



Matlock

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor 2024-2025 - Councillor Jason Knighton
Town Clerk – Simon Hosmer

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee of Matlock Town Council held on Monday 5 August 2024 at 6:00pm in the Riber Room of the Imperial Rooms, Matlock

Present: In the chair: Cllr Diane Fletcher (DF)
Councillors: Cllr Sue Burfoot (SB), Cllr Len Best (LB),
Ex-officio: Cllr Ashley Orwin (AO)
In attendance: Simon Hosmer, Town Clerk (SH)

Meeting begins at 18:05

ENVC 61/2024

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*Cllr Paul Cruise – on holiday
Cllr David Hughes – away on a personal matter
Cllr Pat Wildgoose - away*

ENVC 62/2024

VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None received

ENVC 63/2024

REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

None received

ENVC 64/2024

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, POLICE, COUNTY COUNCIL OR DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

No members of the public were present

ENVC 65/2024

MINUTES

Minutes from the following meeting:

Monday 03 June 2024

Minutes are noted but cannot be approved as nobody here tonight was present at the last meeting

Proposed: Cllr Sue Burfoot, seconded Cllr Diane Fletcher

Resolution: That the minutes be noted and to be approved at the next meeting

Agreed unanimously

SH: At the last Full Council meeting, Councillors approved a motion to have an Epay system set up here at the Imperial Rooms, at the Matlock Town Council (MTC) toilets in Hall Leys Park and on our website. The implementation needs to be looked at and I would ask the Committee to approve a motion that allows the Clerk and the RFO to be signatories on the account we set up so we can take the payments and monitor the levels of monies. We can also then transfer monies between the Epay account and MTC's own bank accounts. The Clerk needs to send of some paperwork to Evalon who will be running the system on our behalf. We will be able to take card payments both over the phone and in the office and could potentially be used externally as it can connect to wifi and a smart phone can be used to take payments to. It requires 2 signatories to move money which satisfies our financial regulations. We have discussed before the need to have an Epay system at the toilets due to the age of the cash boxes and how often they break or get damaged. We discussed multiple options but after consultation it appears only 1 option is viable, cost wise and that would be to have a machine on the main door allowing access to any of the toilets within. The Clerk estimates we will take an extra £1200 at the toilets and this option includes a maintenance agreement with a company called Danfo who would take on the repair of the cash machines that exist already, including moving the best one to the main door so cash is still an option to pay to use the facilities. A small survey of toilet users was completed over a few days and the overwhelming answer to the question 'Would you like the option to pay electronically to use the loos' was 'yes'.

AO: Seems to make sense

SB: Yes it does

DF: Can I ask a question. Why has this come to Environment and not Corporate?

SH: The toilets come under the remit of the Environment Committee

DF: And you have mentioned previously that the original company who maintained the cash machines aren't interested in repairing them as they are out of warranty. Is there a danger this will happen with Danfo?

SH: The agreement with Danfo would be a maintenance agreement and therefore we could have it in place as long as we like.

Proposed: Cllr Sue Burfoot , seconded Cllr Ashley Orwin

Resolution: To receive the report and to give the Clerk and the RFO permission to be signatories with the Epay company.

Agreed unanimously

SH: Just an update on the ground source heat pumps in that the process was paused at the suggestion of the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce (EMCC) due to the general election. It wasn't clear if funding would still be available if there was a change of government. They have confirmed that it is available until March 2025 and the I am attempting to get 3 quotes. The new energy audit suggests we would save around £5000 per year if we followed the suggestions and this would get the Imperial Rooms very close to breaking even in 2024-2025 should bookings continue to grow as they are.

SB: Where would the pumps go?

SH: They would be out the back, hidden by the wall

DF: And you have talked about insulation. Is that part of this?

SH: 2 sides of the Riber room end of the building can be insulated and the cost is included here but the Derwent Hall is more difficult as the stained glass windows are aesthetically pleasing and go so far to making the building so beautiful. We don't want to be double glazing those and the cost would be astronomical I suspect. There is a new film that can be put over that doesn't disturb the look I am told and this would improve insulation by around 40%. Not as effective as double glazing. The film is included in the quote.

AO: The film is great, you can't even see it.

SB: Will we need listed building consent?

LB: I would imagine so but if you can't see it then shouldn't be a problem.

DF: Where are we with selling the building?

SH: Regarding the Methodist potential purchase from us of the Imperial Rooms we had a resolution at Full Council to wait and do nothing until we saw the One Public Estate (OPE) report. That was due 2 weeks ago but it has been delayed.

LB: Would leasing the building be an option?

SH: Yes and we would be able to dictate the terms of the lease.

SB: I believe we should retain the Imperial Rooms as MTC property. We would not save any money on staff costs so I don't see the advantage.

SH: We would save in that respect as the cost of the caretakers would be removed from our accounts.

Proposed: Cllr Len Best, seconded Cllr Sue Burfoot

Resolution: To receive the report

Agreed unanimously

ENVC 68/2024

TRAVELLER SITE SURVEY

Cllr Burfoot declared an interest as she is a district councillor.

