

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE WINNING POST, THORNE ON TUESDAY 11TH JULY 2017 AT 7.00 PM.

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

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

31 members of the public

3070. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Cllr. L.Dudgeon – Family Commitment

Cllr. M.Williams – Personal

3071. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. S.Durant declared an interest in item 5 as she is on the planning committee at Doncaster MBC.

Cllrs. J.Blackham, S.Durant, M.Houlbrook and J.Phillips declared an interest as members of the Moorends Welfare Ground Sub Group.

It was agreed that Agenda Item 13, Play Area – Moorends Welfare Ground, would be brought forward to enable presentations from the four companies who had tendered.

3072. PLAY AREA – MOORENDS WELFARE GROUND

3072.1 Presentations

- **Play and Leisure – Summary of presentation**

Play and Leisure are a UK Company trading in its 25th year. Equipment is made in Wales. They quoted for the two options of £75,000 and £125,000. Their equipment is made of steel and guaranteed for 7 years. They could be on site in 4-6 weeks as they had control of timing because they manufacture the equipment themselves. Proposed drawings and layouts were circulated.

A Councillor asked what the 7 year guarantee covered and was advised that it covered paint and general wear and tear, it didn't cover vandalism. They said that peeling paints could be touched up and that the company are proud that their equipment is robust. The 25 year guarantee is for the steel.

- **Proludic – Summary of presentation**

Proludic are a French based company operating 28 years (in France and 15 years of those in the UK). The representative said that they had researched the mining heritage of Moorends and wanted to give parents opportunities to share imaginative play with their children. The equipment was described as robust, durable, was age appropriate would provide maximum activities for the users. They were proposing a rubber flooring surface as part of the price. They said that they would assist with the site opening, an engineer would come to explain how best to look after the equipment and would include a year's free inspection for maintenance.

A Councillor asked how soon they could start from receiving the order and was told it would be 6 weeks.

A Councillor said that it was an informative presentation and asked the age range it would be suitable for. The reply was that the proposal was for ages 6 months to 10/12 years in the fenced area and the BMX area for 11-12 years upwards, she thought it would be better if the age groups were segregated to avoid older children intimidating the younger ones.

A Councillor said that he appreciated the time and effort which had gone into the innovative mining theme.

- **Kompan – Summary of presentation**

Kompan had put together 3 proposals for the sum of £75,000, £125,000 and £40,000 for young adults. They said that the options were different in sizes, their equipment is low maintenance to keep costs down, there were extensive warranties on the products which are mainly galvanised steel, matt powder coating does not take easily to marker pens. There is a

lifetime warranty. With regards to the safety surfacing they proposed to use a fleck colour and extend the existing pathway. They suggested including traditional games such as hopscotch. In the junior area they suggested grass matting adding that replacement mats could be bought at a low price. They would provide fencing in the junior/toddler area and provided dynamic equipment for older children such as a BMX track. The outdoor gym equipment for the site would offer static and movement opportunities of all users. A lifetime guarantee was offered.

A Councillor asked if there were any located nearby which could be visited and was told that there were some in Leeds and Worksop which had spent £165,000 on their equipment. Doncaster had used their company but on a smaller scale.

- **Streetscape – Summary of presentation**

Streetscape is a family company based in Selby and has been in operation for 30 years. All their equipment is manufactured mainly in the UK. They proposed to remove all existing equipment and said that they had quoted for a new roundabout but said they could refurbish the existing roundabout. The fitness equipment could be located anywhere on the site. All equipment could be coloured to suit. The equipment is low maintenance and replacement parts stocked in Selby, they would offer a 24 hour served for repairs. A BMX track was proposed for older children along with football and street snooker. They said that they would provide quarterly inspection reports and Annual reports for 2 years, they would assist with an open day and would bring along a trainer to show how to use the equipment. An invitation was extended to Councillors to visit their factory in Selby.

A Councillor asked about a start date and was advised 4-6 weeks with completion within 6 – 8 weeks.

A Councillor asked if he envisaged much disruption in the surrounding streets and was advised that there would be as little disruption as possible.

After each presentation the representatives were thanked for their presentation and for attending the Council meeting. They all left the building before any further discussions took place.

3072.2 Council discussion on Moorends Welfare Ground – Play Equipment Tenders

Two Councillors said that they had not had sufficient time to study the papers and objected to a decision being made due to the time scale.

It was pointed out that all information had been sent out by email to all Councillors (with the exception of 1 who does not have an email account) and hard copies delivered by hand.

It was said that the original budget agreed was £100,000 there had been no mention of one for £125,000 and was advised that the previous Clerk had put forward three specifications:

Proposal 1 to allow for a junior and toddler scheme (age range 0-14) based on a budget estimate of £75,000

Proposal 2 to allow for a junior and toddler scheme (age range 0-14) based on a budget estimate of £120,000, and

Proposal 3 to allow for teenage facilities based on a budget estimate of £40,000.

A question was raised as to whether the previous Clerk had also been instructed to obtain match funding. It was reiterated that the Clerk had been instructed to put forward 3 specifications and could look for match funding to expand the play equipment.

