

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DRONFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, DRONFIELD
ON WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE 2012

Present:

Councillors: S Allsop (The Town Mayor), G Baxter, L Blanshard, M Emmens, A Foster, R Hall, S O'Donnell, C Smith, R Smith, A Talford, W Temple.

Also Present:

Liz Boswell – Clerk to the Council, 3 members of the public and representatives of the press.

Public Forum – for Planning Matters

None

Public Forum – General Matters

A query was raised as to whether the notice board at Holmesdale shops is to be replaced, the board was removed due to complaints from a shop keeper and is due to be re-sited.

Presentation – Friends of Dronfield Station

Dr Peter Hayward MBE Chairman of Friends of Dronfield Station gave a presentation on the current situation with regards to Dronfield Station. There is currently a basic hourly service, but there are still gaps within the time table. There has been phenomenal growth in passenger numbers from approximately 15,000 to 181,000 in three years. Surveys are undertaken every six months and show continual growth. The station environment has been transformed by the Friends of Dronfield Station, rail travel has been promoted and there is widespread support for integrated transport. Nationally it is a time of change and decentralisation and services will be re-franchised by April 2014. It is envisaged that the decentralisation will give a greater role for regional transport authorities and will improve links in the East Midlands. It is hoped in the short term that for Dronfield there will be additional services to fill the current timetable gaps, trains later into the evening and additional peak services and there in the medium and long term that there will be additional trains at peak times throughout the week and weekends, culmination in a basic half hourly service throughout the day and additional stops by the London semi fast services. Improved station facilities are still being sought. Northern Rail have offered three benches, funding is available from Derbyshire County Council for two more, but it is proving difficult for these to be added on to the Northern Rail order. The system of announcements is very unreliable, Northern Rail are unwilling to invest in passenger information displays this late on in their franchise, but investigations are underway as to whether if half the budget was funded from an alternative source would they be willing to install. There are no current proposals for a ticket machine or staffing, however Dore has now got a ticket machine. Car parking continues to be a problem on the site, although there is a small piece of land available for extension, which will be dependent on funding and lease. Dronfield Town Council is asked for continued support in helping Friends of Dronfield Station in meeting their objectives, and lobbying of other authorities, financial support would be appreciated as would support for funding bids. The AGM is scheduled for 22 June 2012 at 7.30pm in Gosforth Lodge, Cliffe Park, Dronfield.

1 Town Council Standing Orders

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

8/12-13 RESOLVED

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

2 Police Matters

None

3 Declarations of Interest

Councillor R Hall declared an interest in Item 9.1 Planning Application Number 12/00275/AD
Councillor C Smith declared an interest in item 9.1 Planning Application Number 12/00441/FLH

Councillor G Baxter declared an interest in item 6 Friends of Dronfield Station.

Councillor R Hall declared an interest in item 6 Friends of Dronfield Station.

4 Apologies

9/12-13 RESOLVED

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

Councillor A Blackburn - Other

Councillor P Blackburn - Other

Councillor S Clark - Other

Councillor M S Emmens - Other

Councillor N Foster - Other

Councillor B Gachagan - Other

Councillor D Oxspring - Other

Councillor P Widdowson - Other

5 Council Minutes

10/12-13 RESOLVED

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on the 8 May 2012, they were adopted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Mayor.

11/12-13 RESOLVED

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the annual meeting of the Town Council held on the 15 May 2012, they were adopted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Mayor.

6 Friends of Dronfield Station

Friends of Dronfield Station were congratulated for all the work they had undertaken. Concern was expressed that ticket machines did not always give the best value for money and often could only be operated by a credit card. Concern was also expressed over the use of parking spaces by people not using the train service. It was pointed out that as part of the last franchise that an integrated travel system should be sought to include buses, park and ride, cycle paths and footpaths and that this to be inclusive should include outlying areas. It was noted that Ben Still the current Director of Strategy at the South Yorkshire Transport Executive had been appointed as Chairman of the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership.

