**MOSSLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**16 July 2025 at 7.00pm**

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|  | **Present**Councillor Dave Jones (Chair) (In the Chair); Councillors Hamza Aslam, Dean Aylett, Mary Mitchell and Pat Mullin.8 members of the public were present at the meeting. |
|  | The Chair extended a welcome to those members of the public present at the meeting and expressed satisfaction at the return to George Lawton Hall for future Town Council meetings. |
| **2774** | **Apologies for Absence**Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Amelia Bayliss, Stephen Homer and Frank Travis. |
| **2775** | **Declarations of Interest**Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.Councillors Hamza Aslam and Mary Mitchell declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 4 (Application for Financial Assistance from Fairtrade Mossley) as the Town Council’s appointed representatives on the Fairtrade Mossley Steering Group. Councillors Aslam and Mitchell left the meeting and took no part in the determination of the application. |
| **2776** | **Public Engagement**A local resident attended the meeting to raise the following issues:BrookfieldsThe potential difficulty in developing the site in view of restricted access, the condition of the site including water courses and the need to protect existing trees and wildlife.In response, the Chair pointed out the overwhelming objection from the Mossley community to the development of the site and the making by Tameside MBC of a Woodland Protection Order on the site. Details of the Order would be considered later during the meeting (See minute 2785 below,)Mossley ClockThe Mossley Town Council Clock located on the Pennine Medical Centre ceasing to operate.The Clerk outlined action which had been considered by the Town Council since 2023, but which had not been followed up on grounds of the substantial cost involved.The Chair undertook to re-open discussions about the repair of the clock in consultation with the Clerk. Bus Stop on Stockport RoadExpressing concern about the length of time the temporary bus stop on Stockport Road (in the vicinity of ‘The Spice of Life’ premises) has been in place. The Clerk undertook to make enquiries on behalf of the resident. Egmont St Community GardenLesley and Steve Arnold-Rigby attended the meeting to advise the Town Council about recent acts of vandalism and ant-social behaviour at the Egmont St Community Garden.Members were informed of discussions which had taken place with the Police and officers at Tameside MBC and arrangements made to install CCTV at the community garden.The Chair indicated that formal discussions about concerns and action to reduce vandalism and ant-social behaviour at the Egmont St Community Garden should take place with interested parties, including Tameside MBC, the Police and the Town Council.The Chair added that he would engage with Headteachers of all local schools inviting them to advise children prior to the Summer break, of the value of amenities such as the community garden and the detriment to the community as a result of vandalism and ant-social behaviour. The Chair undertook also to publish concerns on relevant social media.Policing in the TownThe Clerk informed members that the Police had been invited to the meeting but were unable to attend for operational reasons.The Chair emphasised the need for regular dialogue with the Police about policing issues in the town. |
| **2777** | **Applications for Financial Assistance**Fairtrade Mossley Steering Group (£350)Members were invited to consider an application (copies of which had been circulated) from the Fairtrade Mossley Steering Group for a ‘small’ grant to promote Fairtrade issues with local schools.Janet Davies attended the meeting to present the application and respond to any questions from members. |
| **2778** | **TRU Mossley Station Replacement**The Chair reported on the extensive discussions and public consultations carried out since the last meeting initiated at the specific request of the Town Council.The Chair gave an assurance that the Town Council was making every endeavour to ensure that the community was fully informed and involved in the process.In due course, a formal public meeting would take place involving Network Rail at which the final proposals would be presented.In response to a question from a member of the public present at the meeting, the Chair advised that additional measures to inform the public were under consideration including via the Mossley Browser and a soon to be published Town Council newsletter.  |
|  | RESOLVED: | That the report be noted. |
| **2779** | **Minutes** |
|  | RESOLVED: | That the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 4 June 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.  |
| **2780** | **Financial Update to 30 June 2024**The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) showing the financial position as at 30 June 2025 and listing all bills paid since the last meeting as follows: |
|  | Mossley Home Improvements | £26.08 |
|  | Mossley Town Team | £50.00 |
|  | Mossley Methodist Church | £45.00 |
|  | HMRC | £130.60 |
|  | Zoom Reimbursement | £16.79 |
|  | Mossley Methodist Church | £75.00 |
|  | Mossley Community Association | £37.50 |
|  | M Iveson (Salary and Expenses) | £529.15 |
|  | Robertson Event Management | £50.00 |
|  | Total | £960.12 |
|  | RESOLVED: | That the report be noted. |
| **2781** | **Mossley Remembrance Sunday – 9 November 2025**The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) inviting the Town Council to consider arrangements for the Mossley Remembrance Service on Sunday 9 November 2025. |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That the report be noted. |
|  |  | (2) | That the arrangements for the Mossley Remembrance Service outlined in the report be approved. |
|  |  | (3) | That the cost of providing a wreath to be presented by the Chair or his representative, the maroons to be fired at the commencement and conclusion of the period of silence and any other expenditure associated with the event, be approved.  |
| **2782** | **VJ Day Celebrations**Members were invited to consider authorising any arrangements to mark the 80th Anniversary of the ending of the Second World War and Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) on Friday, August 15, 2025. |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Councillor Frank Travis be authorised to make any arrangements to mark the 80th Anniversary of the ending of the Second World War and Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) on Friday, August 15, 2025. |
|  |  | (2) | That any necessary expenditure be authorised. |
| **2783** | **Christmas Events in Mossley 2025**The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) outlining recent arrangements made for Christmas events in Mossley and inviting the Town Council to consider future arrangements.In considering the report, the following points were made:* Initial arrangements for Christmas events had been considered by members of the Events Committee and a report would be delivered to the September meeting of the Town Council for consideration.
* Consideration was being given to making the Mossley and Micklehurst events more comparable and community based.
* Indoor opportunities for the events were being considered.
* There was a need to provide improved lighting on the Mossley and Micklehurst trees.
* Consideration was being given to providing a seasonal market on Sunday 30 November 2025.
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|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That the report be noted. |
