

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
24 May 2018

Present: Councillors Upson (Chair), Westmorland & Wootton

12 Members of the public were in attendance, 0 Police Officer & 0 member of the press.

001 TOWN MEETING 25 May 2017

Councillor Upson welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed them that the minutes of last year's meeting had been circulated. Mr. Kenyon questioned the date of the minutes circulated; the Chairman explained the date was correct.

It was agreed: that the Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 25 May 2017 are approved.

002 CHAIRMANS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked the people of the community, fellow Councillors and Town Council staff for their support over the past year.

003 MATTERS RAISED FROM THE FLOOR

The Chairman informed the meeting of the complaints he had received about Hemsworth Water Park but wanted to clarify that most of the complaints were regarding Vale Head Park which is WMDC run. Extra signage, to differentiate the two parks is going to be erected. Complaints had also been received regarding the state of grass verges which again was a Wakefield Council issue.

Mr. Wilson is disgraced at the state of Hemsworth Cemetery surely as a Council they can do something about it.

The Chairman agreed with him and confirmed that again it is a Wakefield Council service.

Mr. Kenyon stated that at a rate payers meeting regarding Kirkby Road Complex it was sold as seen to Saul on these minutes it says not been sold, how can you confirm minutes if these minutes are stating this?

The Chairman responded it was sold with planning permission which was then quashed the sale didn't go through

Mr. Kenyon stated when he and Mr. Wilson were at a meeting ten labour Councillors variation to the contract were proposed and seconded by A draper we gave Saul an extension. Tina Pattison was instructed to take further advice regarding completion in 2012, when someone had signed the contract its public land and public money why is it still up in the air and nothing has been concluded.

The Chairman responded by saying you know the answer your actions contributed to the delay in finalizing the sale. There is still a huge amount of money 1.4 million outstanding, £300,000 outstanding

on completion from the S106. The main reason the Town Council is not pursuing is it is beneficial not to pursue completion because if we remain legal owners we have an input in the S106 and there have been numerous attempts to get this devalued the Council has fought that.

Mr. Kenyon said what you aren't taking on board the section 106 legally does not exist after being quashed three times until the application is re established again. Section 106 has been replaced by cill. And how can Saul pay direct to Hemsworth Town Council when money has to be paid direct to WMDC. Chairman informed the meeting that we told you last year that the S106 money has been replaced by sills unfortunately this area is zero rated for levy.

Mr. Kenyon interrupted deprived area

Chairman said it re enforces our position £300,000 is a lot of money.

Mr. Kenyon said the application keeps going back until re-established.

Chairman responded that while ever we retain ownership it is beneficial to Hemsworth Town Council.

Mr. Kenyon said in the 2012 meeting everyone voted to take legal advice on how much money you spent on legal advice, what it is costing the people of Hemsworth

Chairman replied no expense a lately.

Mr. Kenyon asked the Chairman if he had been on the site he said it is a tip.

Chairman replied 3 million out of the deal including the Community Center, new Sports Facility, Lakeside Cafe and Cemetery Road and we still own the land.

Mr. Kenyon asked you have a legal application when did you last take legal advice written legal advice.

Chairman said again costs have not been very substantial lately.

Mr. Kenyon said if it was at the back of your house you would take it back.

Cllr I Womersley asked if we go back to the last meeting you said the land was sold as seen, do you want to accept Saul Construction put 3 million and did not sign a contract deal I cannot accept that Saul does not own that land. Why have we got Cemetery Road pitch?

Chairman responded Mr. Saul had full reports done on the site identifying hot spots hazard areas Mr. Saul knew what he was buying. Cemetery Road pitch has 16 teams playing throughout the year; the demand has gone through the roof.

Cllr I. Womersley asked why the facility wasn't built to cater for other teams it is now costing more money.

Chairman responded they were replacement at Sandygate to replace the Kirkby Road facility.

Cllr I. Womersley wanted to know how much it cost per annum.

Chairman added the pitches are being used by all teams including a lot of young ladies teams.

