

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COULMAN PAVILION ON TUESDAY 8th OCTOBER 2019 AT 7.00PM.

Present: Cllr. M.Houlbrook (Chair)

Cllrs. J.Blackham, C.Blackham, A.Brookes, S.Durant, C.Ellis and D.Knight.

4 members of the public.

The Safety procedures in case of fire were explained to all present.

3469. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Cllr. A.Knott – Holiday

Cllr. J.Phillips – Illness

Cllr. M.Phillips - Holiday

Cllr. R.Porter - Work

Cllr. R. Powell - Work

RESOLVED: That the apologies be accepted.

3470. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. S. Durant – Member of the Doncaster Council Planning Committee.

Cllr. M. Houlbrook – Member of the Doncaster Council Planning Committee.

3471. MINUTES

Consideration was given to signing the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th September 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be signed and accepted as a true record.

3472. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

There were no matters raised by the public.

3473. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

3473.1 Major Applications

i) **19/02192/FUL** – Erection of 6 dwellings following demolition of existing building at Former St. John's Ambulance Building, Grange Road, Moorends.

There were two abstentions.

RESOLVED: No observations.

ii) **19/01894/FUL** – Erection of 5 dwellings following demolition of existing public house, The Harlequin, King Edward Road, Thorne.

There were two abstentions.

RESOLVED: No observations.

3473.2 Minor Applications

It was noted that minor applications were included on the agenda for noting only; Council had already given devolved power to the Clerk to consider minor applications on behalf of the Council.

i) **19/02195/PDE** – Erection of single storey extension to rear (extending 6.74m beyond rear wall, maximum height of extension 3.26m and 2.3m to height of the eaves at 23 Kingsmeade, Moorends.

ii) **19/02179/FUL** – Erection of single storey extension to rear (extending 6m beyond rear wall, maximum height of extension 2.3m to height of the eaves at 22 Haig Road, Moorends.

RESOLVED: No observations.

3474. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk reported that the next report will show the next instalment of the precept and that by the next meeting he will be able to provide accounts that are up to date as at the end of the month preceding the meeting.

He reported that the Investment Deposit is invested long term. Payment from the Devolved Budget either reduces by half or goes to zero in the next financial year.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

3475. REVISED BUDGET

It was reported a budget programme had been set up on Xcel which then migrates into the accounts software. Accurate figures could not be presented at the present time as there had been some omissions in allocating certain expenditure and that some of the new budget headings had not been correctly set up by the accountant. The Clerk reported that he wanted to give an accurate budget and would ensure the issues are corrected before the next meeting. A revised budget would be produced and discussed at the next Council meeting

RESOLVED: That the revised budget be deferred to the next Council meeting.

3476. FORWARD PLAN

The Clerk reported that a meeting is scheduled to be held on 21st October 2019 to discuss plans for forthcoming projects. He said that this was an opportunity for projects to be highlighted; Councillors were invited to email the Clerk with ideas for discussion.

Resolved: That the meeting on 21st October 2019 be noted.

3477. 2020/21 FINANCIAL YEAR

Councillors were advised that they needed to think about the budget for the next financial year and were invited to email the Clerk with their thoughts and ideas. Some considerations included:

- The potential of grass cutting 'in-house' – would need to look at staffing levels. With an appointment of a foreman – staff could be reallocated to be under his umbrella. It should be noted that DMBC currently cut the Moorends Welfare Ground to a high standard – no complaints had been received.
- The CCTV is outdated. The fiscal feedbacks in respect of the costs for CCTV are 'eyewatering'.
- Councillors suggested that the connectivity between the CCTV and the office needed to be looked at. A central point would be an advantage.
- The Ground maintenance vehicle is in the budget.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

3478. HIGH STREET HERITAGE BID

The Clerk reported that High Street Heritage bid submitted by the Council had been rejected. He said that there was nothing wrong with the bid as it was in his opinion a good bid. Noted that Doncaster and Bawtry had also failed with their bids.

Councillors were in agreement that it was worth the effort in putting the bid together. They said that they wanted to see Thorne and Moorends thrive. The experience had shown that local businesses, Doncaster MBC and Thorne-Moorends Town Council can work together and hoped that there would be successful bids in the future.

The Chair said that the Clerk and Councillor Durant should be commended for putting the bid together at the last minute.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

3479. UCI ROAD CYCLING DEBRIEF

The Clerk reported that the UCI Road Cycling Championship event had been well received. The communities had worked well together although the weather did not help the FanZone.

The Clerk thanked the Councillors (they know who they are) who had helped on the day going above and beyond.

The Chair said that a lot of work had gone on behind the scenes and Thorne was now part of the history of the UCI Event - Thorne and Moorends had been put on the Map. He thanked the local school children and businesses for the parts they had played.

One Councillor suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to the schools involved.

Resolved: That the debrief be noted.

3480. MOORENDS RECREATION GROUND FLOODLIGHTS

The Clerk reported that obstacles had been encountered on site, and that changes in the cost of connection had been identified.

Councillors questioned whether the company delivering the lights would keep to the figures already quoted. The Clerk said that he had put the question to the company and is awaiting answers. It was pointed out that the increase in the connection cost that was making the difference.

Councillor Knight asked for a copy of the original tender.

A vote was taken and there was one abstention.

RESOLVED: That the successful tenderer be asked if the original quotation of £42,600 could be maintained and that the additional connection costs of £10,057 be agreed.

3481. STANDING ORDER 10a xi – EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Consideration was given to the implementation of Standing Order 10 a xi (Exclusion of Press and Public) in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 10 a xi is invoked due to consideration of confidential matters.

3482. DEBT RECOVERY UPDATE

The Clerk reported that previously he had informed Council that there were three groups who had outstanding debts and gave an updated report:

- The hirer of the Assembly Rooms is now up to date.
- The hirer of the Winning Post has maintained the instalment schedule and there are two more instalments due.
- The previous tenant of the Delves following efforts taken to obtain a Court judgement charge on their property had now been paid in full.

The Clerk sought Council's views on Prospect Training who had still not paid for their hall hire. Councillors were of the view that they should be served with a claim and not be allowed to use any of the Council premises in the future.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk is thanked for his report and that he be authorised to initiate Court proceedings against Prospect Training.

3483. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Clerk reported that he had inherited a sticky situation involving an ex-Councillor. He had tried to deal with what he could and a lot of the information requests had been in relation to health and safety. These requests had been regular and persistent (50 emails in 2 months). The Library was currently being used as a central point for dropping off requested documents.

From two Thorne residents the Clerk reported that he had received a further 120 emails requesting planning information.

The Clerk said that he cannot charge for this work, but based on the numerous emails time was taken away from his job, this needs to be addressed. He said that the ICO had given advice and support.

Councillors asked if the Council's website could be utilised and that FOI requests could be directed via web links.

The Clerk said that he is considering developing a form that could be completed for FOI requests.

Resolved: That the preparation of a form for Freedom of Information Requests be noted.

The Chair was conscious of the time (8.55pm) and sought agreement to extend the meeting. This was agreed.

3484. LAND AT KING STREET

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the interested parties with a proposal but that feedback was that our valuation is way above what they are willing to pay. They had been invited to submit a counter offer but had not yet done so.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's report be noted.

3485. STAFFING UPDATE

The Clerk reported that the member of the workforce who had sustained an injury recently had been signed off sick on light duties.

The member of staff who has been on long-term sick leave is waiting for a surgery date.

Recruitment of the Operations Manager vacancy would commence in the next few days.

He said that Council needed to be mindful on commitments and staffing levels.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

End of meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.