

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM ON TUESDAY 3rd APRIL 2012 IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, THORNE.

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

Cllrs. J. Blackham, B.M. Chowings, S.J.Durant, A. Farrand, M. Houlbrook, K. Redmile.

Jane Davies – St. Ledger Homes
3 Members of the Public

1956. APOLOGIES

Apologies were declared as follows:

Cllr. K. M. Abell – Personal
Cllr. A. Brookes – Prior Commitment
Cllr. G Derx, – Work Commitment
Cllr. M. Williams - Personal

RESOLVED: That the apologies be accepted.

1957. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. K. Redmile declared a personal interest in the planning item relating to the signage at the Delves.

RESOLVED: That the declaration be accepted.

1958. ST. LEGER UPDATE

Jane Davies from St. Leger Homes updated the Councillors on upcoming changes. Ms. Davies reported that due to changes in payment methods two cash collection offices would be closing the first being Stainforth in 2012 followed by Thorne in 2013, adding that they would cease collecting money but would remain open for customer services.

Ms. Davies reported that the East Area Team were continuing to target anti-social behaviour and that under the Decent Homes initiative Darlington Grove estate was nearing completion and the next are for focus was going to be the Willow estate.

Cllr. Blackham asked for information on the impact of pensioners living in properties with empty bedrooms whereby residents would lose a percentage of their benefit. Ms Davies reported that this applied only to people under the age of 65.

The benefit changes will have an impact on people under 65 who are "under occupying" their houses, and is likely to result in increasing problems with arrears, and possibly homelessness. A particular issue in the Thorne area results from the lack of 2 bedroom accommodation.

Ms. Davies was thanked for her update and she left the meeting.

1959. MINUTES

Consideration was given to signing the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th January, 2012, pages 3964 – 3965. 2 amendments were highlighted:

1. The Chair was Cllr R S Durant

2. Minute 1926 on the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations should be deleted as this was not on the agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be signed subject to the amendments above.

1960. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consideration was given to the following reports:

1960.1 Planning, Environmental, Amenities and Leisure – 7th February 2012. Pages 3966 to 3972.

1960.2 Policy, Development, Finance and Staffing – 6th March 2012. Pages 3973 to 3982.

RESOLVED: That the report be approved.

1961. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

Mr Audas, a resident from Thorne, raised the issue of the lack of street cleaning in the Town and the increased amount of litter in the streets and asked who was responsible.

The Town Clerk said that the responsibility for street cleaning and cleaning of public spaces was the responsibility of Doncaster MBC and whom he has contacted. The Town Clerk will investigate this issue and report back to Council.

Mr Audas asked what steps were being taken to solve the problem of youths using Peel Hill as a play area. Cllr. R. Durant said that the gates were currently padlocked and Cllr. Farrand added that plans were being formulated to make improvements to the area.

At 7.45pm Councillor Redmile left the meeting.

1962. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

i) 12/00341/MAT

Details of siting, design, external appearance and means of access for residential dwelling and detached double garage on approx. 0.1ha of land (being matters reserved in outline under ref 06/01353/OUT on 20.07.06.) (Being amendment to application 08/00985/REM granted on 22.05.08 – to provide a biodigester unit for foul sewage rather than connecting to mains sewer) at 111 Kirton Lane, Thorne for Mr Lawrence Cunningham.

RESOLVED: No objections.

ii) 12/00709/WCC

Outline application for erection of vehicle distribution centre on approx 20.00ha of land (without compliance with condition 15 of application granted under ref: 89/4052/OTL on 04.05.90 – hours of operation) at BMW Thorne, Paddock Lane, Thorne for BMW UUK) Ltd.

RESOLVED: No objections.

iii) 12/00710/WCC

Extension of existing car storage area for additional 1158 cars (without compliance of condition 4 of application granted under ref: 94/0768/FUL on 09.05.1994 – Hours of Operation) at BMW Thorne, Paddock Lane, Thorne for BMW UUK) Ltd.

RESOLVED: No objections.

iv) 12/00592/ADV

Retrospective application for display of various non-illuminated fascia signs at Delves Cafe, Fieldside, Thorne for Thorne and District Angling Association.

RESOLVED: No objections.

1963. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Consideration was given to the Accounts Payable to 31st March 2012.

RESOLVED: That the accounts payable be approved.

1964. FINANCIAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the financial report for March 2012. The Clerk reported that income and expenditure were falling within the revised budget as agreed at the last meeting. The Clerk reported that there was an additional entry for Buntings Wood – this is a Forestry Commission Grant which had been agreed previously and would be forwarded directly to the Friends of Buntings Wood to support their work on the site.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

1965. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Clerk gave the Council a brief outline of background information on the practice of capital programmes in local authorities and the Council's current funding situation. Potential schemes, identified by the Clerk, were discussed including earmarking funds for the following: Cemetery access (£25k), Community Centre toilets (£25k), Moorends Spectator fencing (£8k). The Clerk also recommended that the Council proceed with the following projects subject to external funding – Peel Hill Motte (£6k) and the Toll Bar Utilities (£13k).

The Clerk reported that tenders had been invited for the Cemetery access and would require an extra ordinary meeting to open them.

