

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF DRONFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, DRONFIELD
ON TUESDAY 3rd JANUARY 2012

Present: Councillors: D Oxspring, (The Town Mayor): S Allsop, G Baxter, A Blackburn, P Blackburn, L Blanshard, M Emmens, A Foster, N Foster, B Gachagan, S O'Donnell, C Smith, R Smith, A Talford, W Temple.

Also Present: Liz Boswell – Clerk to the Council, seven members of the public and representatives of the press.

Councillor D Oxspring (The Town Mayor) opened the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Public Forum – for Planning Matters

None

Public Forum – General Matters

Bernie Charlesworth of the Town Twinning Federation asked for the reason why a grant application had been turned down for young band visiting Sindelfingen. It was explained that funds are not finite and all applications are considered on their merits.

Presentation on the Lea Brook Valley Project

Norman Crowson and Peter Carr of the Lea Brook Valley Project gave a presentation to the meeting. The project has an ageing team and is always looking for new members. A new trailer is to be made to store tools and equipment at the Council Workshop. Churches Together have been asked to help find new personnel to support Norman; and A Rocha (Christian Conservation Organisation) are searching for a suitable intern to work in the Valley. The majority of initiatives have been completed; three areas remain outstanding. The first is works on the wet area. Talks have been held with Yorkshire Water with regards to developing the balancing pond and to remove the vegetation that is growing in this area. The aim of the Lea Brook Valley Project is for either Council to obtain ownership of the site or for Yorkshire Water to sign the Memorandum of Understanding that has been drawn up to enable works to take place on the site. The second area is on the CCTV project to film nesting birds and transmit into schools, there is agreement from the land owner, some funds are available, but new quotes need to be sought and the schools need to be re-contacted. The third area is that of pollution in the valley. Environmental Health have located the problem, but it is understood that no works have yet been undertaken to remedy the situation. There are concerns that this is a health hazard to children who play in and around the brook.

Finally it is hoped that should permission be received from Yorkshire Water, community clean up days will be organised to commence work in the wet area.

Councillor D Oxspring (The Town Mayor) thanked Norman Crowson and Peter Carr for their presentation.

1 Town Council Standing Orders

To confirm the activation of the Council's Standing Orders for all the remaining items of Council business.

248/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to activate the Council's Standing Orders for all the items of business.

2 Police Matters

Councillors received crime figures for December 2011 as follows:

Section 39 Assault	-	3
Section 47 Assault	-	5

Theft	-	11
Robbery	-	1
Theft of Motor Vehicle	-	1
Theft from Motor Vehicle	-	1
Burglary Dwelling	-	6
Burglary Non Dwelling	-	5
Damage Dwelling	-	4
Damage Non Dwelling	-	2
Damage Motor Vehicle	-	1

249/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to receive the report and to request that in future crime figures for the same period the previous year be provided with the papers.

3 Declarations of Interest

250/11-12

Councillor Mrs S Allsop declared an interest in Planning Application Appendix 1 Item 8 11/01103/FL – Construction of 5 detached dwellings with integral garages (revised scheme of 11/00361/FL) at Land to the Rear of 14 to 22 Green Lane and 4 to 16 Park Avenue.

Councillor Mrs C Smith declared an interest on Planning Application Appendix 1 Item 9 11/01110/TPO Application to fell 6 trees and carry out pruning works to others covered by NEDDC Tree Preservation Order 17 (A1) at Cemetery, Cemetery Road.

4 Apologies

251/11-12 RESOLVED

The following apologies for absence were received, noted and accepted from the following members:

Councillor Dr S Clark – Other Business
 Councillor Ms M S Emmens – Other Business
 Councillor Mr R Hall – Other Business
 Councillor Mr P Widdowson

5 Council Minutes

252/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on the 5th December 2011, they were adopted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Mayor.

6 Date of Next Meeting

253/11-12 RESOLVED

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 16th January 2012 at 7.30pm in the Civic Hall.

