

HESSLE TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 7.30pm
(*Public Forum at 7.35pm)
Large Front Room
Town Hall, South Lane, Hessle

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Adams, Bovill (Chairman), Craggs, Davison, I. Hardy, P. Hardy (Vice-Chairman), Harrison, Langdale, Pickering, Sutton and Toogood.

Mr Bob Carroll – (Non-voting Advisory Members)

Connexin – Ms Dragana Belic & Mr Hugh Davies

Clerk: Mrs Kim Cooper

18 Members of the Public

Apologies: Cllrs H. Hogan, Keillor, Nolan, Walker and Mr Paul Hogan

134518 PUBLIC FORUM

7.30pm - There were no members of the Public or press present that wished speak.

134519 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

The Chairman now read out the following – Members must declare their pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in items at this meeting – *rather than personal and prejudicial interests* – and ensure that they act appropriately.

Councillors Bovill, P. Hardy, Harrison, Langdale and Sutton declared non-pecuniary interests in Minute no. 134525 as they had received emails from residents regarding this item which they had acknowledged but had not made any comments on.

134520 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

(Adams/P. Hardy)

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd January 2024 and authorise the Chairman to sign.

134521 WELCOME NEW MEMBER & ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:

The Chairman and members present welcomed the newly elected member, Mr Steve Craggs, to Hessle Town Council. He signed the form of 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' which the Clerk witnessed and signed.

134522 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

None received.

134523 CONNEXIN:

Ms Dragana Belic, Community Engagement Officer and Mr Hugh Davies, telecoms corporate affairs & marketing specialist from Connexin Limited attended the meeting. They gave a brief presentation about who they are and what Connexin do, together with some information with regards to the installation of poles.

The Chairman opened up the floor and a lengthy question and answer session followed with Councillors and residents present asking why Connexin are installing poles and not waiting and working with KCOM to use their underground infrastructure and also why they are not listening to residents who do not want poles. Mr Davies and Ms Belic answered questions and provided as much information as they were able, but would not commit to Connexin waiting and working with KCOM for underground infrastructure sharing instead of installing poles. As Mr Davies said that Connexin would not be starting work/installations in Hessle until July, the Chairman invited Connexin to come back to the scheduled Full Council meeting to be held in July with details of what installations they are planning for Hessle and if still relevant, the Town Council will also look to invite representatives from KCOM in order to debate the issue of why they are seen to be impeding other companies from utilising their underground infrastructure. In the meantime, Mr Davies said that Connexin has lodged details and evidence with OFCOM about KCOM and has instructed Solicitors to look into the possibility of making an official complaint, although he said they have been advised that this would be a costly exercise which would likely end up with a lengthy court case at great expense. Mr Davies confirmed that Connexin has approached MS3 but they are also unwilling to share their newly installed network and poles.

8.30pm Councillor Craggs had to leave the meeting due to another commitment.

As members of the public were also present to discuss Minute no. 134525, the Chairman proposed that this item be moved and discussed next.

134524 POLICE MATTERS:

To receive the latest figures/information on police matters pertaining to Hessle since the previous meeting.

(Sutton/I. Hardy)

RESOLVED that the latest figures and information is received and noted.

Councillor Toogood advised members that there are growing anti-social parking problems along Penshurst Avenue during School drop off and pick up times. People are parking on the verges and on the pavements. ERYC have said that they will not install any more 'no parking on mown verges' signs and the Police, in most cases of bad parking or blocking pavements, are unable or unwilling to do anything.

(Pickering/Toogood)

RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the East Riding Council to request that the School Streets Scheme enforced along Winthorpe Road and Seagran Avenue is extended to cover Penshurst Avenue.

8.40pm Councillor Langdale had to leave the meeting due to another commitment.

8.45pm Residents spoke in favour of protecting this area of amenity land and for Hessle Town Council to continue with its plans to Lease the land from the East Riding Council in perpetuity. The Friends of Tranby Gate provided information on the events they have already held at the site and the work they have undertaken on the land since 2020 and how they are turning it into an attractive asset and meeting place.

134525 AMENITY LAND HEADS LANE/FERRIBY ROAD:

Councillor Pickering has requested members re-examine the decision made at Full Council on 19th May 2020 that Hessle Town Council should lease the area of amenity land at Ferriby Road/Heads Lane. A copy of the ERYC Heads of Terms issued in October 2022 is attached for perusal.

(Pickering/P. Hardy)

RESOLVED that as previously predicted costs have significantly increased over the last few years for the maintenance of land and especially trees, the Town Council in order to be open and transparent undertakes a Town Consultation to provide detailed information to all residents about the area, where it is located and how much it is expected to cost the Council per annum to maintain and to ask if they would be happy for the Town Council to continue with its plans to take on the lease and maintenance of this area of land from the East Riding Council. The information and survey will go in the next August/September Town Council Newsletter.

Councillor Pickering asked for a recorded vote:

Vote: In favour; Cllrs Adams, Bovill, Harrison, I. Hardy, P. Hardy, Pickering, Sutton and Toogood

Against; Cllr Davison

134526 ERYC

a) Crime Prevention and Community Safety Event 2024

Council to receive details of the 2024 Crime Prevention and Community Safety Event to be held on Thursday 11 April 2024 at the Beverley Conference Centre at 12.30pm until 3.30pm. If any members wish to attend please ask the Clerk for a Booking Form.

