

Minutes of the Meeting of Old Bolsover Town Council
Held on Tuesday 13th October 2015 at the Town Hall,
Cotton Street, Bolsover, Chesterfield

Present:

Councillor P .A. Cooper - Chair
Councillor D. Adams
Councillor T. Bagguley
Councillor C.P. Cooper
Councillor S. Gibbons
Councillor B. Haigh
Councillor R. Hobson
Councillor J. Rushby
Councillor R. Tooth

In attendance:

Andrew Tristram -Town Clerk
7 Members of the Public
Councillor Joan Dixon – Derbyshire County Council
Inspector F. Burns
P.C. P. Harley
Jon Cooper – Derbyshire Times
Kerry Bailey – Digital Derbyshire – Derbyshire County Council

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors T. Bennett, R. Bowler and M. Longden

2. **Variation to Order of Business**

None

3. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/other Interests.**

None

4. **Digital Derbyshire Presentation**

Kerry Bailey, Digital Derbyshire Engagement Manager, attended the meeting to explain the Digital Derbyshire Project and provide an update on new cabinets enabled in Bolsover capable to provide superfast broadband to local residents. Members were informed that the current phase ending in 2016 will be followed by a further phase up to 2018. Coverage information is available from the Digital Derbyshire website. Members were encouraged to promote the availability of the faster services within their areas.

Members noted the information received.

5. **Public Speaking**

(a) **Public Matters raised:**

- Information about the Bolsover Hill Race to raise money for Chesterfield Royal Macmillan Cancer Centre
- Request for continued support for the Bolsover Gala

- Overgrown hedge on Public Footpath between Station Road and Old Hill
- Lighting and Wi-Fi on Hornscroft Park
- Alert about private fundraisers raising funds for St. John Ambulance
- Loose kerbstones on Market Area.
- Bolsover First Art Event – Credit for involvement of Town Council

(b) **Police Representatives**

Inspector Burns and PC Harley attended the meeting.

Matters Raised:

- Complaint about harassment of group of people on Cotton Street and Market Place
- Clarity on public rights of access by public through Sherwood Lodge Grounds
- Update on Police presence in Bolsover and potential office move.

Members were informed of debate about the future of the safer neighbourhood team and PCSO's Changes were being made to the way teams are working together to be able to provide better support for other areas where required.

Members asked about the problem with motorcycles and 4 x 4's on the derelict stocking ground on Mill Lane and asked how many reports were received over the last 3-4 months? How many have resulted in actions? If people making the complaints have been given an update on the action being taken? And if it is the same people offending? PC Harley agreed to provide this information through the Clerk.

(c) **County Councillors**

Councillor Joan Dixon attended the meeting and received questions from members. Questions were raised about the remedial work required to the Cenotaph area. The Clerk informed members that questions had been raised with the relevant officer at Derbyshire County Council and agreed to forward a copy of the independent report with photographs to Councillor Dixon who would then raise this with officers at Derbyshire County Council.

(d) **District Councillors**

No matters to report.

(e) **Town Councillors**

Matters raised:

- Town Trail leaflets had been updated and being distributed.
- Information boards on back hills are scheduled to be installed near the Castle Lane entrance and near the Conduit House along the footpath adjacent to where the seat was being sited.
- The second part of the grant from Historic England for the remaining Conduit Houses had been agreed and the meeting to select the builder to do the restoration would take place.

6. **Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2015 and the Finance Committee Meeting held on Thursday 8th October 2015 were proposed, seconded and duly accepted as a true and accurate record.

7. **To determine which items, if any, from part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded**

None

8. **Approval of Authorised Absence in accordance with Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972**

Members considered the approval of authorised absence for Councillor T. Bennett who had been unable to attend a meeting of the Town Council since their election in May 2015, due to illness. Members discussed the matter and a proposal was made that the authorised absence is given for a period of three months, rather than the suggested period of six months.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council authorise the absence of Councillor T. Bennett, due to illness, for a period of three months from the date of this meeting.

9. **Chair's Announcements**

None

10. **Finance**

A list of payments for August 2015 were presented. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments for August of £15,502.80 are approved.

11. **Traffic Issues**

The Clerk updated members on correspondence sent to Derbyshire County Council in respect of the Council's proposal for automated bollards to Cotton Street, Market Place and Cenotaph areas; remedial work required to the Cenotaph Area; installation of additional fixed bollards on the Cenotaph Area and temporary repairs/loose kerbstones on Market Place.

12. **CCTV**

Members discussed the installation of a Town Centre CCTV Scheme.

It was **RESOLVED** that three quotes are obtained and that the initiative is discussed further as part of the Council's budget setting for 2016/17.

13. **Town Council Footpath Minor Road Maintenance Agreement**

Members considered proposals to change the scheme for maintenance to footpaths by Derbyshire County Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that if the proposed changes are implemented that the Council would enrol in the revised scheme and identify priority projects to submit for funding.

14. **Town Centre Events**

Members discussed future funding and dates for Town Centre Events in 2016/17. The Clerk informed members of the need to start promoting Events earlier to attract a larger number of stallholders and the need to include some budget for additional admin and marketing support. Members were supportive of continuing with the Antiques Fair, Food

and Drink Fair and Christmas Festival, together with six-eight monthly Farmers' Markets during the year.

It was **RESOLVED** that a budget of £30,000 is agreed to inclusion in the 2016/17 budget for Events and that the decision for dates of Events is delegated to the Clerk in accordance with the Chair and Vice Chair.

