

GOOLE TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting held on 8th October, 2020 at 7.00pm via Zoom

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

OFFICERS: Mr Brian Robertson (Town Clerk)
 Ms Stacey Norfolk (Responsible Finance Officer)
 Mrs Carol Brophy (Administration Assistant)

GTC2841 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Harrison, B Jeffreys, Marshall and Vause.

The Chair (Councillor Head) reminded the public that under Standing Order 13A any elector of Goole will be afforded time at the beginning of this session to raise any matters of concern. A time limit of 5 minutes per person will be allowed.

Mr Paul Woollass of 13 Heber Terrace, Swinefleet Road, Goole wished to speak on Agenda item No 7

GTC2842 **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & THEIR NATURE**

Councillor D Jeffreys declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item No. 7. He has been in close contact with Mr Woollass regarding the storage of Amminia Nitrate.

GTC2843 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the under- mentioned meetings be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted subject to any resolution contained below.

Members were in receipt of a copy of the Full Council meeting minutes of 13th August and 3rd September, 2020.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 13th August, 2020 be signed as a true record by the Chair (Councillor Head).

Councillor D Jeffreys **PROPOSED** that the minutes of the Full Council meetings held on 13th August and 3rd September, 2020 be accepted as a true record.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Moiser.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 3rd September, 2020 be signed as a true record by the Chair, Councillor Flynn.

Councillor Walker **PROPOSED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 3rd and 17th September, 2020 be signed as a true record.

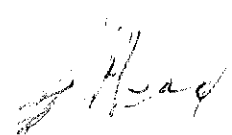
This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Bailey.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 3rd and 17th September, 2020 be signed as a true record by the Chair Councillor Turner.

Councillor Walker **PROPOSED** that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 17th September, 2020 be signed as a true record subject to an amendment to Minute number PR1971 which states 'some saying other Towns are better than Goole'. This should read 'some saying other Towns are better served than Goole by ERYC'.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Whitehead.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 17th September, 2020 be signed as a true record by the Chair, Councillor Flynn.



STORAGE OF AMMONIA NITRATE ON GOOLE DOCKS

Mr Woollass of 13 Heber Terrace, Swinefleet Road, Goole asked what the situation is with regards to Ammonia Nitrate. He feels that things have come to a halt since the last Meeting. ABP were supposed to carry out research into the storage and safety of Ammonia Nitrate following the explosion in Beruit but no feedback has been seen.

Councillor Head stated that there seems to be conflicting stories as to the cause of the explosion in Beruit. Some sources say that it caught fire on its own while being moved. She remembers when the Ammonia Nitrate was first brought to Goole and the further increase in the amount stored.

Stephen Hunt from ERYC Planning Department informed Members that he was involved in 2014 as part of the Hazardous Substance planning consent. He asked his colleague Matthew Sunman the Principal Planning Officer to address Members further.

Mr Sunman informed Members that the main focus of Hazardous Substance consent is to control the quantity of different hazardous substances and reduce the risk on site. Consultation takes place with the HSE, Environment Agency, Public Protection and others in order to protect the amenity of residents and the environment. Thorough investigation is made and all necessary safeguards are put in place. He told Members that an investigation into what caused the explosion in Beruit is being carried out and it is likely that the Ammonia Nitrate has been stockpiled in an unsafe condition next to explosives for many years. He assured Members that the UK is so well regulated and monitored by the HSE that this should never happen here.

Tony Woolwich from North West Trading thanked Members for inviting him to speak. He said that this gave him the opportunity to reassure Members how well managed, safe and extremely well regulated the operation is. He explained that when NW Trading acquired the site in 2007, a licence to store 3,000 tonnes of Ammonia Nitrate was in place. In 2013 they applied to bring it in line with lower tier come sites storing a maximum of 4999 tonnes. This had to again go through planning and a high level of scrutiny in consultation with regulatory bodies such as the Fire Department, Environment Agency, HSE and Counter Terrorism.

Mr Woolwich explained that the incident in Beruit was caused by an abandoned unseaworthy ship which after many years was unloaded and placed in unsafe storage for six years. He stressed that this would not be allowed to happen in the UK as ships unload and store straight away.

Councillor Head asked how long Ammonia Nitrate is stored in the warehouse once offloaded.

Mr Woolwich explained that there is a quick turnover. When a 3,000 tonne cargo is delivered 25 to 30% is loaded out within two days with the remaining going over the following weeks, it would be very unusual for the product to be on site as long as six weeks. The Ammonia Nitrate is normally delivered ready bagged.

When asked what sites Ammonia Nitrate is stored on Mr Woolwich answered that the Caldaire terminal is the only site in Goole. The old shipyard premises stores decorative aggregate outside and bulk products inside – not Ammonia Nitrate.

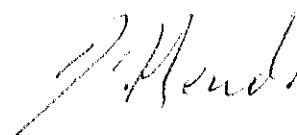
Councillor Moore asked what the white powder stored at Caldaire is and whether Ammonia Nitrate arrives in its raw form or is blended.

Mr Woolwich answered that the white powder could be any bulk product, he would have to check exactly what. He informed Members that Ammonia Nitrate normally comes in its raw form, is bagged up then taken out to blend.

