

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 5 AUGUST 2019 AT 6.30 PM

C051/19 Present: Cllr A Jordan (chair), Cllr S Barker, Cllr A Clamp, Cllr M Casselden, , Cllr G Gratton, Cllr E McDonagh, Cllr A Pollock, and Cllr J Stockell

In attendance: 17 members of the public, District Cllr M Ratcliffe, C Cllr I Ratcliffe and Paul Jennings (Town Clerk)

C052/19 Apologies:, Cllr C Foster Phillips, Cllr P Taylor and Cllr C Whittall

C053/19 Variation of Order of Business: none

C054/19 Members' Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Items: None declared.

Open Forum opened 6:35pm

C055/19 Open Forum:

4 residents and C Cllr Ratcliffe spoke in support of protecting the Meadows as a community asset.

Open Forum closed 6:50pm

C056/19 Meadows

The Town Council discussed the recent decision of the owners of the Meadows to place the property on the market with Bagshaws, with sealed bids to be received by 5pm on Monday 9th September. The contract of sale will not be available for a further 2-3 weeks so at this stage the conditions of sale are unknown.

The Clerk advised that Wirksworth Transition Community Land Trust has submitted an application to Derbyshire Dales District Council for the Meadows to be registered as an Asset of Community Value, a decision is expected on 23 August regarding the matter.

RESOLVED that

A. the Town Council should make a bid for the land in order to bring the land into community ownership.

B. to proceed with the attempt to purchase the land irrespective of its status as an Asset of Community Value ("ACV").

C. to seek pledges/ financial support from the community to raise the funds available to make the bid.

D. that the Town Council approach DDDC to request the preparation of a detailed planning brief for the land, in the event that the Town Council's bid is unsuccessful.

E. under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960 s1) to exclude members of the press and public in order to continue discussing the financial elements of the bid.

The remainder of the meeting was in closed session

F. that the Town Council will not approach the vendors direct.

Cllr Pollock dep 7:55pm

G. that should ACV status not be granted, that the Town Council make a sealed bid for the land (and additional £8000 to be set aside for associated costs), and that the Town Council to seek to ensure that the overage clause should only trigger in the event of planning consent being given for housing development.

The figure agreed by the council will be minuted after conclusion of the financial negotiations

H. that community funding to be sought to increase the funds available and added to the amount of the bid.

C049/19 Staff Recruitment

The clerk advised that a member of the caretaking team had resigned and would be leaving on 29 August 2019.

RESOLVED that the clerk be delegated to make arrangements to cover the vacancy and recruit additional resource, and to report on the matter to Finance Building and Personnel committee.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

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Chairman