

(Amended)

GOOLE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held on 21st November, 2019 commencing at 7.13pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Flynn (In the Chair), Bailey, Bottomley, Head, B Jeffreys, D Jeffreys, Moiser, Moore, Raspin, Turner, Vause, Walker and Whitehead.

OFFICERS: Mr. B Robertson (Town Clerk)
Mr Charlie Studdy (Arts & Leisure Manager)
Mrs Nicola Dixon (Youth & Community Arts Co-ordinator)
Mrs C. Brophy (Admin Assistant)

PR1893 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Boatman, Harrison, Marshall and Penn.

PR1894 **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND THEIR NATURE**

There were no declarations of interest.

PR1895 **MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Policy and Resources meeting held on 24th October, 2019 approved at Council on 7th November, 2019 be signed as a true record by the Chair (Councillor Flynn).

This was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Head and **SECONDED** by Councillor Turner.

PR1896 **MR PHILIP JACKSON, PARTNERSHIP & PARTICIPATION STRATEGIC LEAD, EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL TO ADDRESS MEMBERS ON CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES PROVISION AND FUNDING**

Mr Jackson thanked Members for inviting him to speak. He informed Members that his first involvement with Goole was six years ago when ERYC were closing youth provision. He said that Old Goole Youth Club was the last to close. Due to tight budgets, funds were taken from Youth provision and put into Youth and Family Support work. Much of this work takes place behind closed doors with families and young people who have lots of issues. He said that closing Old Goole Youth Club had been a very difficult time. Mr Jackson told Members that The Youth & Community Arts Co-ordinator had been key in setting up provision in Goole.

Mr Jackson said that five years ago, Goole Youth Action was awarded Charitable Status and can now access significant funding, which has been used on film nights, Summer programmes and an Outreach programme. He explained how they are working with the Youth & Community Arts Co-ordinator to provide youth provision in Goole alongside partners such as Goole College, Goole Academy and the Police.

Mr Jackson gave Members a handout about Positive Activity Grant awards which shows Goole Groups who have been awarded a PAG and also the impact of the awards. He explained that there is a budget of approximately £40,000 per year in Positive Activity Grants (PAG) to help Youth activities. This consists of £2,000 payable per year to individual organisations and £7,000 per year to Town and Parish Councils to assist with setting up youth provision. He suggested that Councils take money from the precept to fund such activities once the grant is expended. Mr Jackson stressed that staffing is an issue as professionally trained staff are needed as well as volunteers.

Councillor Moore expressed sadness that the drop in centre in Aire Street is closing. He said that ERYC lost so much budget it has done well to maintain the services until now. He said that unfortunately the loss of services leads to an increase in anti-social behaviour.

Mr Jackson stated that they are aiming to provide Goole with more provision. He said that there is a lot happening in Goole with the arrival of new firms.

Councillor Head asked whether the PAG is only available for Youth Clubs. She talked about the VPG CIC saying that one of its main aims is to get youths involved in sporting activities to help with health and antisocial behavior. She said that there are already girls wanting to play football and rugby and wondered if there are

grants available for such groups. The £3 charged per session currently only pays for the coach and they still have other costs such as grounds maintenance and floodlights. Councillor Head said that the CIC is keen to provide some activities for disabled people.

Mr Jackson said that any organised activity can apply for a PAG. He said that Darren Lawer from ERYC will meet groups to guide them through the process. He informed Members that deprived areas 'score more points' due to the correlation between lack of activity and deprivation.

Councillor Bailey expressed concern about the problems with drugs in Goole. He said that educating both parents and children is needed and sport could be utilised to help.

Mr Jackson informed Members that they are working with several boxing clubs and are trying to get the Box Clever bus operator on board. He said that a boxing club would be good for Goole.

Councillor B Jeffreys informed Members that as the Community drop in centre was closing, Old Goole Working Mens club was being looked at as a venue. She talked about speaking to a 19yr old youth who said that the drop in centre had turned his life around. She said that there are many young Dads collecting children from school who need a place to go to meet other people.