|  |  | (2) | That the Micklehurst and Mossley events be held on Friday and Saturday​ 28 and 29 November respectively. |
|  |  | (3) | That the necessary expenditure be authorised. |
| **2784** | **Mossley Neighbourhood Plan Update**The Chair reported on the series of public meetings hosted by the Town Council which had taken place being over recent weeks aimed at engaging with the community on the following issues to be covered in formulating the Mossley Neighbourhood Plan.HousingYouth and CommunityTransportHeritage and CultureEnvironmentTown CentresThe Chair acknowledged that the preparation of the plan was a long-term initiative on the part of the Town Council. The findings and views expressed by the community at the recent meetings would be incorporated into a report for subsequent distribution throughout the community.Additional meetings would take place in the future and the Chair had made arrangements to visit all local schools to seek the vital views of young people in the town.A suggestion was made that the Town Council should use the Mossley Browser to publicise future Neighbourhood Plan meetings and events. |
|  | RESOLVED: | That the report be noted. |
| **2785** | **Local Council Funding for Neighbourhood Planning Initiatives**The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) advising members that following the 2025 spending review, the Government had withdrawn all support for neighbourhood planning (grant funding and new technical support requests) for 2025 onwards. |
|  | RESOLVED: | That the report be noted with regret. |
| **2786** | **Public Benches in Mossley**At the last meeting, a member of the public had expressed concern about the condition and lack of maintenance of public benches in the town. The Chair advised the Council that the broader issue of benches in the town would be considered at a future meeting of the Town Council following discussions with the Tameside MBC Mossley Ward representatives.Since the meeting, Tameside MBC Councillor Taf Sharif had made arrangements for 3 new ones to be installed at Top Mossley Park. The benches have been well received by the community.  Resident concerns about the condition of the benches at Jacob’s ladder had also being addressed.  The two benches on the path at Jacob's Ladder were be replaced with new ones.  Councillor Sharif was also arranging for Grounds Maintenance to remove the overhanging vegetation, and clear the weeds in this area.This will be repeated in the winter period.The resident raising the issue had been informed and the community advised via social media. |
|  | RESOLVED: | That the report be noted. |
| **2787** | **Britannia Mill**The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) inviting the Council to consider recommending action in respect of the condition of Britannia Mill. |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That for the reasons outlined in the report, Tameside MBC be invited to take urgent enforcement action by whatever means to secure improvements to the currently vacant Britannia Mill. |
|  |  | (2) | That the Clerk in consultation with the Chair be requested to convey the Town Council’s decision to Tameside MBC. |
| **2788** | **Planning issues**Planning ApplicationsMembers considered the following planning applications: |
|  | (i) | Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) amendments to site layout, site levels and updated house types of planning permission 21/00320/REM on land to the rear of 75-99 Stockport Road Mossley (25/00528/FUL) |
|  | (ii) | Tree works at 30 Three Counties Road Mossley (25/00043/TPO) |
|  | (iii) | Erection of new 3.4m high external canopy, 2.4m fence and access ramp at St George’s Church Of England Primary School Stamford Street (25/00524/FUL) |
|  | (iv) | Discharge of conditions 8 (HGV movements), 14 (annual plan), 29 (safety protocol), 41 (groundwater levels), 42 (private water supply), 51 (annual progress report), 55 (protection of scheduled ancient monument) of planning permission 18/00826/FUL at Buckton Vale Quarry Buckton Vale Road Stalybridge (25/00056/PLCOND) |
|  | (v) | Discharge of Condition 4 (Drainage), Discharge of Condition 5 (Dropped Kerb), Discharge of Condition 6 (Waste) from planning reference 24/01073/FUL at Field Adjacent to Quick Farm Strawberry Lane Mossley (25/00065/PLCOND) |
|  | (vi) | Proposed single storey lean to extension to the side elevation at 42 Spring Mill Drive Mossley (25/00578/CPUD) |
|  | (vi) | Single storey rear extension. The length of the extension from the rear of the original house 2.50m. Maximum height of the extension 2.10m. Maximum height of eaves 2.50m at 42 Spring Mill Drive Mossley (25/00568/HHPD) |
|  | RESOLVED: | That the above planning applications be noted. |
|  | Land to the south side of Carrhill Road, Mossley – Brookfields Woodland Protection Order (2025) (See minute 2770 of 4 June 2025)The Chair reminded members that at the last meeting, it had been reported that Tameside MBC had on 27 May 2025 made the Brookfields Woodland Protection Order, the effect of which is to prohibit the cutting down or damage to any trees included in the order. The Town Council fully supported the order and the Clerk advised Tameside MBC accordingly.Tameside MBC had now advised that an objection to the provisional Order has now been received.   This means that before the Order could be confirmed the objection will need to be considered.  A report would be presented to the next meeting of the Speakers Panel (Planning) on Wednesday 23 July 2025 at which members of the panel will determine whether or not the provisional Order should be confirmed, not confirmed or amended before confirming.  The Officer’s Report would be made available to view on Tameside MBC Council website 7 days before the date of the meeting.The Chair added that he together with Councillor Jack Homer would be speaking at the forthcoming panel in support of the order being confirmed. |
|  | RESOLVED: | That the report be noted. |
|  | Activity on the Stamford Road land at the traffic lights/San Giorgio Junction = UpdateThe Chair reported that following expressions of concern about works being carried out on land at Stamford Road at the traffic lights/San Giorgio Junction, investigations had concluded that fence-holes were being dug to erect a fence to contain the site. The substantive building works for which planning permission had been granted would involve significant earth moving for which pre commencement conditions would need to be met prior to any works commencing.All work at the site had subsequently ceased and the developer advised of his obligations. |
|  | RESOLVED: | That the report be noted. |
| **2789** | **Chair’s Announcements**The Chair reported as follows:* A series of neighbourhood Plan meetings had taken place to seek initial views of the community on a variety of issues to be included in the plan. It was acknowledged that the adoption of the final plan would take a considerable period of time.
* The Town Council had facilitated a series of meetings and consultations to address concerns from the community about the Transpennine Route Upgrade and in particular about the proposed new rail station. In due course, a formal public meeting would take place involving Network Rail at which the final proposals would be presented.
* Assistance was being given to Micklehurst residents following concerns about the ownership and fencing of land in the locality.
* Attempts were being made to improve the cleanliness of streets in Mossley including gully cleaning.
* The Town Council had adopted an ‘Overdevelopment’ statement which could be viewed on the Town Council website via the following link:

