

GOOLE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held on 22nd November, 2018 commencing at 7.03 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Frost (In the Chair), G Boatman, M Boatman, Flynn, Harrison, Holbrough, Huntington, B Jeffreys, D Jeffreys, Moore, O'Neil, Smith and Walker.

OFFICERS: Mr B Robertson (Town Clerk)
Ms S Howard (Responsible Finance Officer)
Mrs C Brophy (Admin Assistant)

PR1770 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blackburn, Crawford, Head and Marshall.

PR1771 **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND THEIR NATURE**

There were no declarations of interest.

PR1772 **TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 25th OCTOBER, 2018 AS APPROVED AT COUNCIL ON 8th NOVEMBER, 2018**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Policy and Resources meeting held on 25th October, 2018 approved at Full Council on 8th November, 2018 be signed as a true record by the Chair (Councillor Frost).

This was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Moore and **SECONDED** by Councillor D Jeffreys.

PR1773 **JAMES WALTON, GOOLE ATHLETICS CLUB TO ADDRESS MEMBERS.**

Mr Walton introduced himself as Chairman of Goole Youth Athletics Club. He thanked the Town Clerk for inviting him. Members were given a handout about the club. Mr Walton gave a brief history of the club which was founded in 1961.

He informed Members that the club has always competed and been successful at local, county and national competitions. The club has had many county champions of track and field. There are currently 3 county champions. Mr Walton told Members that the club has four Coaches and over fifty competitors, these include children, parents and grandchildren.

The club is the only Athletics club in the East Riding and is registered on the UK Athletics site. It is completely self-funded and run by volunteers. Hundreds of man hours are given to keep the track in good working order. The old sand has been removed and replaced with the correct sand in the long jump. £2K of new equipment has been bought to replace old and broken kit. £12K has been raised and spent on having the track cleaned and relined to National standard, previous to this the track was dangerous. The work on the track was done mostly by hand by the club's volunteers. The track is now the most up to date running track in the UK. Mr Walton said that if marketed correctly it could be used by Youth Groups, Schools and others thus generating income for the football club. Goole Athletics club will maintain and clean the track every two years if allowed to.

Mr Walton explained that the new lined track is really making a difference to the children. He said that the athletes are doing really well. The articles in the Goole Times help promote the club. The club was put forward for and won 'England Athletics Club of the Year'.

Going forwards the club would like to see – guaranteed Community use for the Athletics club to be locked into any future lease negotiations between the football club and the ground's owners ERYC, funding from all users of the track to help keep it in working order for all the community. They would also like to see male, female and child toilet facilities made available, this would especially benefit the children.

Councillor O'Neil asked whether the club had applied to Sports England?



Mr Walton replied that they had applied, however because they were looking for money to maintain the site no-one wanted to know.

Mr Walton was asked whether the club had applied to the windfarm?

He said that this was something that he would consider.

Councillor O'Neil informed Mr Walton that there is money available now and for the next twenty years. She strongly advised him to apply. Councillor O'Neil stated that it was very much to the club's credit what they had achieved so far. She mentioned the fund finder website available via ERYC.

Councillor D Jeffreys asked Mr Walton the cost of cleaning and maintaining the track.

Mr Walton replied that it costs £4,000 plus vat every two years.

Councillor Smith asked whether the football team had welcomed the athletics club?

Mr Walton replied that it had been very difficult and there had been some uncomfortable meetings with some difficult decisions to make. He said that they had however stuck to their guns and things were working out ok.

Councillor Moore asked whether there was an opportunity for schools to use the facilities?

Mr Walton replied that it was up to the football club but if marketed correctly, outside of football, it could be used by schools, scouts, fitness and other groups. This could be a good way of bringing revenue in.

Councillor M Boatman asked about grants. He said that although they couldn't get money for maintenance they could possibly get money to build new toilets. He said that Goole Town Council works with many other groups and may be able to explore the possibility of capital funding for the toilets as they would be beneficial for Goole AFC and the athletics club.

Mr Walton said that it would be up to the football club to apply for any grants.

Councillor Frost asked whether the club are aware of the existing covenant at the ground which states that it should be used by the Community.

Mr Walton said that it was good to know.