7 Representatives on Advisory Committees

12/12-13 RESOLVED

It was resolved that the following changes be implemented to the Advisory Committees

Properties Advisory Committee – Addition of Cllr P Blackburn

Budget Advisory Committee – Replacement of Cllr D Oxspring with Cllr P Blackburn

Personnel Advisory Committee – Addition of Cllr N Foster and Cllr L Blanshard

Thomas Taylor Charity – Replacement of Cllr Michelle Emmens and Cllr L Blanshard with Councillor A Blackburn and Cllr P Blackburn

8 Representatives on Outside Bodies

13/12-13 RESOLVED

It was resolved that Cllr Mike Emmens should represent the Town Council on the Dronfield Children's Centre Local Advisory Group

9 Planning Matters Applications

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

14/12-13 RESOLVED

It was agreed that the Council would continue to object to the appeal for planning application 11/00660/FLH construction of a part single storey and part three storey extension to the front with single storey extension to side (revised scheme of 10/01161/FLH (Amended Plans) at 26 Garth Way, Dronfield. On the grounds that the property has already been extensively extended and it is considered that the proposal would mean that the property would be out of proportion in the context of the neighbourhood.

Decisions

15/12-13 RESOLVED

The Council received and noted the schedule of planning decisions provided on Appendix 5 of the meeting agenda.

10 Youth Matters

A question was raised over whether any progress has been made on securing a site for the skateboard park. An answer is still awaited from the District Council as to whether a new lease will be issued.

11 Advisory Committees of the Council

The Council considered the minutes of the following Advisory Committees.

11.1 Minutes of the Properties Advisory Committee held on 11 May 2012

16/12-13 RESOLVED

It was resolved to receive minutes of the meeting of the Properties Advisory Committee held on 11 May 2012.

It was noted that following discussions with Community Transport that they were not willing to de-centralise the Dronfield Bus at this time due to security and insurance arrangements.

It was also noted that a representative from Aldi had confirmed that they hope to commence work on the Sheffield Road site this year and the store should be open in March or April 2013. The store is set to provide 30 to 40 new jobs and it is proposed that 20 should be appointed from the unemployment list in Dronfield.

11.2 Minutes of Gala meeting held on 15 May 2012

17/12-13 RESOLVED

It was resolved to receive minutes of the Gala meeting held on 15 May 2012.

11.3 Minutes of the Party in the Park meeting held on 22 May 2012

18/12-13 RESOLVED

It was resolved to receive minutes of the meeting of the Party in the Park meeting held on 22 May 2012.

12 Outside Services Report

Bus Shelters - All the bus shelters have been cleaned and washed down.

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

Grass Cutting - Grass cutting continues, now we have had good weather the team has been able to catch up on all areas.

Footpaths - The team are catching up on strimming the footpaths which we do on alternate weeks.

Flower beds - The flower beds have all been emptied and sprayed in readiness for rotavating and planting of summer bedding plants.

Marsh Avenue - This play area has now been levelled off and top soil put down. Grass seed has been put down and will hopefully start growing in readiness for the new play equipment.

Highgate Lane/Drive - There was a request for a new dog bin to be sited at Highgate Lane / Drive Junction.

This has been installed and being monitored as in the first week there was a lot of Cat litter being disposed into the bin and also left beside the bin.

Stonelow Footpath - This footpath has again had a good litter pick and all rubbish removed, we have also installed a litter bin at Stonelow School and footpath junction, this was installed at the request of the School due to the amount of litter and dog waste being left on the footpath.

Tennis Nets - All tennis nets have been put up at Coal Aston and Dronfield Woodhouse.

Lucas Gardens - Part of the wall around the flower bed in Lucas Gardens was collapsing. We have rebuilt this part of the wall and blends in well with the existing structure.

Civic Hall Kitchen - We have started to be replace the tiles within the downstairs kitchen as there were some cracked and drilled tiles and the grout needed redoing. The kitchen has also been repainted and new ceiling tiles have also been installed. New kickboards will be installed.

Grit Bins - I am compiling an up to date list of all the grit bins within Dronfield, by taking pictures and exact location. This will then be sent up to Derbyshire CC and both Councils will know the exact numbers and also the exact location of all grit bins and when members of the public call, our office staff will have a folder with all info in and will know where the bin is located making it easier for the office to inform Outside Services of where the bin is and requires filling.

