

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM ON TUESDAY 24th JULY 2012 IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, THORNE.

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

Cllrs. K. M. Abell, C. Blackham, J. Blackham, A. Brookes, S.J. Durant, A.Farrand, M.Houlbrook, R. Powell.

2024. APOLOGIES

Apologies were declared as follows:

Cllr. B.M.Chowings – Personal

Cllr. G Derx – Holiday

RESOLVED: That the apologies be accepted.

2025. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2026. MINUTES

Consideration was given to signing the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th May, 2012, pages 3994 – 4000.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be signed.

2027. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consideration was given to the following reports:

2027.1 Planning, Environmental, Amenities and Leisure – 12th June 2012. Pages 4001 to 4009.

2027.2 Policy, Development, Finance and Staffing – 6th March 2012. Pages 4010 to 4014.

RESOLVED: That the reports be approved.

2028. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

2029. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk updated the Councillors on the Council's Financial position to the 30th June 2012. He informed Councillors that the government have just issued a consultation paper on Town and Parish Council payment arrangements, particularly with regard to signatures and electronic banking.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that the Clerk monitor the situation with regards to electronic banking.

2030. PROPOSAL TO FEDERATE THORNE BROOKE PRIMARY AND MARSHLAND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

It was reported that Councillors had attended a Steering Group meeting on the 12th July 2012 and were disappointed that they had not been involved in discussions from the beginning. They felt that important changes in the Community should go through this Council and had requested for the history leading to the decision to federate Thorne Brooke and Marshland Primary Schools. Cllr. Blackham said that he would contact the Local Education Authority.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that the Clerk be asked to seek the following information:

- i) The names of members on the Board of Governors for the schools.
- ii) To request copies of minutes of the decision making process where the Federation was discussed. Also pdf copies of presentations and the number of people who attended them.
- iii) Who were the key stakeholders and consultees, where the responses went, also how many went out/were returned.
- iv) To find out the Key Stage 2 results for the schools concerned.

8. REPRESENTATION FROM THORNE-MOORENDS TOWN COUNCILLORS ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

Members of the Council had expressed interest in being on the Board of Governors in schools in the ward but were unsure how to progress.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be requested to investigate the method by which Councillors can get elected to the School Governing Bodies.

2031. COUNCIL SURGERIES

2301.1 Parish Council Surgeries

Councillors considered proposals for Parish Councillors to hold surgeries which would enable local residents to have an opportunity to discuss issues relating to the services/facilities provided by Thorne-Moorends Town Council.

Cllr. J.Blackham suggested that the surgery idea could be piloted but said that in his experience as a District Councillor electors tended to use electronic methods, such as telephone or email, for contacting Councillors

RESOLVED: That the Clerk seek advice and clarification on what Parish Councillors can act on.

2301.2 Payment for Surgeries

It was reported that currently the MP and District Councillors are not charged for the use of Council facilities for their surgeries. It was suggested that these users be asked to consider making a voluntary contribution for the use of Council facilities.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk seek advice and clarification on what Parish Councillors can act on.

2302. CODE OF CONDUCT

Consideration was given to the suggested Codes of Conduct from Doncaster MBC and NALC. The Clerk reported that the two Codes of Conduct covered largely the same ground, but that the NALC version has been developed specifically for Town and Parish Councils use, and its Register of Interests Form requires the inclusion of "other interests" which makes it more comprehensive. The Clerk reported that should the NALC version be used the Standing Orders would need to be amended to include the following:

"Any Member must withdraw from a meeting (including from the public gallery) where he/she has a Disposable Pecuniary Interest defined in Annex 2 of the Code of Conduct."

It was reported that to help raise awareness of the new Code of Conduct requirements and ethical governance arrangement in the Borough, the Monitoring Officer will be holding briefing sessions for Parish Clerks and Parish Councillors at the Mansion House, Doncaster on the following three dates: 13th and 15th August or 5th September. The Clerk asked Councillors to advise him of dates which they wished to attend.

RESOLVED: That this item be discussed at the Planning, Environmental, Amenities and Leisure meeting scheduled to be held in September 2012.

2303. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A report on Neighbourhood Planning was considered at the Planning, Environmental, Amenities and Leisure Committee on 7th February 2012 where no decision was taken about proceeding with a Neighbourhood Plan, but it was agreed to keep the situation under review.

The Clerk reported that more details were emerging about the practicalities and benefits of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and provided further information to allow the Council to consider what action to take.

RESOLVED: That consideration be given to the production of a Neighbourhood Plan for Thorne and Moorends.

2304. MOORENDS WELFARE GROUND

The Clerk reported that there were a number of items that required attention:

1. Pavilion Roof

The Clerk reported that the recent heavy rain had resulted in the failure of the flat roof at the rear of the pavilion, and there had been a substantial water ingress that had caused some internal damage. Urgent attention was needed to this and also to some of the gutters and downspouts which also need repairing.

The Clerk reported that to date he had received 1 quotation for the repairs at £9,940, and had sought further quotations. In view of the urgency it was proposed that this is agreed as a maximum, but that a lower quote be accepted if received.

2. Fencing

The Clerk reported that the palisade fencing at the rear of the Moorends Welfare Ground is leaning over and that quotations have been sought for it to be taken down and re-erected.