Cllr I. Womersley said he didn't except Cemetery Road and wants to know how much the Town Council is paying to WMDC for it.

The chairman replied peppercorn.

Mr. Hurst said Councillor Wootton should be answering these questions.

Chairman replied the purpose of this meeting is to ask the Chairman.

Mr. Hurst said it was because Councillor Wootton was involved. He then asked how much is the Town Council paying for the market to WMDC.

Chairman replied nothing

Mr. Hurst why is £12,000 allocated to markets then?

Chairman replied it goes towards the running of the market the stalls and collecting rent etc.

Mr. Hurst asked why the bonfire budget had gone up to £17,000 he thinks it is too much and it should be cancelled also why is the Council losing £2000 per weekend £30,000 to keep the Fitzwilliam Center, does anyone have any economics in the Council.

Chairman responded that 8 years ago assets were 1.8 million for Hemsworth Town Council our assets are now over 4 million and in a time of recession this Town Council is financially savvy in 2011 we wanted to protect services and jobs we have expanded.

Mr. Kenyon interrupted how much did it cost

Mr. Hurst added it should be stopped

Mr. Graham Hurst stated it costs £1000's did we make a profit?

Chairman replied it's a service, last year with all the cut backs from Wakefield Council our bonfire was enjoyed and appreciated by 1000's of people.

Stan Wilson asked about Sandygate Facility why the teams had to pack in as the field was unplayable and why didn't Saul come and fix it.

Chairman was unaware of any teams having to pack in and to his knowledge the pitches are used every weekend

Mr. Wilson said the pitches were too sludgy which is why all the teams went to Fitzwilliam two years ago.

Mr. Pringle said the last time he saw the accounts we were losing £2000 per week how is that possible? Chairman responded it is not run as, if you like a business, it is run as a service we raised the precept to help provide services including allotments, WMDC allotment rent is £70.00 per year ours is £25.00 which includes water and over 65's get it for 12.50.

Mr. Pringle interrupted it should be free.

Mr. Kenyon said you were £90,000 in front last year why aren't the allotments and fireworks free. Tina said last year £47,000 for data protection. Rachel said no change to laws of the Council so why has it been put up? Surely allotments should be free.

Chairman responded we have a figure allocated to the budget does not mean that amount gets used every year

Mr. Kenyon said point of order not spent every year

Chairman continued money is put into the budget for data protection £47,000 that money was put in because there was a great deal of uncertainty as to how it would affect us. It does affect us on policy and procedure in the main so a data protection officer is required.

Mr. Kenyon asked £90,000 left what has that covered? The bonfire budget is £15,000 but never goes above £8,000 why allocate all that money to it you are miles over budget. £15,000 over from allotment you could save me money on my precept. Wakefield Council should take Hemsworth Water Park with Vale Head were not getting the benefits.

Chairman replied any issues with WMDC you need to raise with them. Budgets our main source and is weather dependent if we have a bad summer it can seriously damage the budgets got to be slack built in to ensure if the worst happens.

Mr. Kenyon said economics policy is wrong.

Mr. Pringle said he hoped the Water Park was snowed out so it would save him £2000 per week.

Chairman responded because weather dependent we have good weeks but it is a provision to summer.

Mr. Pringle said it would be better not to have the Waterpark.

Chairman responded no it is a service to the people of Hemsworth Fitzwilliam and Kinsley

Mrs. Darryl Harratt was very upset with the state of Hemsworth Cemetery and would like to know if there is anything Hemsworth Town Council can do to help.

The Chairman replied just to clarify Hemsworth Cemetery is WMDC we pay a precept for the upkeep of it. The options are for Hemsworth Town Council to take over the running and up keep of the Cemetery but feelings in the room are it should be taken care of by WMDC as we already pay a precept.

Cllr A Westmoreland said she is also disgusted by the state of the Cemetery as she visits weekly and the grass cuttings are not even collected and graves are being chipped by the strimmer's.

Mrs. Harratt added Wakefield Council is so big on recycling why can't they use a box?

