

REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE POLICY, DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.00PM ON TUESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2006 IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, THORNE.

Present: Cllr. R.Walker (Chair)

Cllrs. P.Best, A.Brookes, C.Dallas, F.Dallas, M.Holt-Taylor, J.Martland, P.Richardson, C.Taylor-Hatem, C.Williams and M.Williams.

1076. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from:

Cllr. J.Cresswell – personal

Cllr. M.Oldknow - work commitment

Cllr. N.Walsh - illness

RESOLVED: That the apologies be accepted for attendance purposes.

1077. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

Cllr. J. Martland – possible personal interest in the Coulman Bungalow item.

Cllr. C.Taylor-Hatem – possible prejudicial interest in the King Street land item. The member resolved to leave the room for this item.

Cllrs. M and C. Williams – possible personal interest in the Bradholme Park item.

Cllrs. C.Williams and R.Walker – personal interest in all planning items as members of the DMBC planning committee.

RESOLVED: That these declarations of interest be accepted.

1078. PROPOSED BRADHOLME EMPLOYMENT PARK

Councillors heard a presentation by representatives of the above project updating them on progress since they last met the Council about ten months ago, the main points being:

Public consultation - *Wide public consultation has been carried out and over 80% of those consulted were in favour of the development, largely due to the employment opportunities that the development would bring. Those against were mostly nearby residents and their concerns were being addressed.*

Planning - *The planning process was being problematical largely because the finalisation of the Local Development Framework by Doncaster MBC was behind schedule. The developers were concerned that these delays could be resulting in the loss of end users to other areas.*

RESOLVED: That the speakers be thanked for their attendance and that the Council continue to support the proposed development.

1079. MINUTES

Consideration was given to signing the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th July 2006.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be signed.

1080. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Consideration was given to the Statement of Accounts Payable to 31st August 2006, Vouchers 126 to 159 and to 30th September 2006, Vouchers 160 to 186.

Re: Voucher 149. Councillor M. Williams offered to pay for a one off lunchtime food delivery to the four Westmoreland workers as a mark of gratitude for their dedication and hard work.

RESOLVED: That the Accounts Payable be approved.

1081. QUALITY COUNCIL STATUS

It was noted that the Quality Council Status had been confirmed by YRCC in their letter of 3rd July 2006, Thorne-Moorends Town Council being only the second Council in Doncaster MBC to achieve this status.

It was noted that now the Council had achieved Quality Status it could ask Doncaster MBC to delegate certain functions, which would be paid for.

RESOLVED: That the Council contact Doncaster MBC to see what delegated functions it could carry out to the benefit of local ratepayers.

1082. QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

It was reported that a newsletter published at least four times a year is a requirement of the Quality Councils Scheme. Issues 1 and 2 (Winter 2005 and Spring 2006) were distributed through the libraries and put on the website. Councillors wished to have the newsletter widely distributed in order to involve the public as much as possible in the Council's work.

RESOLVED: To have the next quarterly newsletters delivered to all homes in Thorne and Moorends funded from contingency budget (LGA 1972, S.137).

1083. PARISH COUNCILS REVIEW

It was noted that Doncaster MBC had sent a consultation letter to all homes in Thorne and Moorends in conjunction with the Parish Council Review. Councillors pointed out that the Council had never raised any issues with Doncaster MBC as stated in the letters other than that they did not want a review and were happy with the status quo.

RESOLVED: To reiterate the earlier resolution that the Town Council should continue as at present i.e. representing both Thorne and Moorends together.

1084. COULMAN RECREATION GROUND

The Moorends Hornets had requested clarification regarding the Councils plans for external events at Coulman Recreation Ground for this year. It was confirmed that there would be a fireworks display on 5th November with a few fairground rides as last year but with no bonfire. The Circus would probably be accepted if they booked and provided they did not extend onto the

three main football pitches but locating the May/June fair was the responsibility of Thornensians RUFC not the Council.

1085. FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Due to the increase in firework prices this year it would be necessary to revise the budget to give the same display as last year plus music.

RESOLVED: That the budget for the event be increased to £3300, the additional allocation for this year coming from the contingency fund.

1086. 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.

1087. COULMAN BUNGALOW

It was noted that no response had been received from the tenant to the Council's letter of 19th July 2006.

RESOLVED: That a meeting be arranged between the Clerk, the Mayor and the tenant to try to resolve any issues which would be brought back to the Full Council.

1088. THORNE CCTV UPGRADE

It was reported that this part of the SRB6 funded Community Safety Scheme follows the installation of the Moorends system early this year and involves upgrading the existing Thorne system by installing digital recording and then sending the signals back to CAMC as per the Moorends system. This requires the use of a data-link, which is to be installed in the new LIFT building (opposite the existing Thorne control room) by DMBC Network Services.

Council standing orders recommend that three tenders be obtained. However a financial risk assessment was carried out which concluded that the prudent course of action was to invite only Quadrant and Tycho to quote for the project. A report from the CCTV working group, which includes independent experts, was put before the Council.

RESOLVED: That the contract be awarded to Tycho.

1089. STAFFING MATTERS

1089.1 Staff No. Z019

This member of staff resigned as of 30th August 2006.

RESOLVED: That this employee is not replaced at present.

1089.2 Cleaner/Caretakers

It was noted that the number of bookings at certain premises were reduced.

RESOLVED: That consultation be held with appropriate staff regarding partial redeployment.

1089.3 Staff No E004

It was noted that this member of staff wishes to pursue a 2-year part time HNC course and has requested assistance from the Council as employer.

RESOLVED: That the Council pay the course fee and grants one day per week off in term time; the staff member would work off half of these hours (3¾ hours per week).

It was further resolved that a training plan and budget be prepared for next year.

1089.4 Grass cutting

The Councils grass cutting arrangements were reviewed in detail and it was noted that the Council had difficulty in carrying out the work required using its own resources so had to used contractors for certain work. Most of the cemetery grass cutting this season had been by using operatives from Moorland Open but there was a problem providing the required level of supervision at times.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To prepare to go out to tender for grass cutting next April.**
- 2) To employ a part-time (20 hours/week) supervisor for the Moorland Open operatives. Detailed job specification and advertising procedure to be recommended by the Staffing Working Group.**

1090. THORNE TOWN CENTRE SITE

The Clerk reported that at a recent meeting with DMBC planners they had stated that it was likely that sites in the centre of Thorne would be likely to be the first released for development once the Greenfield moratorium was lifted.

RESOLVED: That this report be noted and that no disposal would be pursued at present.

End of meeting.