

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE NEW COULMAN PAVILION, THORNE ON TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.00 PM.**

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

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

20 members of the public

**3086. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:

Cllr. C.Blackham – Holiday

Cllr. J.Blackham – Holiday

Cllr. L.Dudgeon – Work Commitment

Cllr. R.Porter – Work Commitment

Cllr. R.Walker – Hospitalisation

**3087. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr. S.Durant declared an interest in item 7 as she is on the planning committee at Doncaster MBC.

**3088. INTRODUCTION – CHRIS GEESON**

Chris Geeson the Locum Town Clerk introduced himself to the Council and members of the public present.

**3089. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR**

Newly elected Town Councillor Craig Ellis was introduced to those present.

**3090. MINUTES**

**3090.1 Council - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Consideration was given to signing the minutes of the Council Meetings held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017, pages 4380 - 4385.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be signed.

**3090.2 Staffing – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

Consideration was given to signing the minutes of the Staffing Meetings held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017, pages 4386.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be signed.

**3091. REPORT FROM THE LOCUM TOWN CLERK**

Chris Geeson reported that he had been appointed as Locum Town Clerk working 15 hours per week for an initial period of three months. He explained that the majority of his work would be done using IT with two visits per week to the office.

He said that the full co-operation of all members would be vital.

Comments were made regarding the superb motorway network and the evolution of businesses and housing developments in the Town which in his opinion needed a vibrant Council.

Mr Geeson said that he considered the Council facilities to be good although maintenance needed reviewing wondering whether the Council had the staff and resources to look after everything. He thought that the Council Offices/Assembly Rooms would benefit from a facelift and that the Council Chamber should be the meeting room.

Mr Geeson felt that the Field Operatives were doing a good job under difficult circumstances. He felt that the Council needed more corporate identity – uniforms, name identity badges, the Council name on its vehicles. He recommended that expertise advice should be sought with regards to Health & Safety.

The Locum Town Clerk said that he was impressed with the amount of Section 106 money in the area. He said he had attended the handover of the play equipment at Wike Gate

Recreation Ground which had a 15 year maintenance agreement with Doncaster MBC. He commented that the Town Council appeared to have a good relationship with Doncaster MBC.

He said that he would welcome the imminent Health Check report carried out by the Yorkshire Local Councils Association and that much can be achieved if all members work together.

**RESOLVED:** That the Locum Town Clerk's report be noted.

### 3092. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

Reference was made to a letter from Linda Kinloch who was organising a Christmas Event in the Town and had sought approval to join this event with the Christmas Light switch on ceremony. Councillors said that the Christmas switch on event was still at the planning stage.

Numerous objections were made to the proposed planning application for Haynes House, Thorne, residents opposing this application on grounds of extra traffic, noise, insufficient parking spaces, and invasion of privacy if it were passed as proposed at four storeys high. Councillors were urged to support them in their objections.

It was also noted that currently the unoccupied building is an eyesore and is unsafe, also that the grounds are unkempt and is attracting the wrong elements of society.

Reference was made to the opening of the newly refurbished Moorends Welfare Pavilion, one member of public said that the Council should look at the snagging list – anti-vandal paint, one door won't open, a light with a timing issues (he understood it should be on through the night to deter vandals).

Grasscutting – a comment was made concerning the level of grasscutting on Council grounds describing it as atrocious.

One member of the public asked about the item on the Memorial Park enquiring if it concerned the damage done after the festival – mud on the road and mess left to the grass.

### 3093. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

#### i) 17/01021/FULM

Proposed erection of 67 dwelling apartments with associated ancillary and parking following the demolition of the former NHS clinic at Glebe House, Haynes Road, Thorne for Mr H.Ulus.

Councillors noted the objections raised earlier by local residents and considered that a four storey building and one of such height would be totally out of character with the surrounding area. The proposed development would create road traffic problems as would a lack of adequate parking this would result in access and egress problems. It was also thought that there would be added pressure on the provision of school places and medical services.

**RESOLVED:** Objection to this planning application for the following reasons:

1. The proposal to erect a four storey building is totally out of character with the surrounding area
2. The height of the building is not in keeping with the surrounding development
3. The proposed development will create road traffic problems
4. Lack of adequate car parking is a concern.
5. Access and egress problems will arise.
6. Pressure will be placed on the provision of available school places and local medical services.

### 3094. FINANCIAL REPORT

A report on the Council's financial position on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 was considered.

The Locum Clerk recommended that the Council seek advice from the CCLA regarding investment and invite them to meet with the Council.

Regarding VAT, the Locum Clerk reported that it was a general understanding that the Council could

reclaim its VAT. It had been recommended that the Council need to look at charging VAT on the income from its buildings.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and that:

1. The Locum Clerk makes further enquiries with CCLA with a view to investing Council's fund.
2. The Locum Clerk's recommendation on charging VAT on building income be accepted.

### **3095. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Consideration was given to the Accounts Payable for Month 3 of the current financial year. Councillors asked for clarification on the work John Hill Associates were employed to carry out and it was suggested that a representative be invited to meet with the Council at a future. Councillors were unsure of some of the abbreviations used in the accounts payable and requested that a list of the abbreviations be circulated with the next agenda.