He was asked about Safeguarding and whether there was a Child Protection Policy in place.

Mr Walton replied that it was difficult as a small club to sort out standard operating procedures.

Councillors congratulated Mr Walton on a job well done and on winning the award. They advised him that regarding funding there were people out there with the expertise to help.

Mr Walton was thanked for attending and thanked Councillors for the opportunity to speak.

PR1774

REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

Members were in receipt of the following reports.

a. **Monthly Payments – October, 2018**

Councillor Smith **PROPOSED** that Members approve the schedule of payments for October, 2018.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Huntington.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the payments for the month of October, 2018 totalling £169,549.82.

b. **2018/2019 Income and Expenditure to 31st October, 2018.**



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

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Moore.

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

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 commercial information as defined under the local government act 1972 schedule act 12a the divulgence of which may be detrimental to the council.

c. Monthly Debtors Report – Exempt Item

Members were in receipt of the above report.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the Officer's report.

PR1775 REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK – GOOLE MARKET – EXEMPT ITEM

Members were in receipt of the above report and a letter from East Riding Council.

The Town Clerk informed Members that a written response had been received from ERYC regarding the contentious issue of the lease. He said that it could be contested in court however that would not be beneficial to either party so should be avoided if possible. He said that there was room for negotiation as we are not closing the market just handing it back. He stated that some clarity on closing was needed as by the end of December there would only be 2 or 3 tenants remaining and the heating bill last year was £12,500 for the first quarter.

The Town Clerk stated that he and the Responsible Finance Officer would prefer to close after Christmas. The alleged lease will cost almost £20,000 however it is probably better to pay that now and hand the Market Back. The Town Clerk said that he would prefer to close the Market early in January foreclosing on the lease He informed Members that an offer could be made but even if the £20,000 had to be paid it would still be beneficial to Goole Town Council as it is costing £50,000 to keep open, in subsequent years the benefits would be seen.

Councillor Frost asked whether the stallholders are aware of the imminent closure?

The Town Clerk informed Members that they are.

Councillor M Boatman said that the Town Clerk's preference could be taken up but asked whether the traders would be able to open in January. He also spoke about the savings that could be made on the insurance.

The Town Clerk replied that the traders would be able to work for the first couple of weeks in January. He said that once the lease was foreclosed and the property handed back the insurance would cease.

Councillor M Boatman informed Members that should a date be set for closure mid- January, he would propose option 2.

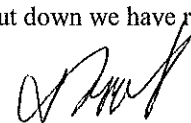
Councillor G Boatman said that she would second this.

Councillor Moore asked about the Market café and whether there would be any redundancies or could the staff be redeployed?

The Town Clerk replied that consideration had been given to retaining the café. He said that one member of staff was retiring and the other has indicated that she is not interested in other posts available.

Councillor D Jeffreys asked about whether the walkway through from the market was part of the lease.

The Town Clerk informed Members that it is part of the lease and in case the market shut down we have right



of access via the walkway.

Questions were asked regarding putting the market up for sale.

The Town Clerk said that there are not a lot of uses for it but ERYC committed to the Town Centre Development Brief which includes the Market, however as yet nothing has become of this.

A discussion took place regarding turning the heating off in the market hall. As there are only going to be 2 or 3 tenants it is a costly extravagance. The Town Clerk said that complaints have been received that the market is already too cold. He also said that turning the heating off wasn't really an option as we have an on-going obligation to maintain the building.

Councillors discussed the improvement work that Goole Town Council has made to the market which include installing the heating in 1994/5, the provision of toilets and new automatic doors. The Town Clerk stated that he would argue these points should we foreclose on the lease.

Councillor Smith stressed that we are not actually closing the market just handing it back to ERYC. We need to pitch it as just that and ensure that people know it would save £50,000 per year.

Councillor Huntington asked the Town Clerk whether he was confident about the agreement for the separation of the buildings.

The Town Clerk replied that he was confident that this had taken place during the construction of Junction.

Councillor M Boatman **PROPOSED** that the Town Council would cease operation of the market in mid January and that the Town Clerk be authorised to negotiate with ERYC regarding the possible early foreclosure of the alleged lease.

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

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the **PROPOSAL**.

Meeting concluded 7:52 pm

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