Cllr I Wimberley said he had been on a group on facebook called Hemsworth Bygone Days and there were over 400 complaints regarding Hemsworth Water Park and the dirty water, the lakeside café being a waste of space, so he cannot understand why the precept has been increased. He wanted to add that he was disappointed with the turn out to the meeting as he was told a lot of people would be attending. He has major concerns regarding the Water Park being run down and being sold off and wanted to know if there was any intention of that happening.

The Chairman responded he disagreed with the negative comments regarding the park as the park looks better than it has in a long time admittedly still things to improve on and it is in progress. Definitely not being sold off.

Cllr I Womersley said that was the consensus of the Hemsworth Bygone Group.

Chairman responded the concept of the Water Park has always been to be the next best thing to a seaside holiday for people who cannot afford a holiday which is why the layout is as it is. Selling it has never even been discussed.

Cllr I Wimberley said he was just passing on the comments he'd had.

Chairman said if anybody would like to meet with him at the park to discuss or have any ideas for improvement he would be more than happy to meet with them.

Jill Harden wanted to clarify that if you live in the area you get free parking out of area it is £3.00 to park, as she works at a school out of the area and took a group of children, through the week, to the park and there was no one taking car parking money. They also took water pistols with them and were very disappointed when they got there that the water was so unclean and there was green scum all around which was disgusting. They also were allowed in Playworld free of charge when she had explained to the school they would have to pay. This is surely costing HTC money.

Chairman responded that during quiet times through the week it is not viable to have someone on car parking when it is so quiet.

Jill said to get a car parking machine.

Chairman said then there are different factors to assess regarding break ins. He said the getting into Playworld free would have to be looked in to but we try to make everyone welcome where we can.

Jill Hardron said they should have been charged it is making the park lose money.

Graham Hurst asked what days do you put car park collectors on?

Chairman responded it has to be financially beneficial. If its nice weather a car park attendant will be put on if it's raining it's not worth it.

Graham Hurst asked who is on car park duty

Chairman replied Seasonal Assistants or Service Team.

Stan Wilson said you have just stated that the Council is financially sound so why has the old folk's dinner been stopped

Chairman responded we did not stop it, was not run by the Town Council, the group who did run it were offered to apply for a grant to keep it running.

Stan Wilson said there is more than one caterer to do it he feels like the old folk have been let down.

Chairman said he was happy for him to pass on details and he would look into it.

The Chairman went on to clarify the Hemsworth Town Council pays a minimum of living wage nobody on the books is under that and nobody is on zero hour contracts. Seasonals are also paid adult minimum wage when some are as young as sixteen. We are a fair employer and wages are good.

Derek Appleton asked how many hours a day the Community Centre is used.

The Chairman replied all day every day.

Derek Appleton said he volunteers at the YMCA and he knows that if a building isn't viable it would close Hemsworth Town Council are in a comfortable position to carry on what deficit would it be?

Chairman said he would look at the accounts and provide him with a written answer. The Community Centre usage is improving all the time with the weight loss classes, a new scale modelling club, dance classes, yoga classes, fitness classes and of course the concerts and pantomimes.

Derek Appleton said continual use of the building hall you've got to pay each day heating and lighting is a mammoth job it is a worry as a rate payer the people running the place the general community is looking at what it is used for. Who is promoting the use of the building as the feedback he gets is that it is too expensive and the burden comes back to the tax payer.

The chairman re iterated the people and groups who use the building as above and also added the Community Center is an asset to the township and more people using the larger rooms for weddings and funerals it is a proper Community Center.

John Richardson asked when did you last have an audit of community assets and can you purchase the report.

The chairman responded we have had an audit last year and would find out if the report was ready to be purchased.

Mr. Pringle said he is concerned regarding contaminants under the Complex as methane demolishes houses he has worked all his life for that house and if it is contaminated it would be worthless.

The Chairman responded a survey had been done and any problems been allocated and dealt with.

Mr. Pringle said why should we trust you how many tones need to be removed for the deal to be put together. You will have to resign; you said you will have to resign due to legal procedures.