7 Lea Brook Valley

Councillors asked the Clerk for clarification on what discussions had taken place with Yorkshire Water. It was explained that there had been a proposal for the Town Council to purchase the land; this had been put on hold because of the ongoing situation with complaints from residents with regards to the trees on the perimeter of the site. This situation may well now be remedied as extensive works have taken place on the trees. In the mean time negotiations have been re-opened with regards to Yorkshire Water allowing the project team to undertake some works on the site. A Memorandum of Understanding has been drawn up and it is hoped that Yorkshire Water will agree and sign this document. Discussion ensued on the flood alleviation works that have taken place at Bowshaw; the cleaning out of silt from the culverts which is a regular task of the project team and also the ongoing situation with the pollution in the brook.

8 Planning Matters

Applications

Members considered a schedule of planning applications submitted by North East Derbyshire District Council for consideration and comment.

254/11-12 RESOLVED

It was agreed that the Council would object to planning application 11/01103/FL – Application for the construction of 5 detached dwellings with integral garages (revised scheme of 11/00361/FL) at Land to the Rear of 14 to 22 Green Lane and 4 to 16 Park Avenue. Members feel that this proposal is unsuitable on this site. The proposal is a back land development for five huge houses. The houses are out of scale with the existing houses in the area. The proposal is on a green field site in the heart of Dronfield, the land was set aside for vegetable gardens and a paddock. It is strongly felt that the building of these dwellings would have a detrimental effect on the area on neighbouring properties. It is requested that a site visit is carried out prior to assessing this application and that the application is considered by the Planning Committee.

255/11-12 RESOLVED

It was agreed that the Council would raise a query as to where the business was situated for application 11/01116/FL Retention of change of use of outbuildings to private hire taxi office on land to rear (Conservation Area) at 36 to 38 Chesterfield Road. Councillors are unable to understand why outbuildings are being used for the business whilst the shop at 38 Chesterfield Road remains empty. It is considered that the shop front is unsightly; the windows have been covered up for a considerable time. The property situated in the conservation area should be tidied and utilised as a business.

256/11-12 RESOLVED

It was agreed that the Council would notify the Planning Inspectorate that the Council objected to Appeal for Planning Application 11/00080/FL Construction of a 1 bedroom bungalow (revised scheme of 10/00047/FL) (Amended Plans) (Further Amended Plan / Additional Information) on the grounds that it is a back fill development.

257/11-12 RESOLVED

It was agreed that the Council's observations as laid out at the meeting of 5th September 2011 should be re-submitted in respect of the Appeal for Planning Application 11/00361/FL Construction of five detached dwellings with integral garages (revised scheme of 09/00993/FL) (Amended Plans) at Land to the Rear of 14 to 22 Green Lane and 4 to 16 Park Avenue.

Planning Decisions

258/11-12 RESOLVED

It was agreed that the Enforcement Officer at North East Derbyshire District Council be asked to look at the refused Application 11/00894/FL at 1 Westbank Close, Dronfield as the works have been carried out on the formation of a caravan hard standing and associated access and gates on to Pighills Lane. There is also a sign erected stating that the Lane is private, whereas the Lane has public access and is listed as Footpath 31 on the Definitive Map.

259/11-12 RESOLVED

The Council received and noted the Schedule of Planning decisions provided on Appendix 2 of the meeting agenda.

9 Youth Matters

A question was raised over progress with the Skateboard Park proposal, it was explained that an answer is still awaited from North East Derbyshire District Council with regards to the renewal of the lease. The matter has been followed up a number of times and will continue to be so until an answer is received.

10 Advisory Committees of the Council

The Council considered the minutes of the following Advisory Committees.

10.1 Thomas Taylor Charity held on 6th December 2011

260/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to consider the minutes of the meeting of the Thomas Taylor Charity held on 6th December 2011 at the Annual Meeting in May.

10.2 Budget Advisory Committee held on 16th December 2011

261/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to accept the recommendations of the meeting of the Budget Advisory Committee held on 16th December 2011.

11 Outside Services Report

Grounds Maintenance

The footpaths continue to be strimmed and hedges cut back and shrubs pruned as necessary.

Play Areas

Maintenance in the Play areas continues. All the old fencing at the back of the Dronfield Woodhouse play area, adjacent to the school fence has been removed.

Bus Shelters

Bus shelters have been cleaned and washed down and replaced glass where necessary.

Grit Bins

All the grit bins have been refilled after the cold weather mid December. I will have another skip full (8 ton) ready in the yard if weather changes again.

Other Duties

The Dog and Litter bins continue to be emptied on a weekly basis.

Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights at Greendale shops had to be rewired, the first week in December as water had got into the system.

