked for clarification on the rent payments made for the Town Hall Office Accommodation, which the Chief Officer provided.

Cllr Judge asked for the detail on what the funds taken from the Council Reserves was spent on. As this question was not asked in advance the Chief Officer didn't have the exact detail, but could provide it.

8. To approve the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2019/2020

Members **CONSIDERED** and **AGREED** the nine individual governance statements as set out in Section 1 of the Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

Members **APPROVED** the completion of the Annual Governance Statement and **AUTHORISED** the Chairman and the Chief Officer to sign the documentation.

9. To approve the Council's Accounting Statements for 2019/2020

Members **APPROVED** the Council's Accounting Statement for 2019/2020

Members **AUTHORISED** the Chairman to sign the confirmation of approval.

10. To consider matters relating to alleged electoral irregularities at the May 2019 elections

Members **NOTED** the report received from Cllrs Jaquin, Dawson and Hickman.

Members **AGREED** that an internal inquiry should be conducted, with the aim of completing this inquiry by the end of September to enable the findings to be discussed at the October Full Council Meeting.

Members **AGREED** that as the Chair of Audit & Scrutiny Cllr Nash would lead the internal inquiry.

Members **AGREED** that the group of Cllrs taking part should be formed from Members of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee.

As some Members of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee may have a conflict of interest with the inquiry, Members **AGREED** that a full Audit & Scrutiny Committee Meeting be called, and that at the meeting any Members must declare any conflicts of interest. The working group, who will carry out the inquiry, will be made up of any remaining committee members. But this group must have at least three members to be quorate.

11. To note matters Members may wish to be included on a future agenda

Cllr Barratt suggested that letters of thanks be sent to all this evening's candidates, all Members **AGREED**.

Cllr Jaquin requested that at Council should publish a list of the Statutory Services the Council provides to be made available at the next Full Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm