

REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.00PM ON TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2012 IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, THORNE.

Present: Cllr. S. Durant (Chair)

Cllrs. K.Abell, J.Blackham, A.Brookes, R.Durant, L.G.Derx, A.Farrand, M.Houlbrook, A.Jones, R.Porter and R.Powell.

2367. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were declared:

Cllr. C.Blackham – Illness

2368. DECLARATIONS AND DIPENSATIONS

None declared.

2369. CAPITOL PARK

Deborah Hayeems and Jeremy Williams representatives of Tesco addressed the Council on the proposed plans to open a Tesco store on Capitol Park, Thorne. It was reported that the proposed store would cover 23,000 sq. feet (approximately the same size as the Edenthorpe store), would provide 249 parking spaces and would be and Eco-build. It would also have a 4 pump petrol island. There would be no restaurant facilities. Ms. Hayeems explained that a drop-in information event would be held at Thorne Old People's Centre.

Councillors raised the following questions:

Cllr. Houlbrook asked how the increase in traffic would be managed.

Ms. Hayeems informed the Council that a detailed traffic assessment had been approved and included improvements to the Omega/Selby Road Junction. It was hoped that a free bus service would be agreed.

Cllr. Houlbrook expressed a concern that the pedestrian entrance was not far from the roundabout at the Motorway exits, he thought that it may be a danger for pedestrians. Ms Hayeems said that they would look into this.

Cllr. Powell asked about the hours of operation.

6.00am – 10.00pm Monday to Friday; 10.00am – 4.00pm Sunday.

Cllr. R. Durant asked if the risk of flooding had been investigated

Ms Hayeems said that it had and was taken into account in the choice of materials for the store.

Cllr. R. Durant asked about the employment possibilities.

It was hoped that 120-130 people would be recruited locally, but initially Store Managers would be brought in from other areas.

Cllr. Porter asked if there was a guarantee that people from Thorne would be employed.

Ms Hayeems said that they couldn't guarantee the number but would focus on specific postcodes when targeting staff.

Cllr. Houlbrook asked about the impact on local businesses on the Town.

Ms Hayeems said that as a rule supermarkets compete with supermarkets. Tesco would like to work together with businesses in the Town.

Cllr Brookes suggested that Henry Boot be invited to attend a future Council meeting.

This was agreed to be a good idea.

Ms Hayeems and Jeremy Williams were thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7.30pm.

2370. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

i) 12/02866/FUL

Erection of 1 detached house and garage on approx. 0.05ha of land at Canalside, West Street, Thorne for Mr C. Beck.

RESOLVED: No objections.

ii) 12/02967/ADV

Display of 3 internally illuminated flexbox signs (11.0m x 5.0m) for The Range, Nimbus Park, Mount Pleasant Road, Thorne.

RESOLVED: No observations.

iii) 12/02972/FUL

Erection of first floor pitched roof extension over existing garage to front elevation of detached property, and erection of single storey pitched roof conservatory to rear elevation at 3 The Hedgerows, North Eastern Road, Thorne for Mr L. Dudgeon.

RESOLVED: No observations.

2371. PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

Extending Permitted Development Rights to Homeowners and Businesses

It was reported that DCLG are consulting on proposals to allow homeowners and businesses to make larger extensions to their homes and business premises without requiring a planning application, and to allow quicker installation of broadband infrastructure.

The Clerk made the following observations:

- a. Since he had been at the Council there had been no observations made on small scale or domestic applications. It was his view that the Town Council's role is to consider and comment upon applications of strategic significance.
- b. The changes will give individuals less opportunity to comment on neighbours applications.
- c. There will be a cost saving where a planning fee is no longer required.
- d. The changes are portrayed as a simplification that will encourage small scale developments to the benefit of local businesses. I am unconvinced by this argument, particularly as most of the other limits (e.g. cubic capacity) remain.
- e. It is unclear why the proposed changes are time limited.

The Clerk said that these are national proposals which in his view will have little impact on the Town Council and recommended not commenting.

Technical Reforms of Planning Appeals

DCLG are also commenting on proposals to alter the planning appeals process. This intends to make the appeal process faster and more transparent by ensuring earlier submission and notification of appeal statements; agreeing 'Common Ground' upfront; and starting hearings and inquiries sooner. The associated consultation documents can be downloaded from

The proposals are modifications and simplifications of existing procedures and seem sensible.

NALC and the County Associations have advised that they support the proposed changes, but will still be arguing that local councils should have the same right of appeal as developers in planning applications.

In the light of the above the Clerk said that he could see no reason for the Town Council to comment.

RESOLVED: That no comments be made on the above consultations.

2372. FINANCE

The Clerk reported on the Council's financial position at the end of month 7, which included the revised budget approved at the last meeting together with an updated forecast. The changes agreed at the last meeting were included, and that the overall budget remained reasonably on target.

The capital approval for the allotments building included a sum for the connection of services which were available on site. The Electricity connection is provided by Northern Powergrid who have advised that the existing connection on site is no longer suitable for use, and a new connection is needed.

RESOLVED: That the capital approval for the allotments building be increased to £6,500.

2373. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Consideration was given to the Statement of Accounts Payable to 31st December 2012 were considered.

RESOLVED: That the Accounts Payable be approved.

2374. CEMETERY

Cemetery Management

The Clerk reported that he had recently attended a Cemetery Management Training Course organised by SLCC and run by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM).

The course covered a wide range of issues and the report covered a number of issues relevant to the management of Thorne Cemetery by the Town Council. It is worth noting that the Council mainly work with a small number of local Funeral directors and Monumental Masons, and that there is a good working relationship.

Burial Records

The Council operates a manual burial record system which is up-to-date and comprehensive, and not a source for concern. The move in the medium term to a computerised record system would have some benefits in terms of ease of finding historic records, and I have begun to investigate systems for future consideration.

Interment Notice

The interment notice used by the Council covers all the key points recommended by the ICCM. Good practice includes the requirement that an interment is not confirmed until payment is received.

Transfer of Burial Rights

Graves in Thorne Cemetery are either pre-purchased, or purchased at the time of the first burial. At this point deeds are issued, with the person who the deeds are issued to becoming the grave owner. Legally this is for a maximum of 100 years (though the period could be shorter), so some graves will revert to the Council in c 9 years.

Most graves purchased are for 3 burials, with the consent of the owner needed for future burials. Problems can occur when the owner has died, or where ownership has not been properly transferred (cases have occurred elsewhere where there has been a dispute in the family). There is a need to ensure that Funeral Directors and deed owners are reminded to ensure that the deed ownership is clear to prevent problems occurring in the future.

Memorials

All memorials erected in the Cemetery require Council consent. Consent again legally should be for 100 years, though ICCM recommend granting consent for a shorter period (say 30 years) so that the Council has a right to remove them if they are unmaintained (where this is done there is a process to extend the consent).

One problem that has affected some cemeteries is poor workmanship by Masons, which can result in headstones being left in a dangerous condition. This has not been a problem in Thorne.

Some Councils now require Masons to be Members of professional institutions. This is worthy of further consideration.

There have been a few cases of people being injured by falling headstones. Some Cemetery owners reacted to this by laying down large numbers of headstones. ICCM and the Ministry of Justice advice against this as in most cases it is unnecessary, causes distress, and leads to trip hazards and maintenance problems. Steve Carr, the Cemetery supervisor checks headstones during the quieter winter months to ensure that there are no immediate hazards.

Exhumation

Fortunately this is a rare occurrence. The process is covered by statute and is closely supervised. One issue is that different consents are needed for the parts of the Cemetery that is consecrated (Bishop) and parts that are non-consecrated (Ministry of Justice). Unfortunately one gap in the records is clarity as to which sections are consecrated. This requires further investigation.

Burials

A Registrars Certificate or Coroners Order should be provided prior to a funeral proceeding, though it is possible for funeral directors to provide a written declaration confirming that one will be provided. These are normally provided with the Internment Notice which reduces the potential of problems on the day of the funeral.

The grave digging is carried out to ICCM recommendations.

There has been an issue in some areas with historic graves not being dug to the proper depth to allow for further burials. So far this has not been an issue in Thorne.

Capacity

There has been a request to Doncaster Council for the use of the land to the south of the Cemetery for an extension. There has been discussion as to the capacity of the current Cemetery.

It was reported that at present there are approximately 700 full plots remaining, plus c 50 ashes plots. In recent years plots have been used as follows:

Year	Full grave	Ashes
2007	93	29
2008	74	25
2009	48	16
2010	61	22
2011	69	32

This gives an average annual rate of 69 for full graves, and 25 for ashes. The Council will need to identify some additional ashes plots in the near future, which will further reduce the full graves. On the basis of previous trends this gives a lifetime of the Cemetery of no more than 10 years, hence the need to look for additional land.

The Clerk reported that he had been advised by DMBC that the developer who gifted the western part of the site would not be prepared to agree a change from public open space. However DMBC would discuss the sale of the eastern part of the site. This area would

provide another 10-15 years of capacity. There is an existing resolution to progress this the Clerk will discuss further with DMBC and report back. Whilst this gives an extension of life to the Cemetery it is sensible to begin to consider options for a new long term site.

The ICCM are promoting the reuse of burial areas after a fixed period as in many areas Cemeteries are getting full. This is currently illegal in the UK, though common practice in European countries. It seems unlikely that there will be quick resolution of this issue.

In summary issues arising from this report are:

- a. Computerised record system
- b. Deed ownership
- c. Memorial approval timescales
- d. Memorial Mason qualifications
- e. Cemetery capacity and sites

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

2375. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

Mr Armitage, a representative from the Allotments, thanked the Council for all their support in the year.