Councillor Moore asked Mr Woolwich to let the Town Clerk know what the powder is.

When asked about the lack of security at the site, two Councillors having driven onto the site several times without being challenged, Mr Woolwich explained that volatile products are not stored at the site. Ammonia Nitrate is not flammable in its own right however it is oxidising and feeds the fire.

Councillor Moore asked Dafydd Williams from ABP, why ABP is carrying out a review on Humber



Ports which store Ammonia Nitrate.

Mr Williams informed Members that Ammonia Nitrate is not a new product and has been stored in Goole for seventeen years. It is also stored on a large scale in Immingham. He explained that following an incident such as Beirut, it is good practice to review safety and procedures. He assured Members that there is no cause for alarm.

Councillor Walker asked Mr Williams about the findings of their review following the Beirut incident.

Mr Williams informed Members that no changes had been made as everything was being done correctly.

Several Members including Councillor Moore, Councillor Turner and Councillor Head expressed concern with security at Caldaire as the gates appear to be open most of the time. Councillors have driven onto the site several times unchallenged. While a terrorist attack is unlikely in an area such as Goole, youngsters who like to play with fire could gain access to the site.

Mr Williams told Members that unlike Hull, Goole Docks is very complex with 26 points of entry. He said that NWT is an excellent customer and he is confident with the way the terminal is looked after. He is however going to look into the matter as anyone entering the terminal should be challenged.

Councillor Moore asked Stephen Hunt (ERYC) whether when the application was initially passed, it took into account Hazardous Substances, what the blast zone would be and looked at worst case scenarios.

Mr Hunt answered that once Hazardous Substance consent is granted, the HSE looks at factors such as the impact on the environment, drainage, highways and surroundings. He informed Members that the risk was deemed to be very low.

Councillor D Jeffreys questioned the amount of tonnage which is normally kept at the site. He asked whether detonation resistance tests had been carried out and spoke about the white powder arriving by lorry which is much improved since being sheeted up.

Mr Woolwich explained that 4,999 is the maximum tonnage allowed on site, however the amount stored at any time is usually significantly less than this. Most is usually pre-sold and 25-30% is sent out within weeks. With regards to the detonation resistance test, this is carried out by the manufacturer and a certificate is provided with each batch of Ammonia Nitrate.

When asked about the flashpoint of Ammonia Nitrate and whether the Fire Service are fully aware of how to deal with such a fire, Mr Woolwich informed Members that he did not know the flashpoint of Ammonia Nitrate. He assured Members that they work in close contact with Fire and Rescue who last visited Goole in August, they are fully aware of the product and were involved in the planning application.

Mr Woollass who lives in Old Goole, informed Members that everyone keeps saying that this is an inert and safe product, however, a company called Portico in Portsmouth who applied to store 4,999 tonnes had their application dismissed in light of the Beirut incident. He said that Ammonia Nitrate degrades at a temperature of 210 degrees Celsius and asked what the outcome would be in the event of a lightning strike.


Mr Hunt answered that all applications are judged on their own merit. He couldn't say why the application in Portsmouth had been refused. He agreed to look into it and inform the Town Clerk of his findings.

Councillor Head said that she was concerned whether the amount of loose white powder in the air could cause an explosion. She recalled an explosion in the 60's in the area due to flour/starch in the atmosphere.

Mr Woolwich assured Members that the level of dust in the area is well below that required to create an explosion.

Mr Woollass informed Members that the loose powder is from the unsheeted lorries. He said that this has been happening for 15 years.

Councillor Head stated that she believed it was an offence to have unsheeted loads on the highways. She said that answers and reassurance on safety and security are needed as there appears to be huge gaps in security. In view of this, Councillor Head asked Mr Woolwich if Councillors can visit and inspect the



site.

Mr Woolwich informed Members that this is not something that they allow claiming that it is a busy working site. He said that unauthorised people on it should be challenged and security measures are in place.

Mr Hunt informed Members that he had contacted the HSE on the previous day and asked them to reassure GTC. An email will be sent to the Town Clerk.

Councillor Head finished by stating that lots of people are concerned by this issue and unofficial monitoring will take place.

GTC2845 TRAVELLERS ON FOUNTAYNE STREET PLAY AREA

Councillor D Jeffreys informed Members that a site visit between himself, Councillor B Jeffreys, the Operations Manager Amenities and Andrew Hatton from ERYC has been made for the following week. The play area is leased to Goole Town Council by ERYC and this issue needs sorting with them.

Members agreed to suspend this Agenda item until the next Policy & Resources Meeting.

GTC2846 TO RECEIVE THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AS DEPUTY MAYOR OF COUNCILLOR BAILEY

Councillor Head informed Members that she is very pleased that Councillor Bailey has agreed to accept the Office of Deputy Mayor. She said he is a stalwart for stepping in during her absence and has her full endorsement.

The Town Clerk asked Councillor Bailey to virtually accept the Declaration of Office.

The new Deputy Mayor (Councillor Bailey) made his declaration and signed his Acceptance of Office.

The Full Council meeting concluded at 8:08pm.

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

