

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE WINNING POST, MOORENDS ON TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.00 PM.

Present: Cllr. S.J.Durant (Chair)

Cllrs. C.Blackham, J.Blackham, A.Brookes, L.Dudgeon, C.Ellis, M.Hennessey, M.Houlbrook, J.E.Phillips, R.Porter, G.Powell and R.Turner.

19 members of the public

3106. CLLR. R. WALKER

The Mayor announced the resignation of Councillor Richard Walker due to ill health, she thanked him on behalf of the Council and the residents of Thorne and Moorends for his time and commitment to the Town Council and wished him well with his health and in his retirement.

Cllr. Hennessey said that there should be an agreement to co-opt someone onto the Council, the Chair said that this matter could not be discussed at this meeting as it was not an agenda item.

3107. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Cllr. A.Jones – Personal

Cllr. M.Williams – Personal

One Councillor said that there should be a vote as to whether the Council should accept the apologies.

RESOLVED: That the apologies be noted.

3108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. S.Durant declared an interest in item 6 as she is on the planning committee at Doncaster MBC.

Cllr. C.Ellis declared an interest in Item 1.1 as he is a member of Thorne Colliery Football Club, and whose football team may use the Bowling Greens for training purposes.

3109. MINUTES

Consideration was given to signing the minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2017. The following points were raised:

- i. **Page 4390 (Minute 3104)** – Reference to Cllr. M.Williams saying that he would put legal action on hold until he had seen the Health Check report. One Councillor said that a comment from Cllr. Williams asking 'what's in it for me?' (if he dropped the report) had not been recorded in the minutes.
- ii. **Page 4388 (Minute 3096)** – Cllr. Houlbrook was elected to the Christmas Lighting Committee at the meeting not Cllr. A.Jones. Cllr A.Jones joined the Committee when Cllr. Houlbrook later advised that due to other commitments he regretfully had to step down from this committee.
- iii. **Page 4389 (Minute 3100)** – Grasscutting – The Locum Clerk would look at the issues relating to grasscutting and would report back to the Council.
- iv. Cllr. A.Brookes said that he had read all the paperwork relating to the Playground Scheme on the Internet but it did not include the specification.

RESOLVED: That subject to the amendments the minutes be signed as a true record.

3110. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

- One member of the public said that the Memorial application (Agenda item 12) was from her. She said that when the memorial was erected the area measured the same as other graves. She said that the grave had been vandalised, she had reported the matter to the Council office and had been advised to also report this to the Police.
- Reference to Legal issues on the Healthcheck was this because some Council members objected to the Play Area. The Locum Town Clerk said the Solicitors letter referred to the tender process, saying that the Council had acted irresponsibly. He had recommended that the

tendering process be referred to the Yorkshire Local Councils Association for a report alongside the Health check. The project has been postponed pending the Health check.

- One member referred to the resignation of Richard Walker asking if someone can be co-opted onto the Council to save money.
- Member of the public again mentioned Cllr. Williams asking what can you do for me? The Clerk said he thought it had moved on as the review of the tenders had gone to the Yorkshire Local Councils Association.
- Query raised on the Exclusion of Public again, he said that as a ratepayer he felt he was being kept in the dark. The Chair pointed out that the minutes appear on the website. Pink paper items on the agenda are confidential.
- Co-opting – the Council could agree not to put anyone forward. The Chair said that if 10 members of the public call an election, then there is no choice but to have an election. This is set out as guidance from the returning officer.
- Legal item on pink papers is this why the Play equipment for Moorends is on hold?

3111. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

i) 17/02025/COU

Change of use of unit from general industrial / warehouse to use class B2 and B8 to soft play centre with café (ancillary) in use Class D2 and A3 at 10 Island Drive, Thorne for Mrs Tracey Ebbage.

It was generally felt that the Council should support this project. It is needed in Thorne, and is something lacking in Thorne and Moorends. Some concern on the safety issue relating to the amount of traffic was raised.

A vote was taken – 1 Councillor voted against the application, 1 abstained and the remaining 10 Councillors were in favour of the application.

RESOLVED: That the Council support the application.

3112. FINANCIAL REPORT

A report on the Council's financial position on 31st July 2017 was considered. The Locum Clerk gave an update on the Financial position to date, advising that the second part of the precept was now in the Councils Bank account. He said that he would bring a fully up-to-date statement to the next Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

3113. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Consideration was given to the Accounts Payable for Month 4 of the current financial year. The Locum Clerk said that the Council were using a first class piece of accounting software.

- A query was raised on the invoices received from John Hill Associates with one Councillor asking if they were paid a retainer and the rates charged for their services. He was advised that no retainer is paid and that a representative from John Hill Associates had been invited to attend a future meeting of the Council to speak to Councillors.
- Vchr. 83 – Hyquip – what were the bridge repairs? This information would be emailed to Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the Accounts Payable be noted.

3114. ANNUAL RETURN 2016-17

The Locum Clerk reported that the External Auditors had issued the Audit Certificate for 2016-17 based on the Completion of the Annual Return. He said it was excellent news and congratulated the then Acting Responsible Financial Officer (Pat Grivil) and Acting Responsible Officer (Jackie Cantley) for completing this during a difficult time.

