

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF DRONFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, DRONFIELD
ON MONDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2012

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

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

Public Forum – for Planning Matters

Residents from Moorgate Crescent addressed the meeting with their objections to planning application 11/00646/OL – Demolition of the existing dwelling house and the erection of 4 dwellings and associated garaging and car parking with appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved (Amended Plan) (Further Amended Plan) at 9 Moorgate Crescent. The residents stated that they objected to the application for four two-storey semi detached properties in an area of single storey bungalows as they are not in keeping. There were concerns of loss of privacy as one property will be just 6 metres away from an existing property. It is thought that 12 mature trees and six mature bushes will need to be removed from the site and there will be little space for replacement plants. The proposed parking will just meet with minimum requirements and there is no room for on road parking. The plans propose an access road between numbers 9 and 11 and it is not considered that there is sufficient visibility at this point for access on to a blind corner.

Public Forum – General Matters

Representatives from Gosforth Pre-school addressed the meeting with their concerns for the future of the pre-school in conjunction with the Derbyshire County Council proposals to close the Youth Centre which houses the pre-school. The representatives outlined how the pre-school has been graded as outstanding by Ofsted and since 1978 has operated as a non profit making charity. There are currently 60 families in the area that benefit from the facility. They are currently open 5 mornings and two afternoons per week and due to the length of the waiting list applied for an extension of hours. It was only through this application that they discovered the plans for the Youth Centre to be closed. They have until the 18th March 2012 to put together an application for the use of the building as a community facility. A petition has been set up and they are seeking letters of support to attempt to keep the pre-school open. There is a further complication as it is understood that they will be responsible for maintenance works on the building and the current estimate of required works is £14000. Support is requested from the Town Council.

Presentation on the Barn Project

Mike Slinn Chairman of the Peel Centre and the Barn Project presented the plans for the Dronfield Heritage and Arts Project to the meeting. The barn is thought to be a the oldest residence in the town and in a King Pin Building. Six years ago Sainsbury's gave the barn to the Peel Trust. The historic building has been empty for some time and currently makes no contribution for the community or the economy. There is a vision for barn to be sympathetically renovated and to house heritage displays, performing arts and festivals. The project is anticipated to cost in the region of £750,000, £700,000 is sought from grant funding and it is envisaged that the remaining £50,000 can be raised locally via the Friends of Dronfield Hall Barn. The Town Council is asked for a 1% contribution. The applications for funding need to be submitted by June 2012 and the outcome will be known in September 2012. So far over 200 letters of support have been received and a letter is requested from the Town Council. If individuals are interested in registering as friends of the Dronfield Hall Barn they should contact Margaret Phipps at wsfarm@tesco.net, the cost is £5.00 for individual membership.

Councillor D Oxspring (The Town Mayor) thanked Mike Slinn for his presentation.

1 Town Council Standing Orders

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

284/11-12 RESOLVED

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

2 Police Matters

Members considered a letter that has been received from the Assistant Chief Constable outlining closure the Police Enquiry Office in Dronfield.

285/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to write to the Assistant Chief Constable to ask that consideration is given to keeping the enquiry office open in a large town. To request clarification on the consultation process that has taken place, to ask for the basis of the decision and for comparison figures with those offices being kept open.

Councillors received crime figures for January 2012 as follows:

Damage	-	9
Fraud	-	1
Other theft	-	13
Taking Without Consent	-	1
Theft from Motor Vehicle	-	4
Drugs Possession	-	3
Robbery	-	2
Non Dwelling Burglary	-	7
Dwelling Burglary	-	5
Public Order	-	3
Theft of Motor Vehicle	-	1
ABH	-	2
Common Assault	-	2
Arson	-	1

Serious Acquisitive Crime has been a problem in January with a higher number of recorded crimes than usual. Coal Aston has been the area hit by burglaries; Operation Lucia staff have conducted patrols in the area. Three robberies have occurred and a suspect has been arrested; an offender has been arrested and charged with three public order offences. Crime in the area is still relatively low at less than two crimes recorded per day. There have been fifteen nuisance incidents in Dronfield and two in Dronfield Woodhouse. Six of the incidents involved a neighbour problem; this has resulted in three public order charges. Six have involved youths climbing on the roof at Greendale shops; three youths have been identified and steps are being taken to solve the problem using ASB measures.

