

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY USING MICROSOFT TEAMS on 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs. Craig Ellis (Chair), Susan Durant, Mark Houlbrook, David Knight, Joe Blackham, Carol Blackham, Ron Powell, Amie Knott, Mark Phillips, Janet Phillips, Stephen Heptinstall

Also present: Matthew Gleadell (Clerk), Ben Russell (DMBC), 1 member of the public, 1 member of the press.

#### 3634. APOLOGIES

None received.

**RESOLVED** to accept the apologies.

#### 3635. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

#### 3636. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** to accept as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 as a correct record save for noting the presence of Cllr. Mark Phillips.

#### 3637. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

There were no matters raised by the members of the public present.

#### 3638. FUTURE PARKS PROJECT FROM DONCASTER COUNCIL

Ben Russell from Doncaster Council have a presentation to outline plans for improvements to parks and green spaces across Doncaster within which Moorends Recreation Ground is earmarked for investment. Ben confirmed the funding streams that are supporting the project and the wider ambitions for the project. The funding was identified as having a capital element and revenue element and whilst chosen sites only would benefit from capital other sites could benefit from the revenue element.

It was explained that the plans are very fluid at the moment and nothing is finalised.

Members were keen to ensure that there is meaningful consultation done in relation to any plans and felt that this far there had not been enough engagement in the process.

The Moorends Miners Welfare Working Group was identified as a good group to engage with in terms of any plans for the site.

**RESOLVED** to note the presentation and confirm the Councils wish to be fully involved in the project going forward.

#### 3639. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk reported to members in relation to the following documents:

1. Balance Sheet to the end of January.
2. Monthly payment schedule.

A few queries were raised in relation to the payment schedule which was otherwise approved.

**RESOLVED** to note the Balance Sheet and approve the monthly payment schedule.

3640. ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

Cllr. Knott gave members a helpful overview of the various areas that had been discussed in the first Environmental Working Group meeting in particular Delves Water Management, Coulman Road Drainage, Promotion of the work of the group, external membership and a green audit of the Councils affairs.

**RESOLVED** to receive and note the update.

3641. CEMETERY FEES AND CHARGES

The Clerk presented his report in relation to the cemetery fees and charges and outlined his recommendations for a review and increase of the charges. It was noted that a review had not been undertaken for a few years.

It was noted that based on the Clerks broad costings that the costs of the operating the cemetery exceed the income and that members were very concerned about this. The Clerk explained that it is not unusual in the sector for Councils to subsidise the Cemetery as part of services provided by the Council.

Notwithstanding the concerns over the costs of the cemetery it was felt that due to Covid 19 that costs should remain the same.

Comparisons with other local councils and DMBC had been provided with the Clerks report however a member requests further comparisons.

**RESOLVED** to keep the cemetery charges the same as they are and further more detailed review to be undertaken at a later date.

3642. MARKET STALLS

The Clerk outlined his report and concerns over safety of staff involved in the erection of market stalls. The Clerk confirmed the costings of options for alternative stalls that would be much safer to erect.

Members felt that due to the markets decline and the lack of meaningful income from it that investment was not justified. The Clerk advised that he would have to put more staff onto the task of erecting stalls to improve the safety.

**RESOLVED** that no new market stalls will be purchased at this time and noted that the Clerk will put more staff onto the work of erecting the stalls to help make the process safer.

3643. GAS AND ELECTRIC SERVICE SUPPLIER

The Clerk gave members a full overview of all the work that had been done in the last year in trying to get a firm handle of the Councils gas and electric supply accounts, ensure readings are taken, contracts are aligned and on the best rates possible and generally ensure we are getting the best possible value.

**RESOLVED** to note the Clerks report.

3644. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Due to the confidential nature of the remaining agenda items it was **RESOLVED** under Standing Order 1 I vii to exclude press and public.

3645. DELVES CAFÉ LEASE

The Clerk outlined to members the contents of the proposed draft Lease and identified its primary terms. A member had notice a couple of small omissions which the Clerk confirmed would be added once the plan is attached.

**RESOLVED** to approve the draft Lease for signature and execution.

3646. STAFFING

The Clerk outlined the recommendations from the report made by the Staffing committee.

**RESOLVED** that the recommendations should be followed and progressed.