[Housing Overdevelopment in Mossley – Mossley Town Council](https://mossley-tc.gov.uk/housing-overdevelopment-in-mossley/)* A series of plans and policies covering ‘Mossley Capital of Culture’; ‘No More Eyesores’; a ‘Possible People’s Centre at Mossley Youth Base’; and ‘The SUM [Spruce Up Mossley] Project’: A Proposal to clean up the Town’ had been produced for discussion and would be published in due course.
* Meetings with Mossley Foodbank were being arranged with a view to a closer partnership with the Town Council being established.
* Consideration was being given to a programme of events involving ‘hard to reach’ groups operating in the town.

In concluding his report, the Chair invited the Council to reconsider the date of the next Town Council meeting and suggested that the meeting take place on Tuesday 2 September 2025 instead of the previously agreed date of Wednesday 3 September 2025. |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That the Chair be thanked for his report. |
|  |  | (2) | That the next Town Council meeting be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 2 September 2025 at George Lawton Hall. |
| **2790** | **Updates and reports from Town Team and Other Agencies**The following updates on Town Team activities were delivered:* Flower beds and hanging baskets in various parts of the Town had been planted up.
* Volunteers from ITV had been involved in various environmental activities in the Town.
* The Town Team would be hosting a volunteering event on Saturday 6 September 2025.
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|  | RESOLVED: | That the report be noted. |
| **2791** | **Correspondence**The Clerk reported that Arc4 had been appointed to support Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council’s Housing Need Assessment.    As part of the stakeholder consultation, a questionnaire had been issued for the Town Council as a stakeholder to complete and send back.The deadline for returning the questionnaire was Friday, 15th of August 2025.   The Clerk had been asked to send the questionnaire to the most appropriate person in the organisation. |
|  | RESOLVED: | That the Clerk in consultation with the Chair be requested to arrange for the completion and return of the questionnaire and to forward a copy of the completed response to all members for information. |
| **2792** | **Application for Financial Assistance**Fairtrade Mossley Steering Group (£350)Members considered the ‘small grant’ application from the Fairtrade Mossley Steering Group to promote Fairtrade issues with local schools, |
|  | RESOLVED: | (1) | That a ‘small grant’ of £350 be awarded to the Fairtrade Mossley Steering Group to promote Fairtrade issues with local schools. |
|  |  | (2) | That in view of the direct benefit to the area, part of the area or to some or all its inhabitants, the expenditure be met from Section 137 funding. |

The meeting concluded at 9.05pm

Chair