

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DRONFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, DRONFIELD
ON TUESDAY 2nd MAY 2017

Present:

Councillors A. Powell (Town Mayor), G. Baxter, L. Blanshard, T Collins, A Dale, L. Deighton, M. Emmens, A Foster, M. Foster, R Hall, G. Hopkinson, A. Hutchinson, S.Green, C. Smith, R. Smith, R. Welton and P Wright

In Attendance:

21 members of press and public, PC Sally Horner, PCSO Phil Levers and the Town Clerk

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor E. Pasley and Councillor K. Tait.

2 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Alex Dale, Councillor Angelique Foster and Councillor Richard Welton declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 10 – Motion regarding traffic matters connected with the Bramley Moor Lane Fracking site as candidates in the forthcoming County Council elections.

3 Public Speaking

3.1 Planning matters

A resident spoke raising objections about the planning application submitted by Dronfield Town Football Club.

3.2 General Matters

A member of the public expressed disappointment that the officer from Derbyshire County Council had decided not to attend the meeting to discuss the Environmental Impact Assessment. Members were also informed about an interactive website from the Coal authority showing development high risk areas. Further information was also available on other government websites. Concern was also raised about earthquake risks associated with fracking and about release of Radeon asking if the Council could press for an independent fund to be created to hold money for potential subsequent claims. Concerns were also raised about the proposed closure of the NatWest bank in Dronfield and asked if the Council could put any pressure on the bank to reconsider their decision.

3.3 Police Matters

PC Sally Horner and PCSO Phil Levers attended the meeting to provide an update on police matters during April.

30 incidents had been reported during the month. No burglaries had taken place from residential dwellings. Four ad hoc non dwelling burglaries had been taken. A Major spike had taken place with theft from works vans and shoplifting.

4. Environmental Impact Assessment – Bramley Moor Lane Site

This item was deferred to a future meeting following correspondence received prior to the meeting that the officer from Derbyshire County Council had been advised that he was unable attend the meeting because of purdah restrictions.

The written statement stated that the EIA Screening opinion was given by the County Council that an EIA was not required and confirmed that the Secretary of State was currently deciding whether or not he wishes to overturn the decision.

The update informed members that a formal application on the Marsh Lane site is expected to be submitted by INEOS during May and information would be available on the website for public consultation.

5 Council Minutes

253/16-17 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on the Monday 3rd April 2017 are approved and adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

6 Planning Matters

6.1 Planning Applications

254/16-17 RESOLVED

To note the schedule of planning applications

254/16-17 RESOLVED

That the Council write to the Planning department at NEDDC to reiterate and reinforce the concerns of residents to application reference 17/00255/FL as follows:

- i) The issue of double parking on the roads around the site is creating serious safety risks to local residents and pedestrians.
- ii) The proposed spectator shelter is too close to homes on Parkgate, who already experience unacceptable noise disturbance from the football club. There is significant concern that this problem will be made worse by the erection of the spectator shelter.
- iii) The Highways Authority has only recently been made aware of an unauthorised access for emergency vehicles onto the site and it has asked the club to make an application for this. This supersedes their previous comments that they had no objections subject to there being no changes to the access.
- iv) It is widely held that the Club will continue to use the "storage shed" as a ticket booth and Council therefore recommends that if NEDDC is minded to grant planning permission, a condition should be imposed and enforced to prevent the use of this building as a ticket booth.

6.2 Planning Decisions

255/16-17 RESOLVED

To note the schedule of planning decisions.

7 Youth Matters

None

8 Outside Services Report

The following tasks have been carried out during the month of April.

Litter Bins - The Dog and Litter bins continue to be emptied on a weekly basis. We are now using

bins provide by NEDDC for the disposal of the dog waste which takes away from having a skip from Fletchers and is a cost saver, the bins are emptied on a Monday morning each week.

Play Areas - Maintenance continues on the play areas. The main items that are left to repair is the soft surface in some of the play areas, and fencing at Hilltop.

Cemetery - The baskets are emptied around the Cemetery and toilets cleaned on a Monday and Friday.

Hanging Baskets – The hanging baskets have been cleaned out and new liners fitted to the baskets that required them, they have been dropped off at the allotments ready for planting.

Notice Boards - The notice boards have all been cleaned up with the removal of any old and non-charity posters being removed.

Football – We still currently open up and lock up for the football at Coal Aston and clean out the changing on a Monday/Tuesday. The last game for this season is Sunday 30th April.

The football goals will be removed following the last fixture at Coal Aston and Dronfield Woodhouse.

Workshop – I am looking at getting some quotes for refurbishing the office and canteen/changing area, the office I have is not adequate to work in when the weather is cold/freezing outside, this area and canteen requires to be made bigger by extending the inside area and new brick or wood portions being built with new doorways, ceiling and flooring to be done, this could be built on the mezzanine floor above the existing office. Also the lack of heating requires looking at. Over the last few weeks the temp in the office/canteen has been 8 – 13 degrees. I have a drawing of what the office/canteen would look like.

I have had two quotes for the works and waiting a further one quote.

Cliffe Park/Civic Hall – The Outside Services staff have been required to do some extra duties in the park, opening up, cleaning and setting up the lodge and also helping out at the Civic Hall.

