

**REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS,
THORNE ON TUESDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2006.**

Present: Cllr. M.Holt-Taylor (Chair)

Cllrs. P.Best, A.Brookes, J. Cresswell, C.Dallas, F.Dallas, I.Edwards, M.Oldknow, P.Richardson, R.Walker, C.Williams.

1091. APOLOGIES

Apologies were declared as follows:

Cllr. J.Martland – unwell

Cllr. C.Taylor-Hatem – work commitment

Cllr. M.Williams – family commitment

RESOLVED: That these apologies be accepted for attendance purposes.

1092. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. R.Walker and C.Williams – personal interest in Thorne Colliery item as members of Doncaster MBC planning committee.

RESOLVED: That the declarations be accepted.

1093. THORNE COLLIERY

Councillors received a progress report from representatives of UK Coal on their proposals to redevelop the former Thorne Colliery site in Moorends:

- A mixed housing/employment/green space development of over 250 acres was proposed.
- Consultation had been carried out by an independent body over a 3 month period, the results of which had just been reported. These indicated strong support for the proposals because of their employment potential. Also 75% agreed with the housing proposals. Many wanted the mining heritage of the area to be marked in some way and the proposed English Nature Moors Visitors Centre was well supported.
- The developers were concerned however that the Doncaster MBC planners did not seem to favour the housing proposals as this was contrary to the Draft Local Development Framework which was being prepared and the former pit yard was designated a green space.

RESOLVED: That the Council continue to support the project and that the planners be invited to meet the Council to discuss the Local Development framework in relation to regeneration.

1094. MINUTES

Consideration was given to signing the minutes of the Council meeting on Tuesday 18th July 2006, pages 3676 to 3678.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be signed.

1095. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consideration was given to the following reports:

(i) Planning, Environmental, Amenities & Leisure – 5th September 2006.

Pages 3683 to 3686.

It was noted that under clause 1061.3 Cllr. P.Best and Cllr. R.Walker declared a prejudicial rather than a personal interest.

RESOLVED: That the report be approved.

(ii) Policy, Development, Finance & Staffing – 19th September 2006.

Pages 3687 to 3690.

It was reported that under Cllr. M.Williams had paid the entire amount relating to Voucher 149.

It was noted that in the resolution clause 1090 disposal (singular) rather than disposals should be recorded.

RESOLVED: That the report be approved subject to those amendments.

1096. FINANCIAL REPORT AND INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT

Consideration was given to the financial report for months 3 & 4 of the current financial year. It was noted that income and expenditure were essentially on budget with the exception of Cemetery income, which was well below budget. Analysis showed that this was due to a reduced number of funerals compared to last year but that the situation appeared now to be back to normal.

It was further reported that the internal auditor had signed off the accounts on 22nd September 2006 with the following comments:

I have examined the books, records and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006 and carried out the internal audit.

Once again the records were produced to me in a very professional manner and I would compliment your Clerk and staff for the very efficient and very hard work carried out in keeping the books.

I have noted that the accounts staff have received their software training as recommended last year. I would envisage that this should be carried on an annual basis.

With regard to human resource management I would recommend that all staff are instructed to actually take their morning, lunchtime and afternoon breaks. I would also advise that records are kept showing the recommendations made and the actual results. I make this suggestion because of the results of a recent in the European Courts.

RESOLVED: That the financial report and internal auditors report be accepted including the recommendations contained therein.

1097. PARISH BOUNDARIES

A map showing the parish boundaries had been provided by Doncaster MBC at the time they sent out the Parish Review questionnaire. It was noted with concern that in particular Waterside was included with Stainforth for DMBC purposes which was thought to have significantly reduced turnout. Also it was thought that sides of the same road were in different election wards. It was noted that it was the Councils policy for Thorne and Moorends to stay together and no boundary changes should be allowed to compromise this.

RESOLVED: That the views be conveyed to the Doncaster MBC officer responsible for boundary matters who should be invited to the next appropriate meeting to brief Councillors.

1098. THORNE PARK RAILWAY

The Mayor reported that a recent visit to the volunteer run railway in Thorne Park had highlighted the need for a carriage suitable for disabled people. It was reported that discussions were in hand with a private sector company who it was hoped would donate such a carriage.

RESOLVED: That this course of action be approved.

1099. STANDING ORDER 58

Consideration was given to Standing Order 58 in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 58 be invoked to allow Councillors to consider confidential matters.

1100. OVERTIME

Consideration was given to the overtime report for the year to date.

RESOLVED: That the report be approved.

1101. LAND IN THORNE

The owner of some land in Thorne close to existing Council land had been in contact to offer it for sale.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be allowed to commence discussions on the basis that any future purchases would be financed from capital receipts.

End of meeting.