

REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE POLICY, DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE AND STAFFING COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.00PM ON TUESDAY 17TH JULY 2011 IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, THORNE.

Present: Cllr. M.Houlbrook (Vice Chair)

Cllrs. K Abell, B M Chowings, G Derx, R S Durant, S J Durant, A Farrand, B Hedley, R Walker.

There were nine members of the public and two police officers present.

1810. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Cllr. J Blackham – work commitment.

Cllr. A Brookes – illness.

Cllr. K Redmile – illness.

Cllr. M Williams – personal.

Cllr. A Wilson – personal.

Resolved: That the apologies be accepted.

1811. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1812. MINUTES

Consideration was given to signing the minutes of the Policy, Development, Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2011. It was noted that only one Councillor present was at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be signed.

1813. CONFIDENTIALITY

The Chair advised the Council of their responsibilities in respect of confidentiality under Standing Order 58.

RESOLVED: That the advice be noted.

1814. DECISION MAKING PROCESS

It was proposed that urgent daily decision/policy making would be through the Leader/Deputy Leader and Mayor progressively.

RESOLVED: That this be approved.

1815. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

A number of members of the public spoke in support of a skate park in Moorends and stated that they had handed in a petition to the Deputy Chair of Planning, Environmental, Amenities and Leisure but it was not handed in to the Council through the Chair at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the petition be considered by the Council when officially received and that the proposed skate park be discussed at the next meeting.

1816. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Consideration was given to the Accounts Payable to 30th June 2011, Vouchers 42 to 97. It was noted that papers for the new signatories were nearly complete.

RESOLVED: That the accounts payable be approved.

1817. FINANCIAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the financial report for month 2 of the current financial year. It was noted that with the exception of the payment for the play equipment in Thorne Park (largely funded by S106 money that had been received) and the repairs to the Moorends Welfare Ground Pavilion following theft (paid in full by the insurers in March) the income and expenditure were essentially on budget. It was noted that with increased energy costs expected there would be a need to be closely monitored for the rest of the year.

RESOLVED: That the financial report be accepted.

1818. COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

The current arrangements for MP/Ward Councillors surgeries were discussed together with the matter of surgeries for Town Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the current arrangements for MP's and District Councillors surgeries be continued and that the mechanism for Town Councillors to interface with the public be reviewed at a later meeting.

1819. POLICY ON HIRING ROOMS

The current policy was reviewed.

RESOLVED: That Council rooms could be hired to any person or individual except political parties (other than at election time) but that the Council reserve the right to exercise due discretion.

1820. XMAS LIGHTS

The scope of the 2011-12 Xmas lights was discussed. It was noted that these would need to be funded from unbudgeted income or contingency expenditure. Sponsorship could also be sought from businesses etc.

RESOLVED: That proposals be developed and brought back to the Council.

1821. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK

The Chair thanked the five Councillors who had formed the appointment panel for their time and commitment and reported that a new Clerk Mr Jeremy Sherlock had been appointed. He would start on Monday 18th July 2011 which would allow a handover during that week. The appointment would initially be for a minimum 20 hours per week on Salary Grade LC3 and there would be a 6 month probationary period. The Clerk reported that Mr Sherlock had accepted the position and expressed an interest in joining the pension scheme. References were being taken up and a contract prepared.

RESOLVED: That the appointment be welcomed and that the new Clerk be authorised to join the pension scheme at the end of the probationary period.

1822. NEWSLETTER/PRESS RELEASES/WEBSITE

1822.1 Consideration was given to a draft of the next newsletter.

RESOLVED: That the draft be approved subject to minor alterations, for distribution to public buildings and inclusion on the Council Website.

1822.2 Press Releases

The procedure for the issuing of press releases was discussed.

RESOLVED: That the Council press officer should be the Clerk and that all press releases should go through him.

1822.3 Council website

A number of additions to the Council website were discussed.

RESOLVED: That these amendments should be made through the office.

1823. SPORTS GROUNDS

It was noted that a number of issues had been raised by sports users including:

- Pump for the showers at Moorends Welfare Ground pavilion.
- Moving container at Toll Bar Ground

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- Improvement to the sprinkler system at the Bowling Greens, Moorends Welfare Ground.

RESOLVED: That a list of current users, pitch users and bookings would be circulated to Councillors and a meeting with sports groups arranged.

1824. COUNCIL ASSETS

Councillors wished to review all assets owned by the Council.

RESOLVED: That a list of bookings would be distributed to Councillors and a site visit arranged.

1825. STANDING ORDER 58

Consideration was given to the implementation of Standing Order 58 in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 58 be invoked and that press and public be asked to leave.

1826. POLICE REPORT

The Chair invited the Police to give a report. They offered to provide a monthly report to the Council and invited the Council to provide delegates to the PACT steering group. Councillors raised a number of issues including:

- Motorcycle nuisance in Moorends
- Cable burning/theft

RESOLVED: That the Police be thanked for their report and that the matter of delegates would be discussed at the next meeting. Also that links to the police be put on the Council website and vice versa.

At this point the police left the meeting.

1827. STAFFING MATTERS

The issue of remuneration for member C013 who had taken on more responsibilities was discussed together with long service awards.

RESOLVED: That reports be drawn up and brought to a subsequent meeting.

End of meeting