Church Clock – The Outside Services wind up the Church Clock, this is being done on a Monday and Friday morning, and this requires 2 men to do the task safely.

Cemetery – The grass in the Cemetery has had 2 cuts so far this year, this will continue to be cut on a fortnightly basis.

Grass Cutting – We have started cutting grass around the Town with all play areas and small open spaces being cut, the areas have had 2 cuts so far and will continue to be cut on a fortnightly basis alternate with the Cemetery. I have had to use Cliffe Park staff to help with the grass cutting last week as we have had 1 person leave and another on holiday this enabled me to have a four man team.

Flower beds – The flower beds have all been maintained and any weeds have been removed.

Bus Shelters – All the bus shelters around the Town have been cleaned.

Bus Shelter removal – On Friday 7th April we had to remove the canopy and 1 glass panel from the bus shelter on Snape Hill, a van had hit the shelter making the roof unsafe, we had 2 reports from members of the public with times, registration and vehicle make of the vehicle which hit the shelter and drove off.

Workshop Fencing – We are still waiting on the fencing that was removed when the trailer was stolen in July 16 to be replaced with new palisade fencing.

Bowling and Cricket – The bowling and cricket season have both started and all wickets and greens are all up to a good standard.

Allotments – All water has been turned on at the 4 allotment sites.

Other - Various reports have been actioned around the Town. Maintenance has been carried out on various Council Buildings. The staff has quite busy covering for holidays.

256/16-17 RESOLVED

To note receipt of the report.

9 Meeting Reports

9.1 Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group meeting held on 12th April 2017

257/16-17 RESOLVED

To note the minutes of the meeting.

10 Motion

Members discussed a motion proposed by Councillor A. Dale and seconded by Councillor A. Hutchinson raising serious concerns over the proposed route for HGV traffic for planned shale gas extraction operations at Bramley Moor Lane.

Following discussion, Councillor Dale proposed that the motion includes additional words to reiterate the Council's opposition to fracking. This amendment was accepted by the seconder to the motion.

The motion was carried.

258/16-17 RESOLVED

That the Council write to Derbyshire County Council to reiterate its opposition to fracking and to express very serious concerns over the proposed route for HGV traffic for its planned operations at Bramley Moor Lane, Marsh Lane.

Council strongly objects to the use of Dyche Lane, Eckington Road and Snowdon Lane for up to 100 HGV movements per day during certain phases of the development for exploratory drilling, which is likely to increase dramatically should fracking be pursued in this location.

Councillors are already being contacted by residents with concerns over the existing volume of HGV traffic on Eckington Road and the impact on their quality of life. Council notes that

Dyche Lane is narrow in places, with narrow pavements and a lack of adequate pedestrian crossing facilities.

The junction of Eckington Road and Dyche Lane is a busy mini-roundabout, where parked cars can often cause obstructions. The junction of Stone Road and Eckington Road is also unsafe due to poor visibility. Council is extremely concerned about the safety of pedestrians and road users if HGV traffic were to increase along this proposed route.

Council asks for assurances that a site visit will be undertaken once a planning application is received.

11 Town Clerk's Report

Items For Decision

- a) Request for permission to use the old town well on Carr Lane for the blessing on Friday 14th July
- b) Request for use of room at Gosforth Lodge by Dronfield against Fracking Group

Items for Information

Members were informed that the draft recommendations by The Local Government Boundary Commission proposing new council wards, ward boundaries and ward names across the District have now been published and that the consultation on these proposals closes on 19 June 2017.

Correspondence Received (Circulated or hard copy in office)

- Local Resident concern over closure of NatWest branch in Dronfield
- Friends of Dronfield Station Notes of meeting with East Midlands Trains on 20th March.
- Personnel Advice and Solutions Employment Update March 2017

262/16-17 RESOLVED

That a request for permission to use the old town well on Carr Lane for the blessing in Friday 14th July is approved

262/16-17 RESOLVED

That the Council approve the free use of a room at Gosforth Lodge for a monthly two-hour meeting by the Dronfield against fracking group for the next four months subject to the following conditions:

- a) No activities take place that are deemed to party political
- b) There is no fundraising or admission charges
- c) Councillors are invited to the meetings

262/16-17 RESOLVED

That the Council write to NatWest to express our concern about the closure plans

262/16-17 RESOLVED

To note the Town Clerks report

12 Financial Reports

263/16-17 RESOLVED

To approve the schedules of Payments for March 2017 totalling £57,904.04.

264/16-17 RESOLVED

To note the schedules of Receipts for March 2017 totalling £26,408.23.

265/16-17 RESOLVED

To note the Bank Reconciliation at 31st March 2017.

266/16-17 RESOLVED

To note the income and expenditure statement for the financial year to 31st March 2017.

13 DALC Circulars

267/16-17 RESOLVED

To note the following Circular received from DALC:-

Circular 05/2017

New DCLG guidance on Transparency funding for authorities with a turnover of over £25,000
National Living Wage New Rates from 1 April 2017 - Updated Legal Topic Notes
New Governance & Accountability Guide published - Proposed new NALC model Contract –
Information - Vacancies on the DALC Executive Committee - Arnold-Baker on Local Council
Administration 10th Edition - Training & Events

14 Exclusion of the Press and Public

267/16-17 RESOLVED

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

The meeting closed at 8.53pm

Chairman

Date