286/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to receive the report.

Councillor Roger Hall left the meeting at this point.

3 Declarations of Interest

None.

4 Apologies

287/11-12 RESOLVED

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

Councillor A Blackburn - Other
Councillor P Blackburn - Other
Councillor N Foster - Other
Councillor W Temple - Illness

5 Council Minutes

288/11-12 RESOLVED

5.1 It was resolved to accept the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on the 3rd January 2012, they were adopted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Mayor.

289/11-12 RESOLVED

5.2 It was resolved to accept the minutes of the special meeting of the Town Council held on the 16th January 2012, they were adopted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Mayor.

6 Barn Project

290/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved that the Town Council would send a letter to the Trustees of the Peel Centre Charitable Trust in support of the Dronfield Heritage Project.

7 Representatives on Outside Bodies

To consider the appointment of two representatives on to the Town Twinning Federation Committee.

291/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved that Councillors Baxter and Oxspring would be appointed as representatives to the Town Twinning Federation Committee and that Councillor Emmens would attend in the absence of either appointed Councillor.

8 Planning Matters

Applications

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

292/11-12 RESOLVED

It was agreed that the Council would object to planning application 11/00646/OL – Demolition of the existing dwelling house and the erection of 4 dwellings and associated garaging and car parking with appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved (Amended Plan) (Further Amended Plan) at 9 Moorgate Crescent. The application is objected to on the following grounds:

Two pairs of semi –detached houses are out of keeping in an area of single storey dwellings. That the placing of four houses on a site currently housing one dwelling is overdevelopment. There are privacy concerns for existing dwellings.

There are concerns about limited parking for four dwellings.

There is concern over the loss of mature trees.

It is requested that a site visit is carried out.

293/11-12 RESOLVED

It was agreed that the Council would object to planning application 11/01116/FL - Retention of change of used of out buildings to private hire taxi office on land to rear of 36 to 38 Chesterfield Road. The application is objected to on the following grounds:

The buildings are deemed to be unsuitable.

Access is not considered safe on to that part of Chesterfield Road.

There is not adequate parking for a taxi firm at this location.

Planning Decisions

The meeting was informed that the approval of application 10/00948/FL for the installation of 6 columns and floodlights (Amended Plans) at Dronfield Town Football Club, Stonelow Playing Fields was subject to conditions including the restriction of usage to the first team, the use would be monitored.

294/11-12 RESOLVED

The Council received and noted the Schedule of Planning decisions provided on Appendix 3 of the meeting agenda.

9 Youth Matters

The Council considered a letter with regards to a Derbyshire County Council consultation document on Youth Services. The letter expressed concern on the future of Gosforth Pre-School, which is currently housed in Gosforth Youth Centre.

295/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved that the Council is opposed to the closure of Youth Clubs. That support will be given to the Pre-school in any application to continue to run the facility and that support will be given for the retention of the building as a facility for all parts of the community.

10 Advisory Committees of the Council

The Council considered the minutes of the following Advisory Committees.

10.1 Properties Advisory Committee 17 January 2012

The Council considered the email from the Police with regards to the provision of CCTV in the town.

296/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved that Inspector Shooter should be invited to a meeting to discuss the matter.

297/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to accept the minutes from the Properties Advisory Committee held on 17 January 2012

10.2 Party in the Park Committee 19 January 2012

The Council considered the split of the net profit from the event.

298/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved that £2500 is left in reserve to help fund next years event, £500 will go to Bluebell Wood, from the remainder 10% will go to the Mayors Appeal and 90% will go to Ashgate Hospice

299/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to accept the minutes from the Party in the Park Meeting held on 19 January 2012

11 Outside Services Report

Play areas

Maintenance in the play areas continues.

Bus Shelters

All the bus shelters have been cleaned and washed down.

Grit Bins

Grit bins have been re-filled.

Litter Bins

The dog and litter bins continue to be emptied on a weekly basis.

Cliffe Park

Signage at Cliffe Park has been repositioned at the park entrance.

