

THORNE MOORENDS TOWN COUNCI

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 30 May 2017

Present were Councillors Mrs Durant (in the chair), Mrs C Blackham, J Blackham, Houlbrook, Jones, Phillips, and Porter.

In attendance: Mr D J Morton acting as Clerk to the Town Council for the duration of the meeting only.

Before the commencement of formal proceedings, the Town Mayor made a statement to the effect that Thorne Moorends Town Council would like to make the public aware of the recent resignation of the Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Mr Paul Varney. The reason cited by Mr Varney for his resignation was the behaviour towards him of a member of the Council. Thorne Moorends Town Council wishes to thank Mr Varney for his work during his time at the Council and wishes him well for the future. The Town Council expects to shortly begin the process of recruiting a new Town Clerk & Financial Officer and is being advised by the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations. The Council is unable to comment further at this stage.

01/17 APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MAYOR

A nomination for the position of Town Mayor, duly seconded, was received in favour of Councillor Mrs Durant.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Mrs S J Durant be appointed Town Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

02/17 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Town Mayor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Declaration was witnessed by the Temporary Clerk to the Town Council.

03/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

04/17 DECLARATIONS AND DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest were received.

No dispensations were requested.

05/17 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

A nomination for the position of Deputy Town Mayor, duly seconded, was received in favour of Councillor Mrs Phillips.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Mrs J E Phillips be appointed Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Mrs Phillips signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Temporary Clerk to the Council.

06/17 APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PROPER OFFICER AND ACTING RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

RESOLVED: that with immediate effect a) Mrs J Cantley be appointed as Acting Proper Officer, and b) Mrs P Gravily be appointed Acting Responsible Financial Officer.

07/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following matters were raised:

- Disappointment was expressed by several members of the public that 7 members of the Town Council were absent from the meeting and had not submitted apologies
- A member of the public enquired why the Town Clerk had resigned. The Chairman responded that it was not possible to go into further detail on this matter at the present time
- Concern was expressed at the costs of running a by-election and defending any claims brought by the previous Town Clerk
- A member of the public enquired whether a councillor could be suspended. The Chairman responded that this was not possible under current legislation
- Several members of the public enquired if meetings could be alternated between the Assembly Rooms and The Winning Post
- A member of the public enquired whether the vote of each councillor could be recorded in the minutes.
- A representative of Moorends Marauders Rugby Club enquired about the tender for the Rugby Stadium which is planned for the Moorends Welfare Ground. He also handed a letter to the Chairman from the Rugby Club.

08/17 APPOINTMENT OF LOCUM CLERK & FINANCIAL OFFICER

RESOLVED: that a) a Locum Clerk be appointed as soon as possible, b) a committee to process the appointment be formed forthwith, c) Councillors Mrs Durant, Houlbrook, and Powell be appointed to serve on the committee with immediate effect with Councillor Porter as substitute member, and d) authority be delegated to the committee to make and confirm the appointment.

09/17 APPOINTMENT OF PERMANENT CLERK & FINANCIAL OFFICER

RESOLVED: that a) a permanent Town Clerk & Financial Officer be appointed as soon as possible, b) a committee to process the appointment be formed forthwith, c) Councillors Mrs Durrant, Mrs Phillips, and Powell be appointed to serve on the committee with

immediate effect with Councillor Porter as substitute member, and d) authority be delegated to the committee to make and confirm the appointment.

10/17 REPORT FROM THE YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATIONS

The Mayor summarised the recommendations of YLCA contained in a recent report commissioned to identify weaknesses and effect improvements.

RESOLVED: that a) the report on the functioning of the Town Council be received from the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations, b) the recommendations be actioned as soon as possible, and c) YLCA be engaged to undertake a governance health check with immediate effect.

11/17 APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: that the position of Leader of the Council be abolished with immediate effect.

12/17 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: that the position of Deputy Leader of the Council be abolished with immediate effect.

13/17 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: that the current committee structure be stood down with immediate effect pending the governance review mentioned in minute number 10/17(c) above.

14/17 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

It was unnecessary to appoint committee chairs and vice-chairs considering minute number 13/17 above.

15/17 MINUTES OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 11 APRIL 2017

The Chairman noted receipt of an email from a member who was not present in respect of the accuracy of the minutes.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 11 April 2017 be confirmed as a true and accurate of the meeting.

16/17 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

RESOLVED: that the following appointments be confirmed –

Eon Grants Panel – *See note below

Brookes Trust – Councillors Mrs Phillips and Mrs C Blackham

DMBC Parish Council JCC – Councillor Phillips with Councillor J Blackham as reserve

Thorne & Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum – Councillor Houlbrook
Thorne Town Community Angling Association – Councillor Porter
The Travis Trust – Councillor Mrs Phillips
Friends of Thorne Community Wood – Councillor Houlbrook
Glebe Road Allotment Association – Councillor Mrs Durant
Public Rights of Way Forum – Councillor Houlbrook
North East CAB – Councillor Powell
YLCA – Councillors Mrs Durant and Mrs Phillips

- Note: It was agreed that a letter be sent to Eon stating that the Town Council should still be represented on the Grants Panel

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17/17

The next meeting was arranged for 6.30pm on 6 June 2017 at the Assembly Rooms, Fieldside, Thorne.

Signed Town Mayor

Date