Minor issues had been raised by the Internal Auditor but had been dealt with satisfactorily.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's report be accepted.

3115. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

The Locum Town Clerk reported that further to Minute 3096, that in order to provide a fair comparison, each tenderer who confirmed that a 1st December 2017 switch-on could be met, was requested to resubmit their quotation supplying:

1. An illustration of the proposed lighting scheme to be supplied.
2. The cost not exceeding £15000;
3. Details of Third Party Insurance and Health & Safety Policy;
4. Details of reference sites.

The closing date for resubmissions was midday on Monday 25th September 2017.

He reported that Councillors Ellis, Hennessey and Jones, the appointed working group, met on Wednesday 27th September 2017. Tenders were examined on the annual costs over a three year contract period noted.

The working group, having been given powers to act, agreed that the contract should be awarded to Blachere Illuminations in accordance with the following annual fixed costs:

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Christmas 2017 | £13,153.83 |
| Christmas 2018 | £13,841.33 |
| Christmas 2019 | £13,841.33 |

The Locum Town Clerk has informed the selected tenderer and has made arrangements to issue that order for the works to proceed.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the contract be awarded to Blachere Illuminations.

3115. BOWLING GREENS, MOORENDS

An email had been received from Mark Phillips, a Committee Member of Thorne Colliery FC, seeking permission for the Club to take over the use of the Bowling Greens in Moorends for the use of their training area.

One Councillor asked if the members of the Moorends Welfare Ground Working Group should vote on this item. He was advised that it is Thorne Colliery Football Club who are wanting to use the Bowling Greens. He said he would report them to the Monitoring Officer, refusing to name the Councillor saying 'you know who you are'.

Discussion took place on the condition of the bowling greens, which were reported not to be in a very good condition. Notices had been placed in the local newspaper to encourage new bowling groups to form but to no avail.

A vote was taken with 9 Councillors being in favour of the bowling greens being used by the football club, 2 were against and 1 Councillor (Cllr. Ellis) abstained.

RESOLVED: That the Football Club be permitted to use the Bowling Greens for practice.

3116. MEMORIAL APPLICATION

The application was considered retrospectively. It was noted that some of the memorial was not in line with others. The suggestion was that if the memorial was moved into line with the relevant fees being paid permission could be granted.

RESOLVED: That provided the memorial was moved into line with previous memorials and the relevant fees being paid permission be granted.

3117. TREE ISSUES

An email had been received from residents of Lakeside Mews who report to be experiencing problems with over hanging trees, brambles and weeds from the Delves.

RESOLVED: That the Council's tree expert be asked to look at the trees and advise on the action needed to be taken.

3118. STANDING ORDER 1C – ADMISSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Consideration was given to the implementation of Standing Order 1C (exclusion of press and public) in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 1C be invoked due to consideration of a confidential matter.

3119. YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION GOVERNANCE HEALTH CHECK

The Locum Town Clerk reported on the receipt of the Governance Health Check as prepared by the Yorkshire Local Councils' Association further to Minute 10/17c(30th May 2017)

The Locum Town Clerk further reported that he had prepared an associated report setting out his recommendations and observations on how the recommendations should be progressed. It was further reported that the health-check did not include the Review of the Tendering Process for Moorends Recreation Ground, which would be submitted separately.

The Locum Town Clerk recommended that having regard to the large amount of business to be covered the reports should be considered at a separate meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That the YLCA Health-Check report be received.
2. That the report, along with the associated report prepared by the Locum Town Clerk, be considered at an extra-ordinary Town Council meeting to be convened on 24th October 2017
3. That the health-check report be considered alongside the original report prepared by the YLCA (Minute 10/17-30th May 2017) at the extra-ordinary meeting on 24th October 2017

3120. STAFFING

The Locum Town Clerk reported on various current staffing issues: -

RESOLVED: That in accordance with the Locum Town Clerk's report

1. The retirement of Mrs P Gravil on 31st October 2017 be noted
2. Acting up allowances be paid to Mrs Jackie Cantley and Mrs Pat Gravil be approved
3. That Mrs Jackie Cantley be re-designated and regarded as Assistant Town Clerk with immediate effect.
4. That options for administrative support within the general office be considered at the extra-ordinary meeting to be held on 24th October 2017
5. That payroll and accounting services be outsourced to DCK Accounting Solutions who currently provided support for the accounting software.
6. That having regard to the limited staffing resources currently available the general office opening hours be restricted to three half days per week and that the Locum Town Clerk report further at the meeting on 24th October 2017.
7. That as a matter of urgency formal application be made to YLCA to have the post of Town Clerk and RFO evaluated as agreed in the Locum Town Clerk's terms of engagement.
8. That having regard to the expiry date of 27th October 2017 the possible extension of the Locum Town Clerk's contract be considered at the meeting on 24th October 2017
9. That an independent assessment be obtained for the annual workload for grass-cutting and grounds maintenance.
10. That building maintenance issues be further discussed at a later date.

End of Meeting