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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 05 DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM

IN MARKFIELD LIBRARY

Councillors Present: M Bowler
S Browning
M Burrows
B Gannon
C Harris
L Norris
K Senkpiehl
S Taylor

Officers Present: Locum Clerk

Members of the Public: 3 which included County Councillor Peter Bedford and two representatives from Sporting Markfield Club Ltd

104. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Crook and Sprason

105. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made at the time. Councillor Browning later declared a pecuniary interest at agenda item 115 and left the room until the agenda item was discussed.

106. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the meeting from 07 November 2023 with minor amendments. The minutes were signed by the Chairman

107. Public Participation

Members of the public present made no representations

108. County and Borough Councillors

County Councillor Peter Bedford has been part of assessing the associated risk to Leicestershire County Council as a result of Nottingham City Council's section 114, bankruptcy notice. Leicestershire County Council share some back-office services with Nottingham City Council. The assessment concluded that there was no risk to Leicestershire County Council's services.

Leicestershire County Council continues to be under financial pressure with £10m being forecast to be taken from its £20m reserves in order that the essential services for special needs children and adult social care can be maintained next year. The increase to the minimum wage will take up the majority of the £10m. The consequence is that budgets such as highways could be reduced. Staying with highway matters, two additional speed signs will be sited in Markfield. Comments were made regarding the durability of repairs to potholes and footpaths and Borough Councillor Claire Harrison added that the replacement double yellow lines outside of Indian Fusion will be chased up.

Borough Councillor Claire Harrison lay a wreath along with the Chairman of Markfield Parish Council on Remembrance Sunday. She has also met with the Police and Crime Commissioner and raised concerns about the level of beat policing in Markfield and that some known reported crimes appeared to be missing from the Police's crime list. Borough Councillor Harrison also cast a level of doubt on the Police's response times. Councillor Bowler added that she would raise with the Police Commander at the Parish Forum.

109. Committee Minutes

- a) The locum clerk spoke to the Planning and Highways minutes from 14 November 2023 as the Planning and Highways chairman, Councillor Sprason had sent his apologies. The minutes were **NOTED**.
- b) Councillor Bowler spoke to the Policy and Resources minutes from 30 November 2023. The committee and the responsible financial officer were thanked for their work on the budget and precept which started in September and which all councillors were invited to participate in. The minutes were **NOTED**.

110. Budget and Precept for the year ending 31 March 2025 Planning

As per the Policy and Resources committee recommendation, it was **RESOLVED** that the budget be set at £216,050 and the precept at £173,505.

The Council Tax band D household figure could not be confirmed, as the information was not yet available from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. The band D household figure would be confirmed at January's meeting.

111. Terms of Reference

The revised Terms of Reference for the Planning and Highways committee were **ADOPTED**.

Future updates from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will continue to be heard at Council.

112. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

- a) The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Councillor Norris provided a verbal update. The Steering Group would be meeting in the morning to begin a review of the locations put forward as part of the call for sites. Council will need to approve the selection and in the near future there will be a public consultation and vote.

The verbal update was **NOTED**.

- b) Councillor Bowler's update from NALC's virtual planning training session included that Markfield's current Neighbourhood Plan had lost some of its protection because Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Local Plan has not been finalised and the Borough Council does not have a 5 year land supply. Also, that a review of section 106 projects should be considered so that greater emphasis is placed upon the Council securing funding for community amenities from housing developers when planning applications are submitted.

113. JPF Playing Fields

- a) The EICR certification and PAT testing at the Pavilion were **NOTED**
- b) Sporting Markfield Club Ltd's chairman made representation to their landlord on the following matters:

- i. Updating and changing the site signage

New signage was **RESOLVED** as it would be like-for-like and would include the Parish Council's logo. The locum clerk to send a jpeg of the Council's logo to Sport Markfield Club Ltd

- ii. Removal of the conifers to improve the football pitch alignment for spectators and dug-out facilities

The conifers do not have arboricultural value as they are not included in the Council's tree survey. The preference would be to take the conifers down to stump first to see how much more additional room that gives rather than to remove the conifers altogether. Keeping the stumps and roots will aid the stability of the bank. The existing trees and shrubs will remain.

The works were **RESOLVED** subject to corresponding professional advice and written reports being obtained in relation to the protection of existing wildlife, that drainage would not be exacerbated by the removal of the conifers and that replacement native trees are planted elsewhere on site. The removal of the conifers to be carried out by a tree surgeon at Sporting Markfield Club Ltd's own cost.

- iii. A family friendly festival in the summer of 2024

The mainly tribute band festival would be co-ordinated and managed by a third party and would be subject to Borough Council approvals for site safety. The capacity request was 4,000.

It was **RESOLVED** not to grant landlord permission for the festival at this time

iv. The potential redevelopment of the Pavilion

An architect had visited the site as the Pavilion requires improvement. The initial idea is to extend the Pavilion behind the changing rooms, to update the changing room showers and referees' facilities and to increase the insulation so that the clubhouse can be more widely used.

It was **RESOLVED** to support in principle subject to drawings and structural engineers plans being brought back before council

114. Community Centre Lease

- a) It was **NOTED** that Statutory Declaration had been signed, enabling the lease to be finalised
- b) This item was **DEFERRED** as the current design of the 'Dog House' was subject to change by ME Sports in the Community CIC in consultation with the Council

115. Parish Council Surgery with Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Burrows would attend subject to availability, with Councillor Taylor as substitute.

It was **AGREED** that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 2A (as amended by the Local Government Act (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 1992, Paragraphs 1. 2 and 6.

116. Cemetery Case

Councillor Browning declared a pecuniary interest and left the room. The update was **NOTED**.

Councillor Browning returned to the room upon conclusion of the discussion.

117. Insurance Claim

The update was **NOTED**

The meeting finished at 9:25pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

DRAFT