

REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE POLICY, DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.00PM ON TUESDAY 24th MAY 2005 IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, THORNE.

Present: Cllr. R. Walker (Chair)

Cllrs. M.Ball, P.Best, A.Brookes, F.Dallas, I.Edwards, V.Fellowes, M.Holt-Taylor, J.Martland, M.Oldknow, P.Richardson, C.Williams and M.Williams.

751. APOLOGIES

There were apologies from:

Cllr. J. Cresswell – Personal commitment

Cllr. N.Walsh – Personal commitment

RESOLVED: That the apologies be accepted for attendance purposes.

752. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

753. MINUTES

Consideration was given to signing the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th April 2005.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be signed.

754. THORNE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

It was reported that the bridge was handed over on Friday 13th May and brought into operation on a supervised basis on Monday 15th May. There have been a few teething problems largely resulting from communication problems between the controls on either side of the canal and imprecise locking of the gates, both of which are being addressed as a matter of urgency by the Contractor. There was also been the issue of boaters familiarising themselves with the bridge. As far as the general public were concerned they were generally delighted with the bridge, which was being well used. However, Councillors wished to see environmental improvements such as improved lighting, landscaping and minor bank protection works.

Regarding the finances, there was a possible overspend of £7553 but this could be to an extent offset by delay damages against the contractor.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Council turf the area and carry out minor bank protection works in the most economical manner, cost not to exceed £2000 (Highways Act 1980 SS 43,50).**
- ii) That the Council underwrite the possible overspend to a maximum of £7553 (Highways Act 1980, SS43, 50).**
- iii) That a meeting be arranged with Doncaster MBC to discuss possible changes to street lighting, improvements to footways and culverting an adjacent drain.**

755. TRAVIS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Consideration was given to a letter dated 19th April from the Vice Chair of the Trustees of the Travis Education Foundation seeking a Council representative on the Committee of Trustees.

RESOLVED: That Cllr. M.Holt-Taylor be nominated.

756. PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL CHARTER SCHEME

A letter dated 4th May 2005 from the Chair of the DMBC Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee seeking support for the introduction of a scheme whereby Parish and Town Councils can achieve Charter status was discussed.

RESOLVED: That the Council support the PCJCC in asking DMBC to put in place a mechanism whereby Parish Councils can achieve Charter status.

757. MOORENDS HEALTHY LIVING SCHEME

Consideration was given to a letter dated 9th May 2005 from the Doncaster East Primary Care Trust reporting on the progress of the Winning Post refurbishment. It was noted that the main reconstruction works were about to start.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that the question of extension to the rent free period for the Health Authority be deferred until September when the results of their application to Objective 1 would be known.

758. FORMATION OF A FINANCE AND STAFFING WORKING GROUP

Consideration was given to reconvening the above working group initially to carry out:

- *Updating the standing orders.*
- *Staff remuneration.*
- *Internal audit functions.*

RESOLVED: That this group comprise:

Cllr. M.Holt-Taylor

Cllr. M.Williams

Cllr. C.Williams

Cllr. M.Oldknow

Cllr. P.Richardson

With Cllrs. R.Walker and P.Best as substitutes.

759. 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 and the press and public be asked to leave.

760. REVIEW OF ASSETS

760.1 King Street site

It was noted that the sale had stalled because of the DMBC moratorium on greenfield developments. Concern was expressed by Councillors as that this was blighting the Town Centre.

RESOLVED: That a meeting be requested with the planners to try to clarify the situation.

760.2 Moorends Community Centre

It was noted that very extensive refurbishment would be required to bring this building up to an acceptable standard, however it was feared that could be uneconomic.

RESOLVED: That costings be prepared for the necessary works and brought back to the Council for a decision.

End of meeting