

REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE POLICY, DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.00PM ON TUESDAY 16th DECEMBER 2008 IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, THORNE.

Present: Cllr. P.Richardson (Chair)

Cllrs. D.Barton, P.Best, B.M.Chowings, C.Dallas, R.Walker, A.Want, C.Williams and M.Williams.

1462. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from:

Cllr. A. Brookes – Holiday
Cllr. G. Garth – Work commitment
Cllr. M. Green – Work commitment
Cllr. K. Redmile – Medical Reasons
Cllr. C. Taylor-Hatem - Personal
Cllr. J. Walker – Personal

RESOLVED: That all the apologies be accepted for attendance purposes.

1463. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

Cllr. C Williams – personal interest in all the planning items as a member of DMBC planning committee and would leave the room for this item.

RESOLVED: That this declaration be accepted.

1464. MINUTES

Consideration was given to signing the minutes of the Policy, Development, Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Tuesday 30th September 2008.

Cllr. Walker said that minute 1438i) referred to a specific planning application and not a general declaration on all planning items as a member of Doncaster MBC.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be signed subject to the above amendment.

1465. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

08/03189/FULM

Erection of strategic distribution centre (Class B8) with ancillary offices (Class B1), car parking, highway infrastructure, vehicle maintenance unit, vehicle wash and fuelling, drainage infrastructure including 2 no balancing ponds and landscaping at Bradholme Farm, Thorne for PPG Land and The Warmfield Group.

RESOLVED: Whilst Thorne-Moorends Town Council is aware of the need for employment opportunities in the area, it has specific objections as follows:

1. The site is in the Countryside Policy Area. There are three industrial sites in Thorne and Moorends which are not yet fully developed, therefore these sites should be fully developed before any Countryside sites are considered or development.
2. Flooding. The site is prone to flooding, and drainage of 200 acres will lead to residential properties having an increased level of flood risk.
3. Transport. J5 of the M18 is a traffic black spot, therefore an industrial site of this size, with the amount of traffic movement proposed, presents an unacceptable safety hazard.
4. The height of the proposed development is still unacceptable at this location.

The Council also resolved that the existing industrial sites in Thorne and Moorends should be fully developed and occupied before any new sites are approved.

1466. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Consideration was given to Statement of Accounts Payable to 30th November 2008, Vouchers 236 to 264.

RESOLVED: That the accounts payable be approved.

1467. ACTIVE FOR LIFE

Consideration was given to this project that was being developed by Thorne-Moorends Regeneration Partnership.

RESOLVED: That the Council support the project.

1468. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Consideration was given to the reports of the revised Freedom of Information Act to be implemented by 31st December 2008.

RESOLVED: That the following documents be adopted:

- 1) Model Publication Scheme.
- 2) Schedule of available information and how it can be accessed by the public.

1469. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS TO 31st MARCH 2008

Consideration was given to the letter from the external auditors dated 24th September 2008 in which the above accounts were signed off.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted and that the auditor's recommendations be implemented with immediate effect.

1470. 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.

1471. 2008-09 BUDGETS

Consideration was given to the draft budgets for 2009-10. It was agreed that at the appropriate to raise charges by 3% and to adopt a similar increase in costs. It was noted that the Council's budget request in respect of capital funds depended upon the outcome of current negotiations with DMBC and other parties.

RESOLVED: That the draft budget be approved in principle with any necessary modification to produce a balanced budget once the extent of the capital fund was clear. The full budget could be approved at a full Council meeting on 27th January 2009.

1472. STAFFING MATTERS

1) Letter dated 19th September 2008 from a Councillor in relation to the training budget.

RESOLVED: That this matter was now closed.

2) Staff member T001

It was noted that following a visit to Occupational Health on 8th December 2008 the staff member had returned to work on 15th December. An agreed action plan was being implemented to ensure the persons well-being but overall capability due to health problems was an issue.

3) Staff member C013

RESOLVED: That in the light of exceptional performance a salary increase of one spinal point be granted from 1st April 2009.

4) Health and Safety

It was noted that all staff responsible for buildings and hirers were to be briefed on appropriate Health and Safety issues.

End of meeting.