Mr Jackson informed Members that there could be safeguarding concerns due to the Working Mens Club being a licensed establishment. He told Members that they work closely with Pastoral teams in schools.

When asked have they thought of looking at a committee of young people, Mr Jackson answered that it had been tried unsuccessfully in Beverley however there is a meeting in Morrisons in Goole on 11th December to look at setting up a Young Peoples Forum with a view to finding out what is needed in Goole.

The Chair, Councillor Flynn, thanked Mr Jackson for addressing Members.

PR1897

REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

Members were in receipt of the following reports.

(a) Monthly Payments – October, 2019

Councillor D Jeffreys queried a payment of £2520.00 paid to Fishers for airtime licence fee.

The Town Clerk informed Members that this is an annual payment. Fishers bill GTC and the money goes straight to OfCom, the regulatory body.

Councillor Moore asked whether the airtime licence is paid to Fishers by other clients.

The Town Clerk answered that others will have to pay; however, this is the amount payable by GTC.

Councillor Whitehead explained that you are charged for each band width.

Councillor Bottomley asked about a payment to Trinity College London for an Art Award. He was informed that this payment comes in as a grant and is paid out again.

A discussion took place regarding how many sites use airtime and the cost per site.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the VPG uses broadband not airtime. He said that microwave links are being replaced by Wi-Fi and broadband where possible.

Councillor Head **PROPOSED** that Members **APPROVE** the schedule of payments for October, 2019.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Moiser.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the schedule of payments for October, 2019 totaling £108,210.50



(b) Monthly Income & Expenditure – September, 2019 (Revised) & October, 2019

Councillor Head **PROPOSED** that Members **NOTE** the reports.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Bailey.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report.

(c) Monthly bank reconciliation & Bank statement, 2019

Councillor D Jeffreys questioned the internet transfer of £250,000.00.

The Town Clerk informed Members that this is money being transferred into a high interest account.

Councillor Head **PROPOSED** that Members **APPROVE** the bank reconciliation for October, 2019.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Turner.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the bank reconciliation for October, 2019

PR1898

REPORT OF THE ARTS & LEISURE MANAGER – BONFIRE NIGHT EVENT 2019

Members were in receipt of the above report.

The Arts & Leisure Manager (ALM) thanked Staff and Councillor Volunteers for their hard work in helping to deliver a safe and well managed event. He informed Members that months of preparation go into the event and he was pleased to report that the queuing system was successful with no problems this year. He said that there had been fewer people buying at the gate and the total numbers were down by approximately 700 on the previous year. He informed Members that this meant the event sustained a small loss of £1,206.22 compared to a profit made last year.

The ALM said that there had been a number of complaints from Members of the Public regarding traffic Management, therefore stewarding will need looking at for next years' event.

A discussion took place regarding the noise of the fireworks used. Councillor D Jeffreys said that all public displays are being encouraged to use quieter fireworks. Most fireworks are 120 decibels but it is possible to get fireworks which are 90 decibels.

Councillor B Jeffreys said that quieter fireworks should be looked into. She is concerned about the effect on animals and vulnerable people especially those suffering from PTSD. She said that the matter has recently been brought up at an ERYC meeting.

Councillor Turner questioned the cost of the fireworks. He agreed that they were very good but asked whether other companies could be looked at.

Councillor Whitehead asked the ALM if the same company were always used. If so, she also asked whether other similar companies could be looked into.

The ALM replied that we have used the same professional display company for the last seven years following tender exercises and you get what you pay for. The fireworks are set to music and electronically controlled, controlling fireworks manually would be a huge concern. There are many other health and safety, insurance and traffic considerations to be made which can be looked at within the budget proposal.

Councillor Head informed Members that she lives near the park and is not a fan of fireworks. She said that she could not hear the fireworks this year and they had been much quieter than previous years.

Councillor Raspin said that it would be good to look into a cheaper alternative but went on to say that it was an amazing fireworks display. He said thank you to The ALM and all staff for a professionally run excellent show.

PR1899

REPORT OF THE ARTS & LEISURE MANAGER – APPLICATION TO EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL ARTS GRANTS 2020/21

Members were in receipt of the above report.

