

GOOLE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held on 20th September, 2018 commencing at 7.09 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Frost (In the Chair), G Boatman, Crawford, Flynn, Harrison, Head, Holbrough, Jeffreys, Marshall, Moore, O'Neil and Walker

OFFICERS: Mr B Robertson (Town Clerk)
Ms A Bentley (Finance Admin Assistant)
Mrs C Brophy (Admin Assistant)

PR1750 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blackburn, M Boatman, Huntington and Smith

PR1751 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND THEIR NATURE

No declarations of interest were received.

PR1752 TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 26th July, 2018 AS APPROVED AS AMENDED AT COUNCIL ON 6th SEPTEMBER, 2018

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Policy and Resources meeting held on 26th July, 2018 approved at Full Council on 6th September, 2018 be signed as a true record by the Chair (Councillor Frost).

This was **PROPOSED** by Councillor O'Neil and **SECONDED** by Councillor G Boatman.

PR1753 REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

Members were in receipt of the following reports.

a. Monthly Payments – July, 2018

Councillor Moore **PROPOSED** that Members approve the schedule of payments for July, 2018.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor O'Neil

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the payments for the month of July, 2018 totalling £117,470.64p.

b. 2017/2018 Income and Expenditure to 31st July, 2018.

Councillor Holbrough referred to the Capital Reserves item – Various tarmac £32,000 asking whether this amount was in reserve

The Town Clerk explained that this was to be used for tarmacking the Council's various sites.

Councillor O'Neil **PROPOSED** that Members approve the Officer's recommendation.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor G Boatman.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Officer's recommendation.

PR1754 REPORT OF THE ARTS AND LEISURE MANAGER (ALM)

Members were in receipt of the above report.

A discussion took place regarding the ticket price for this year's Bonfire Night.

Councillor Moore **PROPOSED** that the ticket price remain the same as last year.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor G Boatman.

Councillor Crawford stated that he would like to have seen a report with more information regarding a breakdown of sales figures and how they compared to previous years.

He asked that this request be passed on to the Arts and Leisure Manager.

PR1755 **REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS MANAGER (AMENITIES)** – Item referred from the Amenities Working Party

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Councillor Frost said that there is a need for the Council to have more control of the Allotments as some are falling into a state of disrepair.

Councillor Frost read out the Officer's recommendations.

Councillor Head asked whether the bond could be paid over five months.

The Town Clerk explained that this was covered as part of the existing policy.

Councillor Marshall queried what would constitute extenuating circumstances.

The Town Clerk cited an example of someone wanting a shed for his wife's mobility scooter when she visited the Allotment.

Councillor Holbrough asked whether tenants currently pay a bond for sheds.

Councillor Frost replied that they do not pay a bond.

Councillor Crawford **PROPOSED** that Members **APPROVE** the Officer's recommendations.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Flynn.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Officer's recommendations.

PR1756 **DAMAGE TO TREES IN WEST PARK – REPORT OF COUNCILLOR MARSHALL**

Members were in receipt of the above report report.

Councillor Marshall suggested that in future the Council should consider billing parents for any damage caused by their Children.

She stated that the Children were all named on Facebook. The girls had done some clearing up but the two boys hadn't.

The Town Clerk informed Members that he has liaised with the Police and the damage has not been reported to them.

Councillor Crawford queried asking parents to pay for the damage stating that as this is Criminal damage it should be reported to the Police.

Councillor O'Neil stated that as many of the trees were planted by families on Mother's Day, it was sad

that the damage had been caused by youngsters.

Councillor O'Neil informed Members that the trees in the South Park had been planted by pupils of Marshlands School, giving the children ownership, no damage has taken place there. She agreed with Councillor Crawford that this is Criminal damage.

Councillor Head stated that she agrees this is Criminal damage, however she does not see the need for the children to be given a criminal record. She said that the Council should have approached parents and given them the option to pay for the damage.

Councillor Frost informed Members that as one of the youths is eighteen, they should be held responsible if their identity is known.

Councillor Walker stated that the punishment should have been dealt with at the time that the incident took place some weeks ago.

Councillor Crawford wanted to clarify that involving the Police does not necessarily mean a Criminal record. He said that the correct way of dealing with it would have been to contact the Community Police.

Councillor Moore asked whether the Police had looked at the CCTV

The Town Clerk informed Members that there was no appropriate CCTV evidence of the incident.

Councillor G Boatman who was involved with the planting of the trees, said that the children who caused the damage should be encouraged to help with the planting next time.

Councillor Marshall informed Members that in answer to Councillor Walker stating that the incident and punishment should have been dealt with at the time, she had informed the Town Clerk at the time, however it was not the correct meeting. If so it would have been brought up two weeks ago.

Councillor Marshall **PROPOSED** that the resultant damage caused by children's acts of vandalism be charged to the families concerned.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Head.