The Chairman said he would be made to resign if it wasn't done so accordingly. When the contract is made public you will find out it has all been done correctly.

Mr. Pringle asked why the contract cannot be made public.

The Chairman said because it is a confidential agreement.

Mr. Pringle said you are misleading us I want a tribunal.

Chairman said he is honoring the confidential agreement.

Cllr Ian Womersley said what you said Hemsworth Council still own rights of ownership will Town Council accept responsibility if contaminants are found.

The Chairman responded you are asking hypothetical questions.

Cllr Ian Womersley said I am not putting words in your mouth you said the Town Council still retains ownership of the land all I've asked is what happens if Knotweed is found near his house.

Chairman responded we are fully insured on the site. We will honor anything through insurance.

Mr. Kenyon people are worried the 2009 planning application passes access only 2010 reserved matters 516 pages planners approved with only reading a few pages. 149 page documents showed you everything put forward in 2012 not mentioned additional review how many ton has to be removed. There worry how toxic it is 6 hot spots to be removed any hard core must be screened and re-enforced concrete loads of asbestos not remediate in 2012 people are worried.

Chairman responded why do you get the impression we don't care I am not a planner we have experts who deal with this.

Mr. Kenyon said are you directed by experts? Glyn Jones said not to give Saul the contract.

The Chairman responded all work approved by WMDC all done and approved by experts.

Mr. Kenyon said he's got a TPO on it now

Chairman said it will be followed by the experts.

Mr. Kenyon said what if you are told to show the contracts

Chairman said it is up to the Town Council to show the contract if made to do so.

Mr. Kenyon said ratified by Full Town Council five people can agree that. Section 106 stated zero rated reason deprived area so why does Labour Councillors keep putting precept up.

Keith Hurst said the air quality in Hemsworth is a disgrace children should wear masks they cannot breathe we should inform all children to wear masks.

Chairman replied we will pass this on to WMDC.

Keith Hurst asked how much this Fitzwilliam building has cost these people. This building should not be here. Why can't we have this meeting in the Resource Centre?

The Chairman responded that Fitzwilliam old peoples centre is Wakefield's and Hemsworth Town Council are on land registry deed under trustees it will never be sold. The Chairman asked if he'd looked around Fitzwilliam they have nothing compared to Hemsworth and Kinsley.

Keith Hurst said it is 200 yards to Resource Center this is just a waste.

Chairman said it's about the three villages being treat equally.

Keith Hurst said he bet its cost a fortune.

Derek Appleton said we are all vastly double rated to pay for these facilities. So you cannot say it's a freebie.

Chairman said it's not a freebie. People from Pontefract and Castleford do not have a Town Council so they come here to use our facilities

Darryl Harratt asked are you not supposed to help the public what can you do for us at the Cemetery.

The Chairman responded I will voice your opinion at WMDC we have tried before but our township is not prepared to take responsibility for extra services as you have heard yourself from tonights responses.

D Harratt said she is ashamed to say she lives in Hemsworth all the rose bushes have been taken out across from the Trawler Fish Shop, you can't get off your streets with all the vehicles from Tesco. Other villages have nice hanging baskets we don't get anything.

Graham Hurst said what other sports facilities do you supply other than football?

The Chairman said he had had a meeting with Councillor Womersley regarding Rugby and was waiting for a response from him.

Stan Wilson asked how many senior football teams there were in Hemsworth.

The Chairman replied he wasn't sure exactly how many.

Mr. Wilson asked Why is there no football field big enough for adults?

Chairman replied Sandygate is a full size pitch and is FA Regulated.

Stan Wilson was concerned what football teams do when they are waiting to play football as they cannot all play at 10.00am.

Mr. Pringle said every year he sees the Chairman in the Express with his chains on bulling Hemsworth up when you've been robbing us blind all year.

The chairman ended the meeting there.

Meeting closed at 20:35

Leeann Tulley

Clerical Assistant

24 May 2018

Ref: Town Meeting 24 May 18