

EPWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Full Council held on Wednesday, 21st December 2022, at 7.00 pm, in the Chapel of Rest, Cemetery Lodge, Burnham Road, Epworth

Public Participation

A member of the public expressed an interest in addressing the Council about Turbary Road.

Residents had been told it was illegal to drive their vehicles on Turbary Road because of the public right of way, therefore they had asked North Lincolnshire Council if it was illegal for it to drive their bin lorries on Turbary Road too.

33/12/22 Record of Members Present

The following councillors were present: Councillors Finch (Chairwoman), Brumby, Cooper. Garner, Richmond, J Whittaker and R Whittaker.

34/12/22 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

There were apologies from Councillors Stewart - ill.

35/12/22 Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

- (i) No declarations of interest were made.
- (ii) No dispensations had been granted.

36/12/22 Turbary Road

The Clerk had contacted North Lincolnshire Council to ask them to re-enter into an agreement to contribute to the cost of temporarily resurfacing Turbary Road and share half the cost of doing so. He had received a response from one of the ward councillors who was happy to support any discretionary payment to assist the town council in the short term, however he had not heard a response from any officer at North Lincolnshire Council.

The Council had to decide what it wanted to do next, it could carry out a temporary repair of Turbary Road hopefully with a contribution from North Lincolnshire Council, whilst seeking legal advice on registering the land, granting easements and its future maintenance, and also the Council's liability - both legally and financially.

A resident had recently posed two questions involving incidents involving a vehicle and pedestrian on Turbary Road and asked what insurances were in place to cover these two scenarios, therefore the Clerk had contacted the Council's insurer about this, however the reply he had received was far from satisfactory.

It was clear that no matter what the Council did clarity was now needed on who is responsible at the moment if something was to happen on Turbary Road never mind in the future.

The Clerk had also received an email from a resident who wanted him to pass on their dissatisfaction about the lack of progress made on Turbary Road.

Councillors had a long discussion about what action should be taken with regard to Turbary Road.

This included the contents of a freedom of information letter sent to them by a resident about the use of vehicles on Turbary Road, which gave the impression that if residents had been driving along Turbary Road for an uninterrupted period of twenty years they may have acquired a private right of way and therefore may not be driving illegally on Turbary Road.

Councillors J Whittaker & Brumby proposed and seconded the following motion:-

- (i) The Clerk should seek legal advice on the current situation regarding Turbary Road, to include registering the land, granting easements and its future maintenance - both the legal and financial implications of doing so, from Mr Andrew Gore of Fenners Chambers at a cost of £1.400 + VAT.
- (ii) No remedial action to be taken with regard to Turbary Road until an official response has been received from North Lincolnshire Council about sharing the costs, at which point it will be reviewed.
- (iii) Ask North Lincolnshire to confirm the contents disclosed in a Freedom of Information letter to a resident about the use of vehicles on Turbary Road.

However Councillors Finch and Cooper proposed and seconded the following amendment to part (ii) of the motion:-

Seek to do an interim emergency repair at a cost of £2,400 + VAT and send a letter to residents about it whilst seeking legal advice and hopefully a long term solution.

A recorded vote was requested on the amendment and it was as follows:-

- For: Councillors Cooper & Finch
- Against: Councillors Brumby, Garner, J Whittaker & R Whittaker
- Abstained: Councillor Richmond

As the amendment had failed a vote was then taken on the original motion, and this was passed by Full Council.

Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Brumby - **It was resolved that:-**

- (i) The Clerk should seek legal advice on the current situation regarding Turbary Road, to include registering the land, granting easements and its future maintenance - both the legal and financial implications of doing so, from Mr Andrew Gore of Fenners Chambers at a cost of £1.400 + VAT.**
- (ii) No remedial action to be taken with regard to Turbary Road until an official response has been received from North Lincolnshire Council about sharing the costs, at which point it will be reviewed.**
- (iii) Ask North Lincolnshire to confirm the contents disclosed in a Freedom of Information letter to a resident about the use of vehicles on Turbary Road.**

A recorded vote was requested on the motion and it was as follows:-

For: Councillors Brumby, Cooper, Finch, Garner, J Whittaker
& R Whittaker

Against: None

Abstained: Councillor Richmond

37/12/22

Parish Precept & Grant for 2023 / 2024

At the last meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 6th December 2022, it was resolved that this item be deferred until the next meeting due to a lack of councillors being in attendance.

The Clerk provided councillors with detailed information to enable them to consider a precept figure for the forthcoming financial year.

He informed councillors that North Lincolnshire Council would offer a grant again this year and it was on the condition that the town council continued to engage with and consider devolution and related initiatives in discussion with North Lincolnshire Council.

The following figures were agreed:-

PRECEPT FOR 2023/2024

RECEIPTS

Cemetery	Burial of Body	400
	Interment of Ashes	300
	Purchase of Exclusive Right	1,000
	Erection of Headstone	400
	Additional Inscription	100
Hanging Baskets	Hanging Basket Income	2,250
Wayleave	Wayleave Payment	10
Interest	Bank Interest	10
		4,470

PAYMENTS

Wages / Salaries	Wages / Tax / NI	44,300
Administration	Insurance	2,610
	HR Support	2,000
	Computer Systems & Back-Up	1,880
	Subs / Memberships / Fees	1,700
	Training Costs	1,500
	Audit	890
	H & S Support	1,000
	Room Hire	350

	Advertising & Public Notices	300
	Payroll Charges	290
	Printing & Photocopying	125
	Postage	50
	Bank Charges	100
	Travelling Expenses	265
	Stationery	160
	Election Costs	3,000
	Website Provision	2,000
Cemetery / Lodge / Chapel of Rest	Repairs & Maintenance	3,500
	Electricity	3,365
	Telephone & Broadband	520
	Business Rates	800
	Water & Sewerage	285
	PAT Testing	150
	Extinguisher Servicing	35
	Cleaning Materials	195
	Tree Work	3,500
	Grass & Hedge Cutting	1,240
	Memorials Safety	2,350
	Waste Collection	660
	Pest Control	300
	Topsoil	500
	Machine Maintenance	200
	Fuel for Mower	200
	Grave Markers	30
	Weedkilling	600
Closed Churchyard	Churchyard Maintenance	1,000
	Grass Cutting	960
QE2 Play Park	Equipment Maintenance & Monitoring	3,000
	Grass Cutting & Hedge Cutting	1,300
	Safety Inspections	200
Epworth in Bloom	Hanging Baskets / Planters	3,500
	Water Bowser Maintenance	100
Assets	Equipment	1,000
	Street Furniture	1,000
Donations / Grants	S137 Grants	2,500
	Other Grants	2,500
Civic	King's Coronation	1,000
	Epworth Show	60
	Turbary Road Maintenance	1,500
	Parking	5,000
		<hr/>
		105,570

PRECEPT CALCULATIONS

		<u>2023/24</u>
Opening Bank Balance		53,225
<u>Add</u>	Receipts	4,470
<u>Less</u>	Payments	<u>105,570</u> -47,875
General Reserve		-30,000
		<hr/> 77,875
<u>Less</u>	Grant	1,699
Precept		<hr/> <u>76,176</u>

Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that Full Council should set a precept of £76,176 for the financial year 2023 / 2024, and also accept a grant of £1,699 from North Lincolnshire Council.**

38/12/22

Closure of Meeting

The Chairwoman declared the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.