(Davison/Sutton)

RESOLVED that the details of the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Event are received and noted and members are to contact the Clerk if they wish to attend.

134527

ERNLLCA:

Council to receive the new ERNLLCA Training Guide for 2024 – 2025. Members interested in any of the courses can either book directly via the ERNLLCA website or advise the Clerk.

(Sutton/Davison)

RESOLVED that the new ERNLLCA Training Guide is received and noted.

134528

FINANCE

a) Schedule Nos: 293 and 294 (Receipts & Payments up to 31st January 2024 and 29th February 2024):

(Sutton/Chair)

RESOLVED to approve the copies as given that were duly signed by the Chair of Finance & Personnel at the meetings held on 14th February and 13th March 2024.

b) Town Hall Roof

The Architect advised the Clerk that the original plan for repairing the roof and gutters, whilst still feasible, would ultimately be a false economy following a detailed examination of the current state of repair. The architect has tendered and received 2 quotes for replacing the whole roof, which are attached for perusal, and now asks the Town Council to consider incurring the additional expenditure for a full roof replacement now rather than waiting a few more years when it will definitely need full replacement but costs will have significantly increased due to further deterioration.

RECOMMENDATION from the Finance Committee to approve that given the poor condition, the whole of the roof is replaced and the Town Council accepts quote 2, and that the additional funds required are taken from Reserves.

Amendment to Recommendation:

(Pickering/I. Hardy)

Councillor Pickering proposed that the Recommendation is deferred as the second quote needs to be improved by providing a breakdown of what the company will be delivering for the cost as per quote 1 and the Architect needs to provide a third quote before being taken back to the Finance Committee for decision.

(Davison/Bovill)

RESOLVED that the Recommendation is deferred until the additional information requested in the above proposal is received from the Architect and that upon receipt of the additional information, and in order not to stop or hold up the Town Hall Refurbishment Works any further, a decision on the replacement of the roof is made by the Chairman of the Council, Vice-Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Vote: 7 in favour, 1 against

c) Council Tax Base

Councillor Nolan requested that information is presented to members showing a list of Town & Parish Council settlements with a 1000+ property tax base figure and ranked low to high by the level of the Band D precept amount for 2024/2025. This showed members where Hessle ranks amongst the medium to large settlements in the East Riding.

(Davison/Sutton)

RESOLVED that the information is received and noted.

134529

PERSONNEL:

TOWN CENTRE & EVENTS OFFICER and COMMUNICATIONS/SOCIAL MEDIA & ADMIN SUPPORT OFFICER POSITIONS:

The following was taken to and considered by Finance, Personnel & Asset Management at its Committee meeting held on 13th March 2024 thus -

Town Centre & Events Officer and Communications/Social Media & Admin Support Officer

Job application forms were sent to all those who requested same, with a closing date for completed applications by 26th January 2024. Interviews were duly carried out on 4th and 5th March 2024.

3 Candidates for the Town Centre & Events Officer position were interviewed by Cllrs. Sutton, Davison, Bovill and the Town Clerk and the remaining applicant for this position on the 4th March by Cllrs Bovill, Davison and the Town Clerk. The candidates for the Communications/Social Media & Admin Support Officer were interviewed on the 4th March 2024.

Following discussions by the Working Group, Candidate C was chosen for the Town Centre & Events Officer and Candidate A for the Communications/Social Media & Admin Support Officer

Please note that all members are welcome to view any of the applications and associated interview documents in full, by contacting the Town Clerk.

RECOMMENDATION to Full Council from the Finance, Personnel & Asset Management Committee that all actions carried out by the Working Group and Interview Panel are duly approved. Full Council to approve a formal offer for the position of Town Centre & Events Officer to Candidate C and a formal offer for the position for the Communication/Social Media & Admin Support Officer to Candidate A, to enable each preferred candidate to accept the offer and commence their formal employ with Hessle Town Council as soon as possible.

(Sutton/Chair)

RESOLVED that the recommendation for all actions carried out by the Working Group and Interview Panel are approved and the Clerk contacts and formally offers the positions to each of the preferred candidates selected under the terms and conditions each position was advertised.

134530

STANDING ORDER 9.1:

A member may ask the Chairman of the Council or the Chair of any committee any question concerning the business of the Council provided that two working days' notice of the question has been given by the member to the Town Clerk.

None received.

134531

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings (minutes previously circulated) and approve any recommendations and resolutions contained therein;

Planning & Traffic – 6th February 2024 – (Adams/I. Hardy)

Planning & Traffic – 5th March 2024 – (Adams/I. Hardy)

Events & Communications – 7th February 2024 – (P. Hardy/Chair)

Events & Communications – 6th March 2024 – (P. Hardy/Chair)

Finance, Personnel & Asset Management – 14th February 2024 – (Davison/Sutton)

Finance, Personnel & Asset Management – 13th March 2024 – (Davison/Sutton)