

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY USING MICROSOFT TEAMS on 12th JANUARY 2021 at 7pm.

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

Also present: Matthew Gleadell (Clerk). 1 member of the public. 1 member of the press.

3609. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr. Amie Knott and Cllr. Mark Phillips

RESOLVED to accept the apologies.

3610. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3611. MINUTES

RESOLVED to accept as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2020 subject to noting that Cllr. Carol Blackham was in attendance.

3612. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

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

3613. FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk outlined the content of the usual balance sheet report. The Clerk gave a detailed analysis of the budget report and his current forecast of the year end position which was noted as being on track based on the figures to the end of November. This was noted by the members. There were a number of questions and requests in respect of the monthly payment listing as follows:

1. A member asked that the monthly payment list is amended so that reference to tree works in Thorne Colliery Football Ground be changed so that they refer only to Moorends Recreation Ground. The Clerk advised that the works are within the Thorne Colliery Football Ground however it was considered that the wording of the payment list may be misleading.
2. Fuel Costs – Do we log mileage for the work van ? The Clerk responded that we do not but that we could do if that was the wish of the members. GPS tracking was also suggested by a member.

RESOLVED to log and record mileage and investigate the cost of installing a GPS tracker.

3. Service Supply Costs Electricity and Gas at Coulman Road and Winning Post – There was vociferous concerns voiced over the cost of Gas and Electricity and the question was asked if anything had actually been done despite concerns repeatedly being raised. The Clerk explained the steps that had been taken and advised that it was evident that compared to previous years costs had come down. In relation to Coulman security lighting in the car park on all night every night was considered to be a factor.

RESOLVED to investigate the cost of changing the car park lights to LED at Coulman and to investigate if some form of smart meter could be obtained to allow staff to try and determine where the high usage costs come from.

3614. EXTERNAL AUDIT 19/20

The content of the report was explained to the members by the Clerk and its contents noted. A member thanked the Clerk for his work in achieving a clean bill of health from the audit despite challenges in the last year.

3615. DEBIT / CREDIT CARD POLICY

The Clerk explained the content of the policy.

There were vociferous concerns raised over the security of the cards and whether sufficient safeguards are in place to avoid misuse by the council's administrative staff should any impropriety occur.

The Clerk advised on the various means of taking steps to provide security and to provide a level of governance to hopefully avoid any fraudulent use of the cards.

The merits of a debit card and credit card were considered.

RESOLVED as follows:

1. Do not use a debit card and abandon the request for one.
2. Any credit card must have a spend limit of £1000.
3. All card transactions must be reported to Councillors monthly as they already are.
4. The policy be adopted subject to the points raised.

3616. ACCOUNTANCY VISITS

The Clerk explained his report and the proposals made by the Staffing and Complaints Committee. Notwithstanding the consensus of the committee the full council felt that the current system is working and did not feel the need to make any changes.

RESOLVED to maintain the accountant visits at one per month.

3617. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude press and public due to the confidential nature of the remaining agenda item.