15. **Support for Syrian Refugees**

Members discussed ways the Council could support any Syrian Refugees who are located in Bolsover.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council support the Derbyshire County Council initiative providing there is a fair distribution of families and support the Freedom Project by providing additional financial resources, if required, to support refugees through the foodbank, clothing bank and advice.

16. **Consideration of Recommendations from the Finance Committee**

(a) **Trailer Training**

It was **RESOLVED** that expenditure of up to £625 on +E trailer training for a member of the workforce is approved.

(b) **Replacement Mower**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council agree to allocate a budget of up to £30K (to include any receipt for the existing mower) for the purchase of either a new, ex-demo or second hand mower, subject to obtaining three quotes and delegate authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, to proceed with the purchase.

(c) **Storage Container**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise expenditure of up to £2,000 for the purchase of a storage container to be located in the depot and delegate authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair.

17. **Town Clerk's Report**

(1) **Bolsover Gala 2016**

Members considered a request from the Friends of Bolsover Parks for a grant of £1,500 towards the cost of Bolsover Gala, together with in-kind support (i.e. use of market stalls, tables and inclusion on the Town Council Insurance Policy).

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council approve the grant of £1,500 together with in-kind support for the event.

(2) **Bolsover Hill Race**

Members considered a request to assist with event costs by providing temporary toilets adjacent to the start and finish areas, together with assistance with market stalls or barriers around the Cenotaph Area for the Bolsover Hill Race being held on Sunday 21st May 2016.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council approve the request.

(3) **Land Adjacent to 30 Castle Street**

A request received from a local resident to purchase a small area of land at the corner of Castle Street and High Street from Bolsover District Council (currently managed by the Town Council under a licence agreement from Bolsover District Council) was considered. If the Council agreed to the sale of the land, the resident proposes the erection of a low level wall.

It was **AGREED** that the Council do not wish the land to be sold.

(4) **Leisure Facilities at Whaley**

Members received correspondence from a Whaley resident regarding the lack of leisure facilities in out-lying areas.

Members noted the resident's concerns and comments.

(5) **Temporary Road Closures**

The Council had received notification from Bolsover District Council of road closures relating to Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas Festival.

It was **RESOLVED** that information if noted and the requests are supported.

18. **Planning Matters**

- (1) 15/00465/ADV Hand painted mural to side of property at 3 Town End Bolsover by Mr. Chris Christopher

Resolved The Council support the enhancement to the property.

- (2) 15/00471/FUL Extensions and alterations, to include creation of bedroom in roof space and first floor extension at rear to create additional bedroom at 63 Oxcroft Lane, Bolsover by Mr. Duncan Yates

Resolved Leave to District Council to determine application.

- (3) 15/00477/DETGPD Notification for prior approval for installation of 476 solar pv panels on the roof of a chicken shed at Sutherland Farm, Oxcroft Lane, Bolsover by Mr. and Mrs. Adsetts

Resolved Leave to District Council to determine application.

- (4) 15/00361/FUL Construction of a temporary Solar Farm, to include the installation of Solar Panels with transformers, a District Network Operator (DNO) substation, security fence and gate (incorporating infra-red beam system) and other associated infrastructure at Oxcroft Stocking Ground Land at corner of Woodthorpe Road, and Mill Lane, Stanfree by Anesco Ltd

Resolved That the Council respond highlighting the following concerns and suggesting that the following conditions are applied if consent is granted.

1. There still exists a moral obligation to restore the site to green space suitable for agriculture following the cessation of coal stocking. Past planning conditions and assurance from

previous owners establish an expectation that this should be the final outcome for the site and is in keeping with the character of the landscape.

2. The visual impact survey is flawed and inappropriate. Screening with trees as proposed only mitigates the visual impact when the trees are in leaf (only half the year), additionally visual impact is evaluated alongside existing blots on the landscape such as the motorway and gives no consideration to the cumulative impact. If these criteria were used in a wider national context, urban sprawl would have never been stopped since houses could always be built on green fields on the urban fringe because houses were already there.
3. The Town Council have a responsibility for biodiversity and question the impact on biodiversity. The applicant claims that biodiversity will be enhanced but solar panels capture sunlight, the very thing that provides the energy for plant growth.
4. The proposal locates industry close to homes rather than in a designated industrial zone such as Markham Vale or the former Coalite Site.
5. The applicant and landowner are proposing community benefits. Local residents have been given similar promises before which have not materialised, despite the site generating several millions of pounds of income. The Council would not like to see another development with no clear community benefit.

IF the development were to be approved Old Bolsover Town Council would like to see:

- (a) Conditions set to ensure the restoration and aftercare of the site as were proposed for an application that was submitted and refused to extend coal stocking on the site (Planning Document CM5/0509/53).
- (b) The plans extended to include community access and use of the wooded land between the three areas of solar panels.
- (c) Plans linked to the development of a 'greenway' along the old railway siding and a country park on the old tip to the east.
- (d) Improved screening to minimise visual impact in winter when there are no leaves on the trees.
- (e) Conditions applied to ensure local people and businesses are used in the construction and maintenance of the solar farm.
- (f) Measures to ensure other community benefits promised by the applicant are delivered.

19. **Items for Information**

Members received and **NOTED** the items received for information.

20. **Town Council Workforce Report**

Members received and **NOTED** the Workforce Report for September 2015.

21. **DALC Circulars**

Resolved Circular 23/2015 and 24/2015 are **NOTED**.

22. **To receive any other items for information only and items to be included on the next Agenda**

None were received.

23. **To note the date of the next meeting**

The next Town Council meeting was confirmed for Tuesday 10th November 2015.

Signed

Dated