One Councillor said that there had been plenty of time to look at the documents and he had no problem in making a decision, whilst another said that there had not been enough time.

A member of the Community Group said that their Group were working with a Solicitor.

A Councillor said that dialogue and discussion on the play equipment had been taking place for the past 12 months and considered that everyone had time (with the exception of the Councillor who does not have email) to study the papers. Another agreed with him adding that Section 106 money is to be applied to this. The Council have a decision to make. This scheme is a positive move for Moorends. The Community Group said that they were still committed to getting play equipment for Moorends.

A recorded vote was called, and seconded, for the proposal that the decision in selecting a successful tender be delayed until a future meeting to enable Councillors a little more time to study the tender documents. A recorded vote was taken and the results recorded as follows:

For the motion: Cllr. A.Brookes, M.Hennessey, G.Powell and R.Turner.

Against the motion: Cllr. C.Blackham, J.Blackham, S.Durant, M.Houlbrook, A.Jones, J.Phillips and R.Porter

One Councillor said that the previous Clerk (J.Sherlock) had brought some plans to a meeting costing £6million. The Councillor was advised that this was a guideline plan and was not for a £6million project.

It was proposed and seconded that Proludic be offered the contract. One Councillor asked why they had proposed Proludic and the answer given was that he preferred the paint finish that they were offering. A recorded vote was taken:

For the motion: Cllr. C.Blackham, J.Blackham, S.Durant, M.Houlbrook, A.Jones, J.Phillips and R.Porter

Against the motion: Cllr. A.Brookes, M.Hennessey, G.Powell and R.Turner.

It was pointed out that the motion should have included which proposal the Council were voting to accept.

Another proposal was tabled and seconded that the Council accept Proludic's proposal 2 with a quotation for £125,000 + £40,000 totalling £165,000 be accepted. A recorded vote was taken:

For the motion: Cllr. C.Blackham, J.Blackham, S.Durant, M.Houlbrook, A.Jones, J.Phillips and R.Porter

Against the motion: Cllr. A.Brookes, M.Hennessey, G.Powell and R.Turner.

RESOLVED: That the Council award the contract to Proludic for Proposal Two - a junior and toddler scheme (age range 0-14) based on a budget of £125,000, and for teenage facilities based on a budget of £40,000 and totalling £165,000.

3073. MINUTES

Consideration was given to signing the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th June 2017, pages 4378 - 4379.

It was noted that Cllrs. M.Houlbrook and J.Phillips are members of the Moorends Welfare Ground Sub Group.

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

3074. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

- i. A member of the public referred to Item 8 on the agenda, asking if the letter was from Cllr. Hennessey or on behalf of the Community Group?
- ii. Why can't the public stay for the discussion on the resignation of the previous Clerk?
Advised that some Council items are confidential such as staffing issues, and that when the correct process / investigation has been carried out the findings will go into the public domain. Until then the press and public will be asked to leave the meeting.
- iii. One member said that he was glad to see that members from the Community Group were at the meeting and asked them if their group won the by-election would they change to time and location of future meetings?
A member of the Community Group said that their Solicitor had advised them not to attend the meetings in May and June or until filming started. He said he knew people were 'brassed off' that they hadn't attended and were 'sorry to have disappointed them'.
- iv. Item on Charity Events – said he was in favour of them using the Welfare Ground for a Charity run but asked that the regular sports users be considered.
- v. Letter to the Temporary Acting Proper Officer from Cllr. Hennessey. The Chair had taken on a big responsibility and said that he was picking on her, he should be ashamed of himself for not turning up to meetings along with other members of his group also referring to a candidate standing for election who said that she was not a Councillor and is not responsible nor accountable for anyone else that she 'have a mind of my own'. An apology was given to this lady.

A question was raised as to who had given the information to Cllr. Hennessey regarding the bowling item.

A member of the public said that she had been attending Council meetings for the past 18 months and notes that the Council have had to bring in the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations to sort it out saying can't you all work together.

The Chairman of the Thorne Colliery Bowls Club referred to the letter saying he couldn't understand why there was a problem. He had asked Cllr. Durant to remove the bowls as he didn't want the responsibility of them as the club had ceased operating.

3075. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

i) 17/01318/FUL

Erection of 2.8m high fence to the rear boundary of the property at 23 Millcroft Close, Thorne for Mr I. Grice.

RESOLVED: No observations.

ii) 17/01419/FUL

Extension of single storey extension to side of bungalow following demolition of existing conservatory at 74 Mansion Court Gardens, Thorne for Mr S.McLauchlan.

RESOLVED: No observations.

3076. FINANCIAL REPORT

A report on the Council's financial position on 31st May 2017 was considered.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

3077. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Consideration was given to the Accounts Payable for Month 2 of the current financial year.

RESOLVED: That the Accounts Payable be noted.

3078. THORNE COLLIERY BOWLING – MOORENDS WELFARE GROUND

The Chair read out the email received from Cllr. Hennessey to the Acting Proper Officer. Cllr. Hennessey stated that he had 'been informed that some crown green bowls and a water boiler were taken from the council-owned property at the bowling green, Moorends Welfare Ground' adding that he had been 'informed that Cllr Susan Durant has removed these items without permission or authority'. He asked that this information be included in the next agenda for their return and explanation why they were removed.