The ALM informed Members that he is preparing an application to the ERYC's arts grants fund to help support the artistic programme of work at Junction for 2020/2021. This is likely to be for approximately £7,500.

Members were requested to approve that the ALM submits an application to ERYC's arts grant scheme 2020/21.

Councillor Moore **PROPOSED** that the ALM submits an application to ERYC's arts grants scheme 2020/21.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Head.

It was **RESOLVED** that the ALM submits an application to ERYC's arts grants scheme 2020/21.

PR1900

REPORT OF THE ARTS & LEISURE MANAGER – TOGETHER FOR GOOLE

Members were in receipt of the above report.

The ALM informed Members that he and the Youth and Community Arts Co-ordinator (YCAC) have attended a couple of meetings of this newly formed group. The group consists of voluntary and community sector organisations brought together by the Humber and East Yorkshire Smile Foundation (HEY Smile). They have replaced ERVAS, delivering voluntary support for ERYC.

The Together for Goole group has adopted a Joint Working Protocol which Members have been given a copy of.

The ALM requested that Members approve that GTC formally signs up to the protocol and that either the ALM or YCAC continue to represent Junction on the group.

Councillor Head **PROPOSED** that Members approve that GTC formally signs up to the protocol and that either the ALM or YCAC continue to represent Junction on the group.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Moiser.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members approve that GTC formally signs up to the protocol and that either the ALM or YCAC continue to represent Junction on the group.

PR1901

REPORT OF THE YOUTH & COMMUNITY ARTS CO-ORDINATOR – CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Members were in receipt of the above report.

The YCAC informed Members that GTC has recently updated its Child Protection Policy due to some recent changes. She explained that some new sections have been added.

Councillor Head praised the policy.

Members were asked to approve the Child Protection Policy.

Councillor Head **PROPOSED** that Members approve the Child Protection Policy.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Whitehead.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members approve the Child Protection Policy.

PR1902

ST GEORGES GREEN PLAY AREA (FURTHER INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLOR MOORE AS REQUESTED BY MINUTE PR1867)

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Members agreed to defer this item until the next Policy & Resources meeting.

PR1903 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR FLYNN AS CHAIRMAN OF FRIENDS OF OAKHILL

Councillor Flynn informed Members that the Oakhill Nature Reserve is seeing an increased number of visitors now that the temporary car park is becoming established. These visitors include families, dog walkers, nature watchers and many others.

He said that this year, the Board has been preoccupied with the news that Siemens will be their new neighbours. Meetings have taken place with Directors of Siemens to look at how the Siemens development can work with the Oakhill Nature Reserve. Topics covered are the Tree Protection Order for New Potter Grange, Section 106 agreement, plans to change the access track and the mitigation of loss of habitat along Tom Pudding Way.

Councillor Flynn stated that the Board is very grateful to the volunteers who carry out conservation work and litter picking particularly in the Brick Ponds area. He talked about the events organized and supervised by the East Riding Countryside Access Team throughout the year and the Friends group's own events, all of which are well attended.

He said that their income stream has been good this year with membership subscriptions, fundraising and the final payment from the Wind Farm fund. There has been much destruction by the owner of the fishing rights in creating points of access. Enquiries have been made to ERYC to see if legal redress can be sought. Friends of Oakhill understand that ERYC are looking into the possibility of buying the fishing rights.

Councillor Flynn said that last year they lost one of their founder members and loyal volunteers, Carol Fenton who sadly passed away. They are planning a lasting memorial on site in consultation with her family.

Going forwards, Friends of Oakhill will be liaising with all stakeholders to ensure that there is minimum environmental impact from the Siemens factory construction and other developments. They will continue to pursue a Visitor Centre and will organise an annual walk for charity in memory of Carol Fenton.

Councillor Head thanked Councillor Flynn for his report and said well done to Friends of Oakhill

PR1904 TO CONFIRM COUNCILLOR WALKER AS A MEMBER OF THE CCTV STEERING GROUP

Councillor Head **PROPOSED** that Councillor Walker be confirmed as a Member of the CCTV steering group.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Moore.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Walker be confirmed as a Member of the CCTV steering group.

