

FILEY TOWN COUNCIL

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 26 OCTOBER 2016

AT 7.00pm

Present : Councillor Susan Bosomworth (Chairman) and Councillors Marilyn Anthony, John Casey, Diane Glanvill, John Haxby, Robert Horley, Jacqui Houlden-Banks, Jeff Meek, John Shackleton, Anna Shaw, Richard Walker, Kevin Wilkie and Marion Wright.

Also present : Boro/Cty Cllr Sam Cross (7.04pm), Gina Robinson Town Clerk and Mrs Maureen Prentice Deputy Town Clerk.

Cllr Bosomworth reminded everyone present of the emergency evacuation procedure in the event of an emergency taking place. She went on to state that the filming and recording of the meeting was taking place and enquired whether anyone did not wish to be filmed, she went on to enquire whether anyone else wished to record or film the meeting and no response was made.

NOTICE OF MEETING

RESOLVED : That Public Notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with Schedule 12, para 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972. 819/016

APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Boro Cllr Mike Cockerill (ill health) and it was :

RESOLVED : That the above apology be duly noted. 820/016

RESOLVED : That the reason for absence be accepted. 821/016

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman reminded members of the need to consider whether they needed to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) or personal interest, as detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B of the Town Council's Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED : That no declarations of interest were declared at this point. 822/016

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

RESOLVED : It be noted that no members of the public were present. 823/016

FILEY TOILET PROVISION

The members had all been previously circulated with several documents provided by Scarborough Borough Council in respect of the possible transfer of 7 Public Conveniences in Filey to the Town Council and these documents were fully discussed in turn as follows :

Heads of Terms

Members questioned the leasehold interest of 5 of the toilets and freehold interest of 2 toilets and the restrictions which these would have and commented that the Borough Council had done very little maintenance to any of these buildings only essential repairs as and when necessary. Members noted that there was asbestos identified in some toilets and all would need to be upgraded to bring them up to a better standard but this will cost more than the grant of £5k for each of the toilets which the Borough Council would offer as a one-off payment. Cllr Haxby stated that the town's residents already pay towards the Scarborough town toilets as part of their Council Tax and it was double taxation expecting them to pay an increased precept to subsidise the Filey toilets. Cllr Houlden-Banks stated that a plan was needed as Filey could not do without public toilets and Cllr Shackleton asked where the money from car parking was going as it should be channelled into providing such facilities as toilets. Members were reminded that toilets were not a statutory service therefore did not have to be provided. Members considered that the proposed terms would need to be re-negotiated further with the Borough Council should the Town Council decide to proceed.

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Associated Information

This document gave details on the seven toilet facilities in Filey together with associated logs of repairs and maintenance costs, asbestos and usage figures.

It was duly noted that the facility on Country Park had asbestos present in soffets. The Clerk commented that it would be prudent for the Town Council that a building conditions survey be undertaken for each of the properties and informed members that there had been no information supplied regarding any electrical inspections having been undertaken and it was queried as to whether the buildings met Health & Safety requirements. The variation in the cost of repairs by the Borough Council for undertaking the same jobs were queried by Cllr Wilkie. It was also noted that costs for Council Tax for some of the toilets had not been provided by the Borough Council and although the Government were considering abolishing Council Tax on public conveniences but no decision had been made on this yet. Members also considered whether there were any other ways of increasing revenue income should the Town Council take on the responsibility of these facilities.

SBC Estimated running costs and usage figures

The figures supplied showing the estimated annual cost of each toilet, not including any staffing costs, amounted to over £55k which indicated that this would be the cost to the Town Council if these were transferred although this amount did not include any improvements. Cllr Wright pointed out that there was no signage on the Foreshore Public Conveniences to inform the public that these were toilets, it was also suggested that the cost of self-cleaning pods should be investigated.

SBC cost of consumables

This information was duly noted.

Proposed outline costs of updating the facilities

Members stated that a full structural survey would be necessary for all facilities at an unknown cost and this would be in addition to the estimated costs of £20k minimum cost of internal and external painting together with a deep clean. The estimated costs of any improvement works and repairs would also have to be sought.

Proposed outline proposal to use a cleaning contractor

The Clerk informed members that a cleaning contractor was to attend an informal meeting the following week and it was hoped that as many Councillors as possible would attend. She went on to state that there were many different options but all would include a charge for entry.

Water testing Health & Safety reports from SBC

Members were concerned that this did not include a legionella survey for all toilets although it was considered that the Borough Council should undertake this prior to a third party taking these over as initial costs for these surveys were in the region of £45 per facility per month.

Health & Safety Report from the Town Council's Health & Safety Risk Advisor

The report, with regard to the monitoring of Legionella in water systems, had been circulated previously which members accepted stating that they appreciated his time in producing this informative document and gave him their whole hearted support.

SBC Draft Cleaning Specification

This document gave daily and weekly requirements for cleaning of public conveniences and shower areas and members queried whether there was a log for each toilet which was completed by the cleaners.

Comments from members of the public

Members had been circulated with a copy of these comments both for and against the Town Council taking over these responsibilities.

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Options and Costs for Filey Town Council

The Clerk had circulated various options and these had been used by Cllr Haxby to produce a further report which had been circulated in which he had guesstimated some of the unknown figures to try and assist members in their deliberations and he explained these in detail.

Members queried whether the precept could be increased to cover the annual costs however it was pointed out that the Town Council may be capped at 2% as are District and County Councils and this route would be detrimental to the residents especially when these facilities are predominantly used by the tourists. A full discussion then took place on these documents following which it was :

RESOLVED : That as many members as possible attend the informal meeting on Thursday 3 November 2016. 824/016

RESOLVED : That this item be placed on the Agenda of the next full Council meeting being held on 9 November 2016 when members will make a final decision on whether the Town Council submit an expression of interest for the transfer of Public Conveniences (Filey) to the Town Council. 825/016

REQUESTS TO OBTAIN OR PRESENT INFORMATION

Filey in Bloom

Cllr Bosomworth extended the Town Council's congratulations to the Filey in Bloom Group as the Filey entry had achieved a Gold Award in the Britain in Bloom competition. Cllr Wright as Chairman of this Group thanked the members for their congratulations and would extend this to her Group at their next meeting.

RESOLVED : That a letter of congratulations be sent to the Group from the Town Council. 826/016

Under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 members considered that none of the above decisions would impact on crime and disorder

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Councillor Susan Bosomworth
Chairman & Town Mayor