The Acting Proper Officer reported that she had contacted the Chairman of Thorne Colliery Bowls Club, Mr Gil Grinney, to clarify the situation who had advised her that neither the Crown Green Bowls nor water boiler were the property of Thorne-Moorends Town Council. Mr Grinney confirmed that he had asked Cllr. Durant to collect the water boiler (which had been loaned to the Club by the Moorends Miners Welfare & Community Development Centre). Mr Grinney said that the bowls belong to the Moorends Welfare Working Group (purchased from a grant) and as Cllr. Durant is the Secretary he asked her to take the bowls with her to ensure their safety. Mr Grinney said that the container on the site also belongs to the bowling club and not the Council. This information was confirmed in a letter received from Mr Grinney and which was also read out at the meeting.

Cllr. Hennessey confirmed that he was happy with the reply given.

It was said that he should have verified the facts and that it was hoped that an apology would be forthcoming. Cllr. Hennessey said that he would not apologise.

Cllr. Hennessey's visit to the Bowling Green was questioned in view of the fact that currently he is sanctioned from entering or visiting any Council premises or properties.

It was proposed and seconded that the Council discuss, at a future meeting, sanctions imposed and current conduct of Cllr. Hennessey. The results were as follows:

For the motion: Cllrs. C.Blackham, J.Blackham, S.Durant, M.Houlbrook, A.Jones, J.Phillips and R.Porter

Against the motion: Cllrs. M.Hennessey, G.Powell and R.Turner.

Abstention: Cllr. A.Brookes.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Acting Proper Officer's report on the Thorne Colliery Bowling Club property be accepted.
2. That the sanctions and conduct of Cllr. Hennessey be considered at the next Council meeting.

3079. CHARITY EVENTS

3079.1 A request had been received from a local resident wishing to hold an auction at The Winning Post, Moorends from 9.00am to 3.30pm on Saturday 19th August 2017, to raise funds to enable her to go to India for medical treatment. She asked if the Council would consider waiving the hire fee and all proceeds would go to the Kim Stem Cell Treatment Fund.

3079.2 A request had been received from Diane Wilson to hold a Charity Run Event on the Moorends Welfare Ground to raise funds for the Kim Stem Cell Treatment Fund. She confirmed that the necessary risk assessments and first aid cover would be in place.

3079.3 A request had been received from Thorne and Moorends Unite for permission to host a "Community Music Festival" on Moorends Welfare Ground the 1st and 2nd September 2018.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council grants free use of the Winning Post on Saturday 19th August for the Charity Auction.
2. That permission for Diane Wilson to hold a Charity Run Event on Moorends Welfare Ground be granted subject to the necessary risk assessments and First Aid Cover being in place.
3. That permission be granted to Thorne and Moorends Unite to hold the proposed Community Music Festival to be held on the Moorends Welfare Ground subject to the necessary risk assessments and First Aid Cover being in place.

3080. PREPURCHASED GRAVE

A request had been received from Mr & Mrs Blake asking if the Council would consider buying back the pre-purchased grave numbered Z2648.

RESOLVED: That the Council authorise the Acting Proper Officer to purchase back Grave number Z2648 for the original sum of £715.00.

3081. COULMAN POPLAR TREES

A letter had been received from two residents of Palm Grove Court regarding the Poplar trees on Coulman Recreation Ground which border their property and which they considered to be dangerous in windy weather and which blocked out natural light to their property.

RESOLVED: That this item be investigated by the new Clerk when in position.

3082. MEMORIAL BENCH – NATWEST CHARITY SITE

Correspondence had been received from Mrs G. Bull regarding a Memorial Bench which was located on the Charity Site in memory of her son. She requested that she be permitted to remove the bench so that it could be restored to its original condition before it falls into a state of disrepair and also keep it at her home address.

RESOLVED: That the Council grant permission for Mrs Bull to remove the bench and keep it at her home, further that the Council offer assistance in moving the bench and provide labour to transport it to the home of Mrs Bull. Further that the Council would make good the holes left on the site of the bench.

3083. 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.

3084. INVESTIGATION INTO THE RESIGNATION OF THE CLERK

It was reported that a meeting had taken place between Mr Varney and the Staffing and Complaints Committee. The Committee had received two grievances and the letter of resignation from the Clerk Paul Varney.

It was considered that an independent review was the only way forward and agreed that this issue should be dealt with in an open and transparent manner. It was proposed and seconded that all paperwork should be referred to the Monitoring Officer at Doncaster MBC for investigation. A vote was taken with 9 Councillors in Favour and 2 Abstentions.

RESOLVED: That all paperwork relating to the resignation of the Town Clerk and the two grievances be forwarded to the Monitoring Officer at Doncaster MBC.

3085. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be 7.00pm on Tuesday 12th September 2017 at the Coulman Pavilion, Coulman Road, Thorne.

End of Meeting