

REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT ASSEMBLY ROOMS, FIELD SIDE, THORNE, DN8 4AE on 22nd September 2021 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs Craig Ellis (Chair), Ron Powell, Rob Porter, Shane Sweeting, Susan Durant, Keith Fox, Nicola Etherington

Also present : Matthew Gleadell (Town Clerk)

3726. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Cllr. Mark Houlbrook, Cllr. Mark Phillips and Cllr. Janet Phillips

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

None

3727. PAYMENTS TO SOLE TRADERS:

The Mayor explained that work had recently been done at the football ground by a sole trader. He explained that the contractor was a sole trader and when the invoice had been submitted for payment he queries why the office was unable to pay immediately. The Mayor advised that he believes that local sole traders that we deal with are not always in a position to wait up to a month for payment and need the cashflow. The Mayor explained that in this instance the work had not been completed to standard and the contractor will not be paid but that the contract had highlighted his perceived need to change our policy and procedures for payments to support sole traders.

Members agreed with the sentiment of the Mayor.

The Clerk advised that he would need to make changes to the councils Financial Regulations as currently they do not support payments being made before approval at the monthly council meeting.

The Clerk also explained that there may be cases where there is merit in allowing some time after the works are done to ensure that there are no issues before payment is made.

It was noted that an ability to pay sole traders quickly may be a bargaining tool to help get cheaper prices for works where they know that they can expect immediate payment.

The Clerk suggested that there may be benefit in looking after certain sole traders such as our arborist so that in the event of an emergency there is hopefully more chance of the tradesman/contractor responding quickly knowing that the council is a good customer that pays quickly.

A limit of £4,999.99 was suggested for immediate payments to sole traders being the amount that the Clerk can enter into as a contract without need for Council approval.

The Clerk expressed concern about how a contractor is deemed to be of a size and status that warrants early payments. Members advised that early consultation with the contractor is required.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will make changes to Financial Regulations for approval by Full Council and also provide a list of the sole traders that the council regularly deals with and will potentially benefit from a change to payment terms.

3728. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude press and public under standing order 10 a xi due to the confidential nature of the remaining agenda item.

3729. CLUB THORNE CIC LEASE

The Clerk gave members an overview of the 3 documents before them being :

1. Licence to occupy changing rooms.
2. Underlease of football ground.
3. Licence for works.

RESOLVED to make the following changes to each document were suggested in response to the discussions and review of each document:

Licence

Council to reserve the right to withdraw the sale of alcohol as a permitted use if problems arise from people being intoxicated.

Underlease

Provision that allows the Council to terminate the lease if the club ceases playing football on the site albeit the club itself may still exist as a legal entity.

As per previous agreement , provision that allows for a town council member to be on the board of directors of the football club to act as a link between the landlord and tenant and to help to ensure that the club stays true to its stated community values.

Consent to Works

Remove clause 6.2 subject to clarification of the definition of 'Equipment'

End of Meeting