3 quotations had been received as follows (all are plus VAT):

Termstall	£6,660
Bentley Fencing	£2,790
AFS	£9,875

The Clerk reported that he had a number of observations:

- a. The fencing at this point should prevent access to the adjacent farmer's field. The lean means that it is possible to climb over. In addition some fence sections have been removed to the rear of the Bowls Club. This is probably to gain unauthorised access to the wind farm site.
- b. Whilst the fence is leaning it appears to be safe. It has been inspected by the fencing contractors and there is no evidence of further movement. The lean appears to have been caused by regular use for trespass, which has resulted in gradual movement.
- c. Initially it was believed that the fence had been erected too close to the ditch and that it was necessary to re-erect it further into the site. This would require the pitches also to be moved. One contractor is of the view that this is not necessary, so it would need to be discussed further with any successful contractor before the scheme proceeds.
- d. An alternative option suggested by one of the Contractors is to pull the fence up, and provide bracing (a concreted metal support at an angle). These braces would make the fence easier to climb as they would need to be inside the site.
- e. Recent site inspection has identified that 2 fence panels, and some palisades have been removed at the rear of the Bowls Club. One of these has been sawed off. The only assumption was that this was to obtain unauthorised access to the wind farm site. There is inevitably a danger that this will happen again. This is not included in the above quotations, but as the foundations are unaffected the additional cost is modest. I have a figure of £128 plus VAT from one of the Contractors.

3. Bowls Club Toilets

It was reported that the Bowls Club are concerned that, since the Bowls pavilion burned down, that they have poor toilet facilities. A toilet was recently installed in the Store, but this at best seems to be a temporary measure.

It appeared that the simplest solution would be to provide a small secure demountable toilet block which would sit alongside the existing demountable building - second hand toilet blocks had been identified at a cost of around £2,500 plus an additional delivery charge of around £300, plus some installation costs. The Clerk

reported that it was not be possible to tender for these in a conventional sense as it will be dependent on availability, and there will be a variety of designs.

The Clerk reported that as a new investment this can be funded as Capital and that there was currently a Capital balance of £52,635. To proceed with this proposal, and prevent any delay the Clerk recommended a Capital allocation of £3,000, with the Clerk authorised to procure and install the building in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

4. Moorends Marauders

The Clerk reported that he had been approached by Moorends Marauders with a request for reduced rates for pitch use.

The Council has previously agreed that where Clubs undertake a substantial amount of work on their facilities they are entitled to reduced or zero rates for pitch hire. At Moorends this applies to the Cricket Club and Thorne Colliery FC who pay no charge.

The Marauders currently pay £30 including VAT.

The club have recently part funded new fencing, removed the unsafe pitch edge fencing, erected a demountable building for club use, and are in the process of attracting grant to erect new Rugby posts. It is clear they are undertaking a substantial amount of self-help.

Unlike the other clubs they do not intend to carry out pitch maintenance and marking.

In these circumstances the Clerk thought that it may be better to consider a reduction in the fee (say 50%).

For the other 2 clubs it had been intended to develop longer term licence agreements for use of the site, as this would also help them when applying for grant assistance. However this is not currently possible as it is not allowed within the CISWO lease. I am currently in discussion with CISWO to explore whether it is possible to agree a mechanism within the terms of the lease that would allow agreements of this nature, or whether an amendment to the lease could be agreed.

Recommended that:

1. The works to the Moorends Pavilion Roof proceed at a cost of up to £9,940, subject to the Clerk seeking 2 additional quotations, and accepting the best quotation.
2. Bentley Fencing be appointed to re-erect the fencing at the rear of the Moorends Welfare site
3. A capital allocation of £3,000 be agreed for a demountable toilet building at the Moorends Bowls Club, and the Clerk be authorised to procure and install a suitable building.
4. That the a reduced rate for Moorends Marauders be agreed in principal but would offer them free use if they did the maintenance work themselves otherwise offer a reduced fee of 50%.
5. That the Town Clerk contact CISWO to open a dialogue regarding the site ownership.

2305. FIREWORKS

It was reported that the Council had approved funding in the 2012-13 budget for a firework display for Bonfire Night.

The display last year was held at Wyke Gate Park. In the past the display has alternated between Thorne and Moorends. The Moorends site would be the Welfare Ground.

The 5th November this year is on a Monday night. There may be merit in holding it on the preceding weekend. However if the Welfare Ground is used it would prevent football/ rugby matches taking place due to safety issues whilst the display is being set up.

The Fireworks Company have requested confirmation so that the council can have a firm booking.

RESOLVED: That the Fireworks Display be held on Monday 5th November 2012.

2306. DON VALLEY PIPELINES PROJECT

The Clerk reported that the Council have been consulted under The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 regarding a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 13(1): 2Co Power(Yorkshire) Ltd, Don Valley Power Project, Development of Natural Gas Supply, Effluent Discharge and Water Supply Pipelines and that comments were requested by 10th August.

Any pipeline constructed will lead to restrictions on development within its vicinity. However the final corridor will be considerably narrower than the area currently being scoped.

The land within Moorends Parish is nearly all farmland, and is outside any development area. The impact of pipelines within this corridor will be minimal.

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised.

End of meeting.