Jubilee

The footpath alongside the park has been cut back.

Coal Aston

The loft insulation has been installed in the changing rooms.

Notice boards

Notice boards are being made for Pentland Road, Sports Centre Car Park and Post Office Chesterfield Road; and will be installed as soon as they are ready.

Other Duties

Fence has been installed at top of Beechwood.

Broken fencing has been removed from Dronfield Woodhouse Play Area.

Christmas Lights been removed and stored at the unit.

Lighting Columns

All numbers have been noted from all lighting columns that have hanging baskets brackets on them, this is to be sent to Standard Industries for inspection of the columns.

Marsh Avenue

The area under swings has been dug up and the soft surface and tarmac replaced with soil, this area will not be in use until grass has started to grow then grass mats will be installed over top.

Outside Service Staff

I would like to thank Dave White, Dale Richardson and Phil Horseman for all their hard work done over the last few months whilst working with a reduced workforce.

300/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to receive the report.

12 Clerk to the Council's Report

Energy Conservation Evening

Councillors received the notes from the Energy Conservation Evening.

301/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to receive the report.

Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors received the notes from the Neighbourhood Plan Meeting. Concern was expressed over potential costs of producing a plan. All Councillors are invited to a presentation by Adrian Kirkham of North East Derbyshire District Council on Thursday 9th February at 2.00pm.

302/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to receive the report.

Snow Warden Scheme

The Clerk reported that arrangements for insurance are now in place and a further drive for volunteers is now in progress.

303/11-12 RESOLVED

It was resolved to receive the report.

Information Received

Derbyshire County Council - Revised Policy for the Management of Motorised Vehicles on the Countryside

Friends of Dronfield Station Minutes of Meeting held on 29th November 2011

Town Twinning Minutes of Meeting held on 4 January 2012.

304/11-12 RESOLVED

The meeting noted that the above information had been received.

Invitations Received

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

Derbyshire County Council – Liaison Forum –Thursday 26 April 2012 6.00pm to 8.00pm at County Hall, Matlock

305/11-12 RESOLVED

The meeting noted that the above invitations had been received.

Publications Received

Campaign to Protect Rural England

Planning Explained

How to shape where you live

Citizens Advice Bureau – Help for Helping Your Residents

Clerks and Councils Direct

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

1/2012 – Index of 2011 Circulars

2/2012 – Excessive Rises in Council Tax and the Application of a Local Referendum (Localism Act 2011 – “Capping” Provisions will not apply to Parish Councils for 2012/2013); Fairplay for Children Survey, The Allotments Regeneration Initiative
3/2012 – Local Council Review Subscriber Form
4/2012 – Prayers at Council Meetings – Judicial Review, Consultation Responses – NALC
5/2012 – No DALC subscription Rise for Second Year, The New Public Health System, Heating or Eating – Advice Derbyshire, DALC Chief Officer Vacancy
6/2012 – Derbyshire County Council Parish and Town Councils Liaison Forum – Thursday 26 April 2012 6.00 to 8.00pm County Hall Matlock, Derbyshire Infrastructure Plan and Developer Protocol, DCC Consultation on Policy of Management of Vehicular use in the Countryside, A New Youth Offer – Stakeholder event
7/2012 – Draft Community Right to Challenge Instruments and Guidance, PAYE Arrangements for Clerks and RFOs

Derbyshire County Council - First

Dronfield Civic Society – Newsletter

North East Derbyshire District Council – Adoption of Sustainable Buildings Supplementary Planning Document

Sheffield City Council – Sheffield Development Framework – Additional Site Allocations Options Consultation

306/11-12 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 December 2011

13.1 Schedule of Payments

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

307/11-12 RESOLVED

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

13.2 Schedule of Receipts

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

308/11-12 RESOLVED

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

13.3 Bank Reconciliation

Members considered the bank reconciliation as at 31 December 2011.

309/11-12 RESOLVED

Members approved the bank reconciliation as at 31 December 2011.

13.4 Budget Monitoring

Members considered the budget monitoring report as at 31 December 2011.

310/11-12 RESOLVED

To accept the Budget Monitoring Report at 31 December 2011.

The Meeting closed at 8.55pm