**RESOLVED:** That the Accounts Payable be noted.

### **3096. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING**

The Locum Town Clerk reported that 6 tenders had been received: 4 by post and 2 by email. It was recognised that there was a limited time before the Christmas Light switch on date and it was proposed that a small working group be established to select a suitable scheme. Volunteers were requested.

**RESOLVED:**

That the following Councillors form the working group to select a suitable Christmas Light tender:  
Cllrs: C.Ellis, A.Jones and M.Hennessey.

### **3097. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON**

Councillors were informed that the date set for the Christmas Light Switch-On Ceremony was Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017. A Working Group was established at the Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017 ( Minute 3066, page 4377) and consisted of Cllrs. J.Blackham, S.Durant, M.Houlbrook, A.Jones and J.Phillips. It was agreed that this group needed to meet sooner, rather than later and would liaise with the Clerk for a suitable date. A letter received from L.Kinloch would be discussed by the working group.

One Councillor said that there would be a Christmas tree in the Market Place as last year but was advised that this item has not come before the Council for a decision. Another suggested approaching local businesses to see if they would contribute towards a tree for Moorends.

**RESOLVED:** That the Working Group meet initially to discuss arrangements and report back to the Council.

### **3098. MOORENDS WELFARE GROUND PAVILION – OFFICIAL OPENING**

The official opening of Moorends Welfare Ground Pavilion following completion of its recent refurbishment was considered. It was noted that there were still minor items on the snagging list which needed to be resolved.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council set a date for the official opening of the Moorends Welfare Pavilion when it is satisfied that the snagging list has been completed.

### **3099. PREPURCHASED GRAVE**

A request had been received from Mr & Mrs J.E. Cranham asking if the Council would consider buying back the pre-purchased grave numbered 1167B.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council authorise the purchase back of Grave number 1167B for the original sum of £695.00.

### **3100. GRASSCUTTING**

It was noted that Doncaster MBC cut the Moorends Welfare Ground, free of charge, on average every 17 days.

The Council's contractor cuts the grass in other areas (Toll Bar, Coulman Recreation and Wike Gate Recreation) once per month.

The Cemetery and Memorial Park's grass is cut by the Council's operatives. A problem had occurred recently when Council employees were on leave. It was agreed that the Council needed to look at holiday cover by a contractor to avoid future problems.

The Locum Town Clerk said that on first impression the current system is not working and would recommend spending time to review the Council's needs.

**RESOLVED:** That the Locum Town Clerk would look into the cutting requirements and report back to the Council.

### 3101. THORNE MEMORIAL PARK

Complaints had been received from local residents regarding the Summer Festival and the timescale for vehicles leaving the Park after the event and the damage left behind. Residents from Park View said that their roads were left covered in mud and the noise of vehicles in the evening. It was thought that the Park should be the 'Jewel in the Council's Crown'. It was considered whether it was too wet for the Park to accommodate the vehicles for this event. It was suggested that the Clerk meet with the event's organisers and perhaps local residents.

**RESOLVED:** That this issue would be considered at a future meeting and a committee would be formed to handle this.

### 3102. CEMETERY SKIP

Photographs were circulated of the skip and full trailer that was situated at the bottom of the Cemetery, the waste enclosed was domestic waste - playhouse, toys, clothes etc. The Locum Clerk said that this was not a suitable location for the skip which was unsightly. The operatives working in the Cemetery said that they would prefer to see the skip sited at the allotments. It was thought that an enclosed, lockable skip would be the best option to be used by the Cemetery staff only. The allotment holders have a skip which they pay for themselves. Industrial bins are already provided in the Cemetery, are emptied on a weekly basis and it was thought that the Cemetery operative should make full use of these where possible.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That a survey be carried out to assess the requirements for the Cemetery.
2. To provide a sealed skip, located at the allotments site that is to be managed and accessed by Town Council employees only.

### 3103. 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.

### 3104. LEGAL ISSUES

The Locum Clerk reported that the report from the Health Check carried out by the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) was pending. A health check on the recent playground tender process was to be included in this report, adding that the Council had not signed a contract with the successful tender applicant. He read out a letter from the Bryce Practice, received days after contacting YLCA, representing Cllr. M. Williams. He said that the matter had been referred to the Councillors Insurers and the Council were now in Subjudacy. The action is against the Council who cannot operate effectively under such circumstances. Cllr. Williams said that he would put the legal action 'on hold' until he had seen the Health Check report.

Councillor Williams left the meeting at 8.45pm.

One Councillor said that the Council as a whole had to iron the indifference out, it is give and take. Because of the subjugacy he could not comment any further. That the Council should consider the Locum Town Clerk's advice.

Issues surrounding the recent tender process were discussed, it was noted that one Councillor who does not have an email address experiences delays in receiving documents.

Cllr. A.Jones left the meeting at 9.00pm.

Further discussion took place over the tender process. The Locum Town Clerk reiterated that the YLCA are an independent body.

**RESOLVED:** That the Locum Clerk's report be noted and that the Councillor who does not have email be telephoned to visit the office to collect important information when necessary.

### 3105. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be 7.00pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at the Winning Post, Marshland Road, Thorne.

End of Meeting

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