Bus Shelters - I have also been compiling a list of all the Bus shelters by taking pictures and locations. This will help Outside Services staff if a shelter is smashed we will know what type of shelter it is and make, i.e. size of glass required, a folder with all info will be kept in the office so when a member of public calls the office can look at folder and know the exact location.

19/12-13 RESOLVED

It was resolved to receive the report.

20/12-13 RESOLVED

It was resolved that the Town Council should contact the Leader of Derbyshire County Council and urge that the footpath from Stonelow School to Cliffe Park is now re-surfaced as a matter of urgency.

13 Clerk to the Council's Report

Littering on Chesterfield Road and at Pentland Road Shops

The meeting received an update on action being taken by Environmental Health at North East Derbyshire District Council in conjunction with littering in the town.

21/12-13 RESOLVED

It was resolved to receive the report.

Request for Letter of Support

Request for letter of support for the reopening of the Colne to Skipton missing rail link

22/12-13 RESOLVED

It was resolved to send a letter of support.

Beacon

Queries have been received as to why the Beacon was not lit in Sindelfingen Park for the Queens Diamond Jubilee.

23/12-13 RESOLVED

The beacon has not been used since 1995 / 1996; when in actuality it did not prove possible to light it. The process is laborious and costly including fencing off of the area and sufficient staff to be on duty to keep people behind a security fence and stay with the lit beacon.

Information Received

Dronfield Heritage Trust News

Town Twinning Federation Committee minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2012

24/12-13 RESOLVED

The meeting noted that the above information had been received.

Invitations Received

Derbyshire Community Health Services – invitation to become a member

Friends of Dronfield Station – AGM on 22 June 2012 at 7.30pm in Gosforth Lodge, Cliffe Park, Dronfield

25/12-13 RESOLVED

The meeting noted the invitations.

Publications Received

If you wish to see any of the publications they will be held in the office for a period of three months.

Clerks and Councils Direct

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

20/2012 – NALC response to early day motion on planning appeals and the planning applications (Appeals by Town and Parish Councils) Bill.

21/2012 – Derbyshire 2012 Event Fund, Neighbourhood Planning, Elvaston Parish Council – Clerk Vacancy

22/2012 – DCC Parish Council Liaison Forum, Allotment Regeneration Initiative, Hope with Aston Parish Council – Clerk Vacancy, Dalbury Lees Parish Council – Clerk Vacancy

23/2012 – DALC further Training - A Neighbourhood Plan (*forwarded to all Councillors*)

24/2012 – Freedom of Information Request, Braile-Audio, Killamarsh Parish Council – Clerk Vacancy, NALC Consultation – Funding arrangements for Localising Support for Council Tax.

Rural Action Derbyshire – The Playing Field

26/12-13 RESOLVED

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

14 Financial Report (Appendix 9)

14.1 Schedule of Payments for April 2012

Members considered the schedule of payments for the month of April 2012

27/12-13 RESOLVED

Members approved the schedule of payments for the month of April 2012

14.2 Schedule of Receipts for April 2012

Members considered the schedule of receipts for the month of April 2012

28/12-13 RESOLVED

Members approved the schedule of receipts for the month of April 2012

14.3 Bank Reconciliation at 30 April 2012

Members considered the bank reconciliation as at 30 April 2012

29/12-13 RESOLVED

Members approved the bank reconciliation as at 30 April 2012

14.4 Budget Monitoring at 30 April 2012

Members considered the budget monitoring report as at April 2012

30/12-13 RESOLVED

To accept the Budget Monitoring Report at April 2012

14.5 Internal Audit Report 2011/2012 - final

Members considered the internal audit report for 2011/12

31/12-13 RESOLVED

To accept the internal audit report for 2011/12

15 Exclusion of Public and Press

Exclusion of Public and Press

32/12-13 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:

15.1 Personnel Matters

15.2 Land Matters

The Meeting closed at 8.40pm