

MINUTES

At the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 at 19:00hrs.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors: Allsworth, Beaver, Blackmore, Blakemore, Bridges, Bryant, Cave, Cavill, Cooper, Halik, Hill (in the Chair), Hoar, Jacob, Edward Kirk, Emily Kirk, Lincoln, Palmen, Piazza, Trigg and Vigar.

Officers: Mr L. Allan (Town Clerk).

Public: 11

Press: 0

3577 APOLOGIES

Were received from: Cllr Bates.

RESOLVED: To approve apologies with reasons from: Cllr Bates.

3578 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) There were no declarations of interest.

b) There were no Dispensation Requests received by the Town Clerk and not previously considered.

3579 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Mr Mitchell raised some concerns regarding the draft agreement with the Rugby Club including their use of the 3G pitch on Sunday mornings, the additional floodlighting, parking spaces and access and concluded that TRFC had been far better at negotiating the deal.

Mr Jubbie raised some concerns about what he regarded as a misuse of the extraordinary meeting process, secrecy of the working group, lack of report regarding the survey results, the loan approval process. He explained that he had received as a result of an FOI request, information from Sport England regarding the parking provision and the inclusion of two additional changing rooms. He also raised concerns regarding the use of rubber crumb and a potential conflict of interest regarding the cost of the play area.

Mr Lamb (President of TRFC) spoke about the sale of their former ground at Green Lane for housing and that this had required a £106 contribution, which was now being returned to provide improved rugby facilities. He explained about the Charities Act 2019 requirements with regards to best value and he urged the councillors to make a decision in the best interests of the community of Trowbridge to invest in the future and provide better facilities.

Mr Lund explained that as a PE teacher and Director of Rugby at TRFC he fully supported the investment for the whole community and for the young people of Trowbridge.

Mr Partner asked if the Football foundation were aware of the lease with TRFC and was concerned about any limitations on Association Football clubs playing matches at Doric Park.

The Town Clerk clarified that the agreement with TRFC was a draft and could potentially be changed. That there would only be two team-changing rooms (not four) and that the council would be considering alternatives to rubber crumb.

3580 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED: That; in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted; and therefore the meeting should resolve that the public and press be temporarily excluded and be instructed to withdraw.

3581 DORIC PARK PROJECT - APPOINTMENT OF MAIN CONTRACTOR

The Council considered the Tender Evaluation Report and the appointment of a Main Contractor for the Doric Park project.

Cllr Edward Kirk raised concerns about the order in which the decisions were being taken suggesting that the agreement with TRFC should have been complete before tenders were invited.

Cllr Cave raised concerns about the 89 parking spaces and he was reminded that this has been part of the plan since well before planning application and is included in the planning documents.

Cllr Edward Kirk also raised concerns about potential contractor penalties if the specification was changed.

RESOLVED: That the Council informs the Main Contractor (Beard) of its intention to appoint it as detailed in the commercially confidential report, subject to approval of AGENDA items 7 & 8 below and the approval of the agreement with Trowbridge Rugby Football Club.

3582 READMISSION OF THE PUBLIC & PRESS

RESOLVED: To readmit the public and press.

3583 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

The Council received the following statements and questions from the public.

Mr Jubbie Raised concerns including a claim that the information circulated by the Town Clerk regarding potential amendments that may come forward was illegal, that planning conditions had not been met, that no information had been provided about the precept increase, that rubber crumb was toxic and that as a green council solar panels should be installed on the building.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the information regarding amendments did not constitute an additional report or agenda item or recommendation and was to assist the councillors in considering those items already on the agenda. That planning conditions were to be addressed by the contractor, as is standard practice, that the council was not increasing the precept to fund the project and that alternatives to rubber crumb and solar panels had both been costed into the project.

3584 DORIC PARK PROJECT – CONFIRMATION TO PROCEED

The Council considered confirmation to proceed with the DORIC PARK ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCH and associated landscaping, parking, buildings etc. project, and:

Cllr Edward Kirk raised further concerns about rubber crumb, the survey, the life of the project, the DLUHC requirement for a valuation and was rent rent or not rent.

Cllr Cavill commented that whilst he was not a sportsperson he recognised that this would be a valuable investment for the community.

Cllr Piazza raised concerns about the annual cost and that in some years it would not make a positive financial return, that the agreement proposed with the rugby club was one sided and that Community Infrastructure Levy could be used to fund the project instead of other projects.

Cllr Jacob summarised the views of many who had spoken, agreed that there were some risks but that on balance it would be a great facility for the community.

RESOLVED: That the Council:

Proceeds with the DORIC PARK ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCH PROJECT including associated landscaping, parking, buildings etc. subject to completion of the agreement with Trowbridge Rugby Football Club and its formal approval by the Town Council;

Confirms with the main contractor appropriate preparatory works which can be undertaken prior to receipt of borrowing approval in order to meet the timescales for completion prior to September 2023 and within the available funds and;

Confirms that the pitch will use an organic alternative to rubber crumb.

3585 DORIC PARK PROJECT - BORROWING APPROVAL

The Council considered funding for the DORIC PARK ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCH PROJECT and submission of a borrowing approval application, and:

RESOLVED: That; further to approval of the recommendations above; Trowbridge Town Council updates its on-hold borrowing approval application to DLUHC (The Secretary of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities), now revised to be for a maximum of £3.9million, for the Doric Park Artificial Turf Pitch Project.

The Council notes the following:

Based on the latest information from HM Treasury this equates to an annual repayment, including interest, of £150,804 over a 50-year term at an interest rate of 2.99%. This equates to a total of £7.54million including interest and repayments. (The Council does not intend to increase the Council Tax precept to fund the repayments.)

Following receipt of borrowing approval the loan will be taken with the Public Works and Loans Board (Debt Management Office – DMO) when required and will be lower than the maximum if options such as Solar PV are not taken up.

Cllr Bryant thanked the officers for the work they had put in to the project.

3586 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Town Council Annual Meeting Tuesday 17th May 2022.

3587 MEDIA RELEASES

RESOLVED: To approve the issue of a press release regarding the Doric Park project.

Meeting Closed at 21:15

Signature



APPENDIX RECORDED VOTES

Councillor	Doric Park - Project Appointment Of Main Contractor	Doric Park - Project Confirmation To Proceed	Doric Park - Project Borrowing Approval
Allsworth			
Bates			
Beaver			
Blackmore			
Blakemore			
Bridges			
Bryant			
Cave			
Cavill			
Cooper			
Halik			
Hill			
Hoar			
Jacob			
Edward Kirk			
Emily Kirk			
Lincoln			
Palmen			
Piazza			
Trigg			
Vigar			

	For	Against	Abstain
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