

**MINUTES OF THE DRIFFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> 2022 AT 7.00pm IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COMMUNITY CENTRE, DRIFFIELD.**

**Present:** Councillors J Fletcher, M Blakeston, G Lucas, G Helliwell, A Coleman, F Smith, P Stocker, M Garrard, S Fletcher, K Stack, M Rogers, T Watson and the Town Clerk Mrs C. Binnington.

A minute silence was held in memory of Queen Elizabeth II who had passed away on September 8<sup>th</sup> 2022.

**89/22 Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr Rhian Livingstone and Cllr Simon Starrett (Cllr A Croft allowed absence)

**90/22 Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr A Coleman declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Number 99/22 as he knows the artist.

Cllr M Rogers declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Number 115/22 as he is acquainted with Kelvin and Helen Hall.

**91/22 Registration of Gifts and Hospitality:**

There were none.

**92/22 Questions, Matters of Accuracy & Observations on the full town council and AGM minutes of September 6<sup>th</sup> 2022:**

There were none.

**Adoption of the full town council minutes of September 6<sup>th</sup> 2022:**

The minutes were **adopted** with all in favour.

**93/22 Clerks Update:**

The clerk explained the thanked everyone including the Mayor, Cllr Mark Blakeston, for their assistance in making all the necessary arrangements at such short notice to mark the passing of the Queen and the accession of King Charles III.

**94/22 TCO and External Funding Officer Reports:**

**TCO Report:** The Report on the Loyalty Card scheme was requested to be circulated to councillors as well as the planned events with budget details for financial year 2023/24. Clarification was sought that the Driffield School stall was a one off rather than a whole market, the clerk confirmed this.

**95/22 Application DC/22/02912/STPLF. Aldi Foodstores Ltd. Erection of a foodstore (Class E) with solar panels, car parking, landscaping and associated works following demolition of former toilet block at former Cattle Market, Eastgate, Driffield.**

The general discussion centred around the fact that there seemed insufficient information regarding the proposed access via Albion Street and Eastgate

North, and that even ERYC Highways were yet to make a decision. Cllr M Blakeston and Cllr J Fletcher voiced grave concerns about the pedestrian safety adjacent to Dunns Lane, Cllr J Fletcher said that the safety of school children accessing the schools in the morning, lunchtime and evenings had to be paramount. The pedestrian survey that had been done originally that had been used in the current transport assessment had not been carried out during the times children used this route.

Cllr M Blakeston acknowledged that he lived on the proposed access route and that he had been approached by a number of concerned residents with regard to parking and damage to the foundation of their homes. Cllr M Blakeston and Cllr G Lucas said they were concerned that before decisions were made they would like to know more details about the proposed access and what any restrictions on parking would look like. The councillors were very concerned about the impact on resident parking.

Cllr A Coleman said that a full traffic survey of the whole town was needed and should be agreed and implemented before such an application was considered, he also felt that 90 minutes free car parking was not long enough. He went on to cite the example of the Aldi at Swinemoor Road in Beverley, that despite road remodelling, it was still chaotic

Concerns regarding delivery times were voiced with Cllr F Smith commenting that prescribed delivery times must be implemented, especially not to coincide with school children's journeys to and from the schools. Cllr Smith also continued with regard to his concerns about the actual impact of the construction of the store and car park on nearby residents and whilst Adli quoted only 4 lorries daily, this would be significantly more during the construction process.

Cllr K Stack commented that the town had grown significantly over recent years and that people needed another supermarket, especially an Aldi, as both that and Lidl served the not so affluent people in Driffield, of which there were many.

Cllr P Rounding pointed out that when the Cattle Market was fully functional many HGV's access the area via Eastgate South, many more than 4 a day.

Cllr M Rogers acknowledged the site was not ideal, however, he warned about the alternative – an out of town development with a supermarket on the outskirts, which would without doubt have a dire impact on the vitality of the town centre. With Aldi situated so close to the town centre, with a car park providing 90 minutes of free parking, this could only benefit the town as people would access other shops and businesses easily. He worried that if houses were built on the land then this would generate even more traffic movements with an equally potential negative impact.

After considerable discussion it was **agreed** with Cllrs M Rogers, M Garrard, F Smith, P Rounding, G Helliwell, K Stack, P Stocker, T Watson in favour and Cllrs M Blakeston, J Fletcher, G Lucas and A Coleman against to:

Driffield Town Council approve this application in principle however have many concerns that we feel are currently far from being resolved, and indeed the fact that ERYC Highways are yet to sign off the transport plan is testament to this.

Driffield Town Council have considerable concerns regarding pedestrian safety on Eastgate South, especially as the area adjacent to Dunns Lane is the main thoroughfare for a significant number of children in the morning, at lunchtime and in the afternoon arriving and leaving Driffield Junior School and Driffield School. We feel it is imperative that timings of deliveries to Aldi must reflect these significant pedestrian movements and that they be avoided.

The proposed access of HGV's – Albion Street and Eastgate South – is in many places precariously narrow, especially during the early mornings and evenings when the many residents are still at home and their cars parked outside their homes. We are very concerned that in order to combat this, parking restrictions will be imposed and these residents will be left with no available parking. Even adjacent approach roads such as Harper Street, are already oversubscribed with cars belonging to those that reside there. If parking restrictions were to be imposed then it would create utter chaos and alternative arrangements would have to be made.

Whilst Aldi assure us that only 4 HGV's will be accessing the store each day, this is four HGV's whose weight and size will cause considerable potential damage to the foundations of many houses situated particularly on Marine Row which actually have no footings. We hope that these concerns will be addressed in some way.

In addition, no mention has been made to the impact that will be caused in the actual construction of the new store and car park and we wish to ensure that every condition possible to lessen this impact on residents is imposed, and any access arrangements are in place prior to work commencing.

The car park will be free for 90 minutes. Driffield Town Council would insist on the creation of a covenant that states Aldi or any subsequent operator of the car park and store cannot reduce this time limit – a similar arrangement in place, we believe, to the covenant that rests on the Tesco car park at Beverley.

In the Aldi response I would change 'thousands of children' to a significant number of children (or something like that).

Finally we would like to see a 'face to face' consultation. Many people living on the proposed access route and in close proximity of the development are elderly and not able to provide online feedback. Given that ERYC would like to be as inclusive as possible, can they provide a face to face opportunity for people to provide input to the process?

96/22

**Application DC/22/0352/PLF. Gatsby Group Ltd. Demolition of 12 Exchange Street, construction of a new vehicular and pedestrian access and construction of a new public car park at 12 Exchange Street and part of the former Cattle Market, Drifffield.**

Cllr M Rogers commented