SB: The District Council has employed a company to look for permanent sites that could be bought or leased and used for housing the travellers. There are no details as yet so we don't know where they will be. There is a list of potential sites which includes Matlock. Hopefully 2 permanent sites will be found. As it is right now we have 2 traveller families, 1 at Matlock Station and the other at Matlock Bath who the District Council are legally obliged to rehouse in the District. The consultation post this survey is for the District Council to consider 6 temporary traveller sites until such a time as a permanent site can be found. The sites are mentioned in the report. The public can respond to it online, as can we and the online survey will close on 22nd September. There are also paper forms to fill out at the Town Hall.

SH: And we have asked for some here and they are coming in due course.

SB: Most people will response online but the paper form at least gives anyone a voice in the matter. The car park at Arc Leisure is included on the list. I think we need to decide here if we put a group of parish Councils together who are affected. There is going to be a public meeting at which we can voice our opinion.

SH: I have already spoken to DDDC and told them we will host a public meeting here or we will dedicate a Full Council meeting to a public debate on the matter.

SB: I think we need to have a public debate here which concerns the Matlock Station and Arc Leisure sites. Darley Dale will also hold a meeting regarding the Arc and I am sure the other parishes will too.

SH: DDDC are planning a mass meeting for all concerned members of the public here at the Town Hall also.

SB: The two chambers at DDDC are bigger than the Derwent Hall but would require a video link into the second room. I don't think there is enough space there for the amount of people that will turn up.

LB: Do we have a time on how long temporary means?

SB: Until permanent sites are found so we don't know how long, no.

DF: What is the timescale for the research?

SB: Only 'as soon as possible'. It is quite a big job. The two families don't get on so it needs to be 2 sites. Matlock Bath residents are very angry and so are the residents of Morledge.

DF: It seems to me the discussions will be around moving the Matlock Bath family as that is where the most feeling is and where businesses are losing money due to the inability to park tourist buses where they are blocking the car park.

SB: It could be that all or none of the potential sites could be chosen.

SH: The feeling in Matlock seems very strong against them being here. What you have said Sue means it has to be 2 sites.

DF: All of the 6 have been deemed suitable sites?

SB: Yes, potentially.

LB: Are any, apart from Derwent way adjacent to housing?

SB: that is where I draw a line. If the site is adjacent to housing.

LB: Because Morledge is.

SB: Yes, agreed. Some people are just 50 metres away from the Arc site on Morledge.

SH: We have publicised the survey on our website and social media as well as on our noticeboards in the town. We should continue to publicise and share it everyday so it shows at the top of peoples feeds.

SB: When you find out about the meeting at the Town Hall how will we tell people about that?

SH: You guys can make a resolution when we discuss publicity to approve the sharing of the details and how often we do it.

DF: Perhaps our position should be that the station car park seems ok for a temporary site as we totally disagree with the Arc Leisure car park being one.

SB: There may be some work done at the car park so it can be split and reused.

LB: When does DDDC take on a statutory duty? Do the travellers have to be there a certain amount of time?

SH: Once they are regarded as homeless. Its 12 months. There are other criteria as well.

SB: Bear in mind that they must be abiding by certain rules in order to qualify, including paying any required taxes. Do we know if the businesses on the Arc site have been consulted?

SH: My understanding is that they will be but they haven't as yet.

LB: MTC should definitely have a voice in all this and allow the public to have a say as well regardless of what other meetings go on.

DF: Everything we can do to make the public aware of this situation should be done.

Proposed: Cllr Sue Burfoot, seconded Len Best

Resolution: Ask the Clerk for clarification on meeting organisation with other local parish councils and with the District Council and to publicise the survey on a daily basis in order to make residents as aware as possible of their opportunity to have a voice.

Agreed unanimously

ENVC69/2024 TOILET ISSUES HALL LEYS PARK

SH: I don't have the price for the work that needs to be done but Dave and I had a look. The toilets are unsafe and cannot be used so are closed. There has been vandalism 5 times. Toilet roll holders, flush mechanism and lights. We can see evidence of drug use. The front door is reinforced and if you have to pay to go in then that will deter trouble makers. I have a second quote imminent for the light works.

SB: If we sort the lights will we reopen the toilets even if the Epay system is not in place?

SH: I think we should as people will complain.

DF: Is there a sign up saying why the toilets are closed?

SH: No but there is one indicating where the nearest open toilets are. There is CCTV but it does not cover the entrance.

SB: What do you suggest we do?

DF: I think we should reopen as soon as possible regardless of the additional Epay work.

Proposed: Cllr Sue Burfoot, seconded Cllr Len Best

Resolution: To reopen the toilets once the electrics have been confirmed as safe and to thank the outdoor team for the work they have done on the toilets

Agreed unanimously

ENVC70/2024 COUNCIL PUBLICITY: Website, Social Media, Newsletters and news releases

DF: Can we please publicise the survey and the potential for a meeting here and also once the toilets are open again let people know about that.

Proposed: Cllr Diane Fletcher , seconded Cllr Len Best

Resolution: To get the survey out for the traveller consultation each day by sharing on social media and on our website and to publicise the reopening of the toilets once the works are done.

Agreed unanimously

ENVC71/2024 ITEMS OF INFORMATION

SH: Bus information is inaccurate as times have changed this week. I will bring this back to the Committee once it has been updated.

Meeting ends 19:11