Mr Armitage reported that fencing in the corner of the cemetery is in a dangerous condition and is becoming a health and safety issue.

Mr Armitage referred to the Remembrance Day service at the Thorne Memorial, he said that there were members attending who could not hear the service because the PA System was not loud enough.

RESOLVED: The Clerk said that he would get the Council's workforce to look at the fence and that he would get the PA System checked out before next year's service.

2376. MOORENDS WELFARE GROUND

2376.1 Demountable Buildings

The Clerk reported that Thorne United FC had contacted the Council requesting permission to erect a demountable building on Moorends Welfare Ground. This would be in addition to an existing cabin they use for storage of their equipment. They advised the Council of the reasons for this request.

There was concern about adding to the numbers of containers on the site, and the Clerk was asked to discuss this further with Thorne United, and undertake an audit of existing provision.

2376.2 Allotments Site

At the last Council meeting there were representations from the Moorends Allotments Association with regard to trespass from then Welfare Ground. Most recently thieves had broken the lock off one of the pedestrian gates that adjoin the Allotments site to gain access.

The pedestrian gates were installed when the palisade fencing was erected presumably to allow the retrieval of balls from the welfare Ground, though permission to access this site was not requested. The Clerk reported that he had received representations from football clubs who use the 3 pitches next to the allotments regarding difficulties of retrieving balls.

A Council site meeting was held to discuss the issue further. The Allotments Association are not prepared to allow anyone who is not an allotment holder to access their site, and requested that they be allowed to weld up the pedestrian gates to prevent further trespass. They agreed to advise me of mobile phone contact of 2 allotment holders who will retrieve balls on request for the clubs.

To reduce the problem of balls going over the fence it is intended to move the pitches further north, though this will not be carried out until next season.

Works to repair the fence to the east have also commenced which should assist security for the allotments.

RESOLVED: That the request for an additional demountable building be deferred, pending further investigations by the Clerk

2377. THORNE MEMORIAL PARK

Planting Scheme

The Clerk reported that the scheme to plant the beds with roses in Thorne Memorial Park is now largely complete, and that the Mountain Ash tree and tree guard is in place. He reported that sadly a small number of the rose plants have already been damaged and said that he would discuss with the contractor options for providing some additional protection for the plants whilst they establish, and arrange for any necessary replacements.

S106 Scheme

At the September Council meeting it was agreed to set up a sub group to consider the S106 funding offer from DMBC. DMBC have given an indicative budget of £55,000. The group has met and agreed that the principal focus should be on the walled garden as a peace garden. A landscape architect is developing some options, and the group will meet again next week to consider these and to agree what should be designed in more detail.

The group also discussed the pond which can smell in warm weather. Following some discussions with consultants it would appear that the probable cause is an excess of organic material from the ducks and from unconsumed bread. The pond would benefit from dredging, and the introduction of some marginal planting, but it is unlikely that this can be accommodated in the budget above and will have to be considered further.

Tree Work

The Clerk reported that the work to the Park trees was due to commence this week, weather permitting. Notices have been posted, and temporary fencing will be erected whilst the works are underway.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2378. WAR MEMORIAL

The Clerk reported that he had received a small number of approaches suggesting that names should be added to the war memorial from more recent conflicts. This would be fairly straightforward with the addition of stones at the bottom of the memorial but felt that it is important to ensure that the Council take a consistent approach. Cllr Brookes has undertaken some research in this area, and has advised that the Memorial in the Church has about 30 more names than in the Park. In addition others from more recent conflicts will be missing.

It was felt to be appropriate to add additional names to the War Memorial for individuals who have a close association with Thorne.

RESOLVED: That additional stone(s) be provided to add more recent names to the war memorial, with details and costs to be reported back to the Council.

2379. HGV SPEED LIMITS

It was reported that the Department for Transport (DfT) had launched a consultation examining the speed limit for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) over 7.5 tonnes on single carriageway roads. DfT are looking at increasing the speed limits and has listed the following points for consideration:

- a. The maximum speed limit for HGVs over 7.5 tonnes on single carriageway roads is 40 miles per hour. The speed limit for smaller HGVs (those between 3.5 tonnes and 7.5 tonnes) is 50 mph.
- b. Stakeholders have told the Government that the 40 mph speed limit causes unnecessary cost to vehicle operators, congestion, avoidable overtaking accidents and creates an uneven playing field for businesses.
- c. Raising HGV speed limits on single carriageway roads could lead to quicker journeys and lower costs for the sector, aiding economic growth as well as reducing frustration for the many drivers who find themselves stuck behind slower-moving lorries on busy roads unable to overtake.
- d. Clearly, there are other consequences of greater speed – both in terms of the environmental impacts and the potential effects on road safety. The Department for Transport wants to make sure it considers the range of evidence of all of the effects on the economy, environment and road safety before any decision is made.

In Thorne and Moorends parishes the roads affected would be to the north and east.

RESOLVED: That an objection be raised on the grounds of safety.

End of meeting.