

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE WINNING POST, MARSHLAND ROAD ON 13TH JULY 2021 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Susan Durant (Deputy Chair), Joe Blackham, Allan Cuttell (arrived after Agenda item 8), Gwynn Ap Harri, Mark Houlbrook, Mark Phillips, Janet Phillips, Ron Powell

Also present: Matthew Gleadell (Clerk), 1 member of the press, 2 members of the public

3690. APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted and received from Cllrs. Nicola Etherington , Craig Ellis and Carol Blackham

NOTE: The Clerk had received apologies from Cllr. Shane Sweeting well in advance of the meeting but omitted to advise of them at the meeting.

RESOLVED to accept the apologies.

3691. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Susan Durant declared that she is Chair of Planning at Doncaster Council.

3692. MINUTES

RESOLVED to accept as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th June 2021.

3693. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

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

3694. FINANCIAL REPORT

RESOLVED to note and accept the following documents:

1. Balance Sheet
2. Monthly Payment Schedule and Direct Debit Payment list.

3695. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members noted the Clerks report and had no comments to make in relation to the applications.

RESOLVED to note the report.

3696. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk identified the governance need for being mindful of risk and the link with AGAR. The Clerk explained there will be a quarterly discussion regarding risk and the content of the discussions will help to develop the Councils risk strategy.

Members were asked to identify the risks they could think of. The following was identified.

1. Business Continuity Plan
2. Financial Risk/Sustainability
3. Cyber Attacks
4. Building Visits – Feedback – H&S
5. Assets Risk
6. Safeguarding – Protection of Staff/Users
7. Building Checks
8. Floods – Delves – Weather
9. Risk Governance – Audit Reports – Standing Orders

The Clerk confirmed the risk headings he had recorded prior to the meeting as follows:

1. Financial
2. Employment
3. Legislation Compliance
4. Physical Safety
5. Contractual
6. Events
7. Strategic

The Clerk agreed to categorise the items raised by Councillors under the risk headings he had developed and bring that back for further debate later in the year.

3697. DELVES BORE HOLE

Cllr. Powell gave members an update on work done by the Environmental Working Group which was duly noted.

RESOLVED to provide £1,000 funding towards the installation of a bore hole subject to the conditions agreed by the Environmental Working Group.

3698. FOOTPATHS AND PARKING IN THORNE MEMORIAL PARK

Members noted a request from a member of the public to resurface the paths in the park as their wife had tripped and they believed it was due to the footpath surfacing.

Members agreed to look at developing a longer term plan for the footpaths but at this moment in time the funds are simply not available.

The Clerk advised that the ground staff have done a lot of repair work over the last couple of years but that he would increase the number of safety checks on the footpaths.

In relation to the car park the background to the issue was noted from the Clerks report.

Members were very conscious of ensuring that the park is safe but recognised the need for access by the café and the council's ground staff.

3699. CEMETERY TOPPLE TESTING

The Clerk outlined the content of his report to members and the various safety implications of memorial safety. Members noted the government guide to memorial safety, the draft policy for memorial work and the potential costs of arranging a full initial inspection by an external company.

A number of questions were asked about the process, the time involved in conducting tests and the process for dealing with stones that fail.

RESOLVED to seek quotes for an external company to come and get tests done initially and to purchase tablets and software for recording safety tests.

3700. BANK MANDATE

Noted that Cllr. Mark Houlbrook has requested that he is removed from the bank mandates.

RESOLVED to replace Cllr. Houlbrook with Cllr. Ap Harri on all bank mandates.

3701. VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Cllr. Ap Harri outlined his proposals for coming and working with the Clerk to assess where he may be able to provide IT support that will make operations more efficient. Gwyn explained he has a computer science degree and has extensive experience in using IT to generate efficiencies in systems and processes.

RESOLVED to allow Cllr. Ap Harri to work with the Clerk and assess where he may be able to help and report back to the council in due course.

3702. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved to exclude press and public due to the confidential nature of the remaining agenda items.

3703. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Noted that the Operations Manager had been involved in an incident recently, the circumstances of which were explained.

The Clerk reminded members of what he had said at Future Planning meeting regarding the status of the H&S. The Clerk explained some of the resource challenges that are making it hard to both progress any weaker areas of H&S and for staff to stay on top of H&S issues day to day.

Noted that the Clerk had developed the H&S significantly whilst he had been in post.

Members were insistent that H&S is paramount and that is jobs take longer and less work gets done in order to ensure safety albeit that complaints may arise then so be it.

RESOLVED as follows:

1. Cllr. Allan Cuttell to have a look at the Councils H&S arrangements and report back.
2. Cllr. Gwyn Ap Harri to assess if there is anything he can do with IT to make it easier to conduct H&S matters.
3. Staffing and Complaints Committee to consider the need for further staff on the grounds and in the office to overcome resource issues that are compromising the ability to do everything required.

3704. THORNESIANS RUGBY CLUB

Members noted the request for some additional land at the club for further parking.

There was lengthy debate around the land and its value, its use as a route for public to walk through, its potential value for carbon offset, and the need to potentially remove hedges from the site.

RESOLVED to arrange for a visit to the site and get further information from the Rugby Club as to their intentions.

3705. DELVES

The Clerk reported that the issue had now largely resolved itself and so the Councils assistance was no longer required.

RESOLVED that the matter is noted and that the angling club are encouraged to ensure they have appropriate policy and strategies for dealing with such issues in the future.

End of meeting.