

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DRONFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, DRONFIELD
ON TUESDAY 3rd JULY 2017

Present:

Councillors L. Blanshard, A Dale, L. Deighton, M. Emmens, A Foster, S. Green, R Hall, G. Hopkinson, A. Hutchinson, A. Powell, C. Smith, R. Smith, K. Tait, and R. Welton (Deputy Mayor)

In Attendance:

3 members of press and public, PCSO Phil Levers and the Town Clerk

Councillor R. Welton chaired the meeting.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor G. Baxter, Councillor T. Collins, Councillor M Foster, Councillor E. Pasley and Councillor P. Wright.

2 Declarations of Interest

Councillor G. Hopkinson declared a pecuniary interest and Councillor R. Hall declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 17/00621/FLH under consideration.

3 Public Speaking

3.1 Planning matters

None

3.2 General Matters

A representative from the Dronfield Residents Group spoke to express their opposition to the removal of green belt around the town. Members were informed of a petition containing thousands of signatures from local residents.

Members were asked what the Council are doing about the issue and whether the council are opposing it.

The resident questioned that they had only received two replies from letters sent to all the District Councillors representing Dronfield.

The speaker asked for a special meeting to be held to discuss the green belt issue in Dronfield and explore all areas before the green belt is lost.

The Council agreed to write to North East Derbyshire District Council to ask that a special extraordinary meeting is held to discuss the Local Plan and the removal of green belt.

3.3 Police Matters

PCSO Phil Levers attended the meeting to provide an update on police matters during May.

Crime figures were not available for the meeting. The Officer took questions on policing matters from members.

4 Council Minutes

42/17-18 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on the Monday 5th June are approved and adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5 Planning Matters

5.1 Planning Applications

Cllr A. Dale and Cllr A. Foster declared a non-pecuniary interest in application 17/00618/LB as elected members of Derbyshire County Council who are the applicant

43/17-18 RESOLVED

That the Council request a site visit in respect of application 17/00616/OL and object on the grounds that the development is within the greenbelt. Concerns were also raised about the presence of Japanese knotweed on the site and concerns over traffic and parking issues.

44/17-18 RESOLVED

That the Council request a site visit in respect of application 17/00670/CUPDMB. Concerns were raised that the site may lie within the green belt. The Council also discussed whether an agricultural tenancy condition could be applied.

45/17-18 RESOLVED

That the Council object to application 17/00594/FL on the grounds that the use of a stainless steel blanking plate to cover the void left by the removal of the ATM and night safe is unsightly and unacceptable within the conservation area. The Council ask that the aperture is bricked up and brought up to a suitable standard.

46/17-18 RESOLVED

To note the schedule of planning applications

5.2 Planning Decisions

47/17-18 RESOLVED

To note the schedule of planning decisions.

6 Youth Matters

None

7 Outside Services Report

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

Litter/Dog Bins - The litter and dog bins continue to be emptied on a weekly basis, this is carried out every Thursday and consists of 2 men doing the whole route, and they also inspect the play areas/equipment at the same time.

Play Areas - Maintenance continues on the play areas. The main items that are left to repair are the soft surface in some of the play areas.

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

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

Cemetery – The grass in the Cemetery is being cut on a fortnightly basis. Summer bedding plants have been planted within the Cemetery.

Grass Cutting – We have started cutting grass around the Town with all play areas and small open spaces being cut, and will continue to be cut on a fortnightly basis alternate with the Cemetery.

Flower beds – The flower beds have all been planted with 8000 summer bedding plants, the plants we have planted this year are Begonias, Geraniums, Marigolds and Petunias.

Footpaths – All footpaths that DTC O/S Services look after have been strimmed back and weed spray applied.

Cliffe Park - The O/S team have been looking after Cliffe Park over the last couple of weeks, this involves opening up the gates, toilets, tennis courts and the Lodge cleaning and setting up during the day for groups. We have also being required to do all the grass cutting, strimming and tidying up of the park, more so last week to get the park ready for the Gala.

Dronfield Gala – The Dronfield Gala was held on 25th June, The O/S team worked hard and spent a couple of days in the park getting it ready for the Gala, the event was well attended and enjoyed by all families attending.

Allotments – The asbestos that was on a shed at the Coal Aston allotments has been removed along with the asbestos that we had wrapped up and stored at the workshop.

Hilltop Play area – The fencing has now been completed around the play area.

Other - Various reports have been actioned around the Town. Maintenance has been carried out on various Council Buildings.

48/17-18 RESOLVED

The Council expressed their thanks to Council staff for their outstanding work on the Gala.

49/17-18 RESOLVED

To note receipt of the report.

8 Meeting Reports

8.1 Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group held on 7th June 2017

50/17-18 RESOLVED

To note the minutes of the meeting.

8.2 Grants Awards Panel held on 30th June 2017

51/17-18 RESOLVED

- a) That the following grants are approved
 - i) Derbyshire Police (Summer Activity Programme) - £500
 - ii) Dronfield First responders - £500
 - iii) Coal Aston Cricket Club - £400
 - iv) Dronfest - £500
- b) That no funds are awarded to Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Tinnitus Support Group.

52/17-18 RESOLVED

To note the minutes of the meeting.

9 Refurbishment of Play Areas

Members discussed options proposed by the Parks and Recreation Committee for refurbishment of the play facilities on Cliffe Park.

53/17-18 RESOLVED

That the Council agree to fund a refurbishment scheme of £80,000 and that the Council commence the tender process with a view to commencing work at the end of the summer.

10 Town Clerk's Report

Items For Decision

- a) District, Town and Parish Council Conference.

Members were informed of the forthcoming conference and invited to nominate two members from the Council to attend.

- b) Dronfield Beer Festival

Members were informed of complaints received by the Council about the Beer Festival and a request from residents to provide feedback on what is being done to assess the event and prevent problems reoccurring at future events.

54/17-18 RESOLVED

That Cllr Blanshard attends the conference and the Clerk circulates the information to all Councillors offering the other place.

55/17-18 RESOLVED

That the Council write to the relevant authorities and ask that the Council are included in the planning process for events taking place in the future.

56/17-18 RESOLVED

To note the Town Clerks report

11 Financial Reports

57/17-18 RESOLVED

To approve the schedules of Payments for May 2017 totalling £44,638.67.

58/17-18 RESOLVED

To note the schedules of Receipts for May 2017 totalling £31,400.78.

59/17-18 RESOLVED

To note the Bank Reconciliation at 31st May 2017.

60/17-18 RESOLVED

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

12 DALC Circulars

61/17-18 RESOLVED

To note the following Circular received from DALC:-

Circular 08/2017

The DALC office is moving! - Lobby Day at Westminster - NALC Larger Local Councils Conference 13 December 2017 - Plunkett Foundation – working with local councils to support communities - Royal Garden Party - Training Programme

13 Exclusion of the Press and Public

62/17-18 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 9.15pm

Chairman

Date