PR1905 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR VAUSE – SOUTH PARK TOILETS

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Councillor Vause informed Members that she has discussed this matter with the Operations Manager (Amenities), who said that £150 should cover the cost of scraping, preparing and painting the South Park Toilets. She is requesting that Members allocate some money from the car boot sales to cover the cost of the paint.

Councillor Head **PROPOSED** that money from the car boot sales be used to pay for the paint required to redecorate the South Park toilets.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Moore.

It was **RESOLVED** that money from the car boot sales be used to pay for the paint required to redecorate the South Park toilets.



PR1906 EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – TO RECOMMEND ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Councillor Moore informed Members that any item for consideration has to affect the whole authority and he would like to propose Social Housing as there is a lack of provision in the area.

Councillor Head informed Members that she would like them to scrutinise the provision of independent pharmacies. She discussed a local chemist who is wanting to relocate to bigger premises and has been refused by the Pharmaceutical Society.

Councillor Flynn stated that various items were suggested last year and no feedback was given. He said that he would like the item regarding GP appointments from last year to be considered. He asked The Town Clerk to ensure that feedback is received this year.

Councillor Whitehead informed Members that ERYC Councillors Handley and Coultish are on the Scrutiny Committee. She asked if a date could be put in the diary to discuss feedback from the meeting in January.

ERYC Councillor Handley informed Members that they need to contact the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. She stated that she is happy to speak to Councillor Aitken, Chair of the Committee, on behalf of GTC.

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

PR1907 MONTHLY DEBTORS – OCTOBER, 2019

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Councillor Head asked whether legal action has been taken regarding Debtor C.

The Town Clerk informed Members that a letter was sent a week ago requesting full settlement or the setting up of a payment plan. If no response is received, he will write again giving a response period of 7 days after which recovery action will commence.

Councillor Whitehead asked how long the debt had been in place.

The Town Clerk answered that the debt is part historical and partly due to the repairs required when Debtor C left the building. This is now the full amount outstanding which includes any repair work.

Councillor Head asked why Debtor B is on the list.

The Town Clerk stated that this was a timing issue.

Councillor Turner questioned the debt owing by Debtor A.

The Town Clerk informed Members that this is usually paid by standing order. He said that he would discuss this with the RFO.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the Officer's Report.

PR1908 REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK – POSTS OF RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER AND FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members were in receipt of the above report.

The Town Clerk explained some of the background to this stating that when he and the former RFO were

Granted flexible retirement in 2014 it was resolved that using the 37 hours per week saved, a new post of Deputy Town Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer be created. The new post was advertised twice with interviews held but no suitable applicants were found. In terms of succession planning it would be prudent to train someone as Town Clerk.

One of the Finance and Admin staff has expressed an interest in reducing her hours of employment from 5 to 4 days a week. If approved, it is recommended to make the RFO post full time at 37 hours per week and redesignate the post RFO/Deputy Town Clerk with a consequent regrading of the post.

Members were asked to approve;

- The redesignation of the current RFO post to one of RFO/Deputy Town Clerk.
- An increase in the hours of the new post to 37 hours per week, 25 of which will be on the postholder's existing grade and 12 on SCP 38.
- That the postholder be authorised to gain the Institute of Local Council Administration to be funded from existing budget.
- That the Finance and Admin Assistant be allowed to reduce her hours from 37 to 30 per week.
- That the above changes take effect from 1st December, 2019.

Councillor Head **PROPOSED** that Members **APPROVE** the above recommendations.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Moore.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve;

- The redesignation of the current RFO post to one of RFO/Deputy Town Clerk.
- An increase in the hours of the new post to 37 hours per week, 25 of which will be on the postholder's existing grade and 12 on SCP 38.
- That the postholder be authorised to gain the Institute of Local Council Administration to be funded from existing budget.
- That the Finance and Admin Assistant be allowed to reduce her hours from 37 to 30 per week.
- That the above changes take effect from 1st December, 2019.

Meeting concluded 8.35 pm