On being put to the vote the motion failed.

PRI1757

ILLEGAL TRAVELLER ENCAMPMENTS –REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

Members were in receipt of the above report.

The Town Clerk discussed the report stating that there is so much legislation regarding Travellers.

The Town Clerk said that Fountayne Street was the biggest problem although this year had not been as bad as last in terms of rubbish left.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Travellers Strategy has been set for fourteen years from 2018 to 2032 and concluded that there was no need for Traveller sites as there is not a problem with illegal encampments in the East Riding.

The Town Clerk said that he had been contacted by various residents from Fountayne Street when the Travellers had been particularly problematic.

Councillor Marshall stated that the fact there wasn't such a problem with litter this year was because the Travellers were only here for three days. She queried the use of bollards and notices such as 'Authorised vehicles only' and 'Trespassers will be prosecuted'.

The Town Clerk replied that different legislation covers the Highway. He explained that notice to quit can only be served through the Court, which can be a long and expensive process by which time the Travellers have usually moved on.

Councillor Head stated that it was not just the damage to the fields that was a concern but the damage to Traders in the town. There have been reports of intimidation and theft in the town. She asked why big

boulders could not be place on Kingsway.

The Town Clerk explained that access is needed to the allotments and skate park, particularly for emergency vehicles.

Councillor Crawford informed Members that emergency vehicles need to get as close as they can to an accident.

Councillor Moore referred to the first point in paragraph two of the report stating that there was a question of Goole Town Council having to incur costs. He said that the East Riding of Yorkshire Council have a massive responsibility regarding Travellers.

Councillor Jeffreys informed Members that the Travellers last year left lots of mess behind including bags of excrement. He had been approached by three ladies who reported being abused and subjected to acts of indecent exposure.

Councillor Head stated that the East Riding of Yorkshire Council need to get the problem sorted.

Councillor Moore agreed that something needs sorting, however he stated that it is not the responsibility of this authority. He said that the East Riding Labour Group are undertaking discussions as to whether anything can be done.

Councillor Frost said that any security improvements need considering as part of the budget setting process.

It was RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded for the following item under the public bodies (admission to meetings act) 1960 in that it contains personal information as defined under the local government act 1972 schedule act 12a the divulgence of which may be detrimental to the council.

PR1758 REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

9. Monthly Debtors Report

Councillor Frost (Chair) read out the report asking whether there were any adjustments.

The Town Clerk informed Members that there were no adjustments.

Councillor Head said that Debtor A is a genuine debt, there is no business now but they are slowly paying off the debt.

The Town Clerk said that he had attended a meeting with Debtor B that day, they are aware that they are struggling due to various issues which include having a van stolen whilst their other van has not been replaced yet due to an on-going police investigation.

Councillor Head stated that the use of the West Park for Debtor B is dependent on grants. She asked whether an agreement is drawn up. They are waiting for money to come in.

The Town Clerk informed Members that there is an agreement of £5000.00 per year, payable at £400.00 per month.

Councillor Head said that she was sorry to see Debtor C on the Debtors list if they had agreed to pay.

Councillor Frost informed Members that Debtor C still owe for the pitch cutting before taking over. He asked whether the bills for work carried out had been contested.

The Town Clerk replied that they had not.

Councillor O'Neil stated that the Chairman had been in the press saying they were introducing rugby during Summer. Summer normally gives the pitch time to recover. She asked whether their agreement allows them to sublet.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the agreement does allow subletting but the agreement is only for 12

Months and will expire prior to the planned introduction of rugby.

Councillor Frost said the main concern was for damage to the football pitch. He asked whether damage cover is written into the contract.

Councillor Crawford said that should the field become damaged, he was concerned that they would not have the necessary knowledge and skills to repair it and it would fall back on us.

The Town Clerk explained that the licence requires the club to hand back all facilities in at least the same state of repair.

Members agreed to ask the Operations Manager (Amenities) to approach Debtor C regarding the issues discussed.

10. Pensions Report

Members were in receipt of the report of the Responsible Finance Officer regarding Flexible Retirement Pension contributions.

Councillor Crawford informed Members that he had undertaken discussions with the Responsible Finance Officer regarding this matter. He gave Members details of how the issue had arisen.

After long discussions, Councillor Head expressed concern regarding one of the staff member's contributions.

Councillor Head **PROPOSED** that the monthly repayments be increased.

Councillor Jeffreys **SECONDED** this.

On being put to the vote the result was for four and eight against.

Councillor O'Neil **PROPOSED** that Members agreed the Office's report and that the money owed to East Riding Council for the pension contributions be paid over in full.

Councillor G Boatman **SECONDED** this.

The **PROPOSAL** was carried unanimously.

Meeting concluded 8:18pm

*******END*******