



**MINUTES OF THE BLIDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING
held at 7.30p.m. on Thursday 14th February 2019 at
Blidworth Leisure Centre, Belle Vue Lane, Blidworth, NG21 0RD**

Present: Councillors: W Bates (Jnr)(Chair), J Cheesmond (Vice Chair) J Middleton,
W Bates (Snr), M Atherton, LJ Campbell, K Arnold, Y.Woodhead, C.Dabbs,
Acting Clerk: L.Holland

Action by

19/99 Declaration of interests both pecuniary and non-pecuniary and applications for dispensation on items listed on the agenda
None given.

19/100 Apologies for absence given to the Clerk – acceptance and approval
None received.

Prior to rest of agenda items Cllr. Cheesmond expressed concerns of a breach of data protection due to the fact that his signature appeared on the agendas which had been displayed on the noticeboards and also distributed to fellow Councillors. Chairman agreed to investigate.

Cllr. Middleton wished to be included as his name also appeared.

19/101 To Consider response from NCC re Library

Chairman confirmed an email had been received from NCC Officer stating “a paper had been taken to a meeting with the options available to the Council in respect of sale, or leasing. The Parish Council’s preference to buy the freehold or have it gifted were part of the document. Confirmation following the meeting that the preference was to grant the Parish Council a long lease for 25 years, at a peppercorn rent on Full repairing and insuring terms for use as a library or as Parish Council offices.”

The following were present at that meeting:

- Cllr Kay Cutts (Leader)
- Cllr Reg Adair
- Adrian Smith (Director of Place)
- David Hughes (Service Director)
- Derek Higton (Service Director)
- David Cox (Head of Property).

NCC Cllr. Y.Woodhead confirmed she had had a meeting with Kay Cutts who had confirmed Parish Council could buy the library; Cllr. YW stressed it would have to be at a reasonable price. KC had agreed to view the Library with YW.

YW confirmed that once the viewing had taken place she felt it was for her to try to negotiate a reduction on the previous sale price offered; accepting that YW could not enter into a formal agreement but ultimately that was for the Parish Council to approve. YW felt that whilst these negotiations were going on “behind the scenes” Blidworth Parish Council should be preparing a business plans including all the positive points of BPC running the library ie. Community groups use etc.; Management of the library & how residents would benefit from BPC taking it on. Both income and expenditure would have to be assessed in order to ensure it was a viable proposition.

YW explained how the hierarchy at NCC level worked ie. Leader direct to Councillor; then Leader to Senior Manager; who would then deal with other staff members when discussing the matter before it going for formal decision to Council.

Councillors expressed the following issues:

- No to accepting a peppercorn rent or lease as finance would have to be incurred on repair and maintenance/insurance etc.
- Should only buy the Library; but further matters such as who would operate the library & be responsible for the staff would have to be addressed before entering into any agreement. Qualified/unqualified staff/other professional input?
- Meeting with Library Manager; KC & community groups to find out their views.
- Who will lead meeting with KC?
- Other groups could be invited ie. Care in Community & other partner agencies.
- Suggested a small working group.
- Generally felt that community would use the Library.

Cllr. W.Bates (Snr.) proposed the following which was seconded by Cllr. C.Dabbs

“Blidworth Parish Council wish **to purchase not lease** the Library for use as a community hub and form a working party to draft a Business Plan to include operation of the Library for the benefit of Blidworth community and other partner agencies, along with economical viability of running the building”.

Approved unanimously.

19/102 To update members on site visit with N & S D C CEO John Robinson & David Best held on 1st February 2019.

Chairman confirmed that there had been a site visit by N & S D C CEO John Robinson & David Best. Initially the garage site was viewed & then a visit made to the office building. CEO had agreed office not fit for purpose. In order for N & S D C to consider transferring any land re garage plans would have to be submitted. A suggestion had been made that additional industrial estate land may also be considered for transferring to provide a larger footprint. Chairman felt an architect should be appointed to draft plans to give idea of figures involved; feasibility of building etc.

Councillors expressed the following issues:

- **General consensus was to purchase garage but not necessarily for an office.**
- **Concerns N & S D C may not follow through with the offer of land.**
- **Ideas of what BPC would like to see on the land should be agreed before appointing an architect.**
- **No firm offer to purchase at the moment merely a suggestion but a full business plan would be required before N & S D C would consider the matter.**
- **Reference was made to a meeting in 2015 whereby a figure of £1m was quoted and a specific size.**
- **Concerns that BPC would not be able to afford to run a large building.**

Cllr. W.Bates (Jnr.) proposed the following which was seconded by Cllr. J.Middleton

“To appoint an architect on a consultancy basis to draft plans; appointment to be based on a few hours merely for informal discussions”

Approved unanimously.

Working party proposed by Cllr. W.Bates (Jnr.) proposed the following which was seconded by Cllr. J.Middleton members as follows:

Chairman of BPC
Vice Chair of BPC
NCC Cllr. YW
NCC Officer (NB)

Approved unanimously.

Both projects to run in parallel ie. To be investigated concurrently not at the expense of the other project.

Meeting ended 20.30

CHAIRMAN_____

DATE_____