Cllr. S. Durant requested that the Peel Hill project be carried out before the Queen's Jubilee in preparation for the beacon.

Cllr. J. Blackham suggested that the Community Centre toilet project be put on hold pending a review on the need for two community buildings in Moorends.

RESOLVED:

- i) That an extra-ordinary meeting of the Council be held on Monday 16th April at 12.00pm to open the tenders for the Cemetery access work.**
- ii) That capital funding be earmarked for the following:**
 - **Cemetery access work (£25,000)**
 - **Spectator fencing at Moorends Welfare Ground (£8,000)**
- iii) Work to the following proceed subject to external funding:**

- **Peel Hill (£6,125)**
- **Toll Bar (£13,000)**

iv) Community facilities in Moorends – this issue to be brought back to Council along with a report from the Clerk.

1966. BUNTINGS WOOD

The clerk reported that whilst Buntings Wood is owned by the Council the majority of the work on site is undertaken by the Friends of Buntings Wood who operate on a voluntary basis. The Friends of Buntings Wood are seeking grant aid from WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Limited) for:

- Hedge laying around the car park to improve amenity and visibility
- Tree thinning
- Fencing of the memorial tree area
- Two information signs

WREN have given informal encouragement to this application which needs to be submitted by 9th May 2012.

They have received one quotation to date from BTCV at a total of £5,352 plus VAT, and are seeking further quotes.

Friends of Buntings Wood have asked if the Council can act as applicant for this grant for the following reasons:

- a. The funder requires a formally constituted body
- b. The works will enhance a Council asset
- c. The Council will be able to cash flow the works (the grant is paid retrospectively)

The only cost to the Council in supporting this application would be a modest administration cost.

Friends of Buntings Wood have offered to arrange a tour of the site for Councillors.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council submit a grant application to WREN for improvements at Buntings Wood and, subject to approval carry out the above works at a maximum cost of £5,352 plus VAT.
2. That a Councillors visit to Buntings Wood be arranged at a suitable date.

1967. DISABLED ACCESS – THORNE CEMETERY

Following a decision by the Council, Thorne Cemetery was closed to all non-authorized vehicles from 16th January 2012 for safety reasons.

The Clerk reported that he had received representations from a number of people regarding difficulties experienced in reaching graves due to limited mobility and asking for exceptions to be made for people with disabilities. This option was considered when the initial decision was taken and it was thought that it would still lead to potential problems with pedestrians and vehicles using the same paths.

The Clerk suggested that one option to improve accessibility in the Cemetery would be to offer a mobility scooter and wheelchair for visitor use. He said that this would need to be properly managed with regards to storage, introduction of a booking system and

the signing of a disclaimer. Use of chairs/scooters would be restricted to the paved areas within the Cemetery and would be available from 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday.

The Clerk reported that quotations were being sought with one formal quote being received as follows:

Second Hand Shoprider Sovereign Mobility Scooter with pneumatic tyres - £700
 New Pride Cold Plus Mobility Scooter with solid tyres - £1200
 New Roma 1100 Transit Wheelchair - £160

Also, in addition to the purchase cost there would be a servicing cost of around £60 for the scooter, which is recommended to be carried out twice per year.

The Clerk reported that there is no budget for this facility, but that the costs could be accommodated within the Repairs and Maintenance budget for the Cemetery.

Councillors expressed concerns regarding the use of scooters in the Cemetery with respect to insurance and training and thought that this could leave the Council open to problems. Another concern was the availability times for the scooters/wheelchairs which would not be available on a weekend.

RESOLVED: That the Council reject the idea of providing a Mobility Scooter and Wheelchair for the Cemetery and that focus should be made on the provision of level access for the disabled.

1968. PRE-DETERMINATION

A copy of a document received from the National Association of Local Councils was circulated amongst the Councillors for information only.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

1969. TWEEN BRIDGE REPRESENTATION

The Clerk reported that a request had been received from the South Yorkshire Community Foundation for nominations from Thorne and Moorends for the Tween Bridge Community Benefit Scheme panel.

The South Yorkshire Community Foundation is managing the Tween Bridge Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund on behalf of E-on for the benefit of the local communities within a three mile radius of the wind farm. It is anticipated that the fund will become open for applications from May 2012, with £55,000 per year available for community and voluntary groups.

A panel, comprising local Councillors and residents is required to review and assess the applications to the Fund. The panel will meet four times per year to assess the Grant Applications for the Tween Bridge Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund and it is anticipated that the first meeting will be held in July 2012. All panel members will be required to attend a panel training day which will be held at a location within the area of benefit for the fund.

The Clerk reported that the Community Foundation had received an expression of interest form from Cllrs. S. Durant and M. Williams for Thorne, but none for Moorends. The Council have been asked for a nominee to be appointed by 5th April 2012.

RESOLVED: That Cllr. J. Blackham be the appointed representative for Thorne and Cllr. G. Derx the appointed representative for Moorends on the Tween Bridge Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Panel.

1970. YLCA REPRESENTATION

Consideration was give to correspondence received from the Yorkshire Local Councils Association inviting nominations for officers of the South Yorkshire Branch and representatives to the YLCA Joint Executive Board.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted and that there were no nominations.

End of meeting.