Coal Aston Changing Rooms

The loft insulation will be installed over the next week.

Cliffe Park

The litter bins at Cliffe Park have all been replaced with the new bins in stock in the workshop, this will enable replacement any of the old type that are damaged.

New steel bollards have been installed outside the Lodge to stop people from driving onto the grass when they are trying to turn.

The wooden fence at the side of the main gates has been replaced with steel posts, this is because a car owner had their car locked in the car park and took down the fence to remove their car.

262/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to receive the report.

12 Clerk to the Council's Report

Energy Conservation Evening

Councillors were reminded that the Energy Conservation Evening being held in partnership with the Town Council and the Civic Society is to be held on Thursday 12th January 2012 at 7.30pm in the Civic Hall.

263/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to note the date

Dronfield 10k and Fun Run 2012

A request has been received from 7th Dronfield Scout Group to utilise Sindelfingen Park for the event.

264/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to allow the use of Sindelfingen Park

Snow Warden Scheme

The level of attendance at the training evening was disappointing. We are now in the process of sorting insurance arrangements and then will promote a further campaign for volunteers.

265/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to note the report.

Chesterfield Road and Pentland Road Litter Problems

The feedback from residents and North East Derbyshire District Council's street cleaners is that the owners of the premises in question have been attending to the issue and that the situation is very much improved. Any deterioration will be reported to the Environmental Health Officer.

266/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to note the report.

Information Received

Town Twinning Minutes of Meeting held on 7 December 2011

267/11-12 RESOLVED

The meeting noted that the above information had been received.

Invitations Received

North East Derbyshire District Council – District and Parish Liaison Meeting Wednesday 4th January 2012 at 6.00pm at the Council House, Saltergate.

Dronfield Town Twinning Federation – Quiz Night 16th March 2012 7.15pm at the Civic Hall

268/11-12 RESOLVED

The meeting noted that the above invitations had been received.

269/11-12 RESOLVED

To contact the Community Partnership Team and request that details of meetings are circulated to all Councillors.

Publications Received

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

60/2011 – Technical Reforms of Council Tax, Parish and Town Council Liaison Forum, Parish Council Finance, Curbar Parish Council Clerk Vacancy

61/2011 – Derbyshire Wildlife Trust – Workshop on Invasive Non Native Species 20 January 2012 Medway Centre, Bakewell, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust – Mini Habitat Project, Recording Disciplinary Hearings, Quarndon Parish Council Clerk Vacancy, Re-advertisement Ballidon and Bradbourne Parish Council Clerk Vacancy, Baslow and Bubnell Parish Council Clerk Vacancy

62/2011 – Training 2012 – Law and Good Practice Killamarsh Leisure Centre 19 March 2012 and The Old School Willington 16 April 2012, Clerk induction courses, Certificate in Local Council Administration

63/2011 – 2011 Model Contract of Employment

Derbyshire County Council – Could you champion your community's case for better broadband?

Linkline

North East Derbyshire District Council – Community News

270/11-12 RESOLVED

The meeting noted that the above publications had been received and are available for Councillors inspection in the Town Council Office.

13 Financial Report for November 2011

13.1 Schedule of Payments

Members considered the schedule of payments for the month of November 2011.

271/11-12 RESOLVED

Members approved the schedule of payments for the month of November 2011.

13.2 Schedule of Receipts

Members considered the schedule of receipts for the month of November 2011

272/11-12 RESOLVED

Members approved the schedule of receipts for the month of November 2011.

13.3 Bank Reconciliation

Members considered the bank reconciliation as at 30 November 2011.

273/11-12 RESOLVED

Members approved the bank reconciliation as at 30 November 2011.

13.4 Budget Monitoring

Members considered the budget monitoring report as at 30 November 2011.

274/11-12 RESOLVED

To accept the Budget Monitoring Report at 30 November 2011.

14 Exclusion of Public and Press

275/11-12 RESOLVED It was resolved that the public and press be now excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following items of business in order to avoid the disclosure to them of exempt information as defined by Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2004).

NOTE The minute record for these final items of business is recorded in a confidential final page of the minutes for Town Councillors attention only. The Public/Press then withdrew from the meeting. The items of business related wholly to:

14.1 Staffing – Evaluation and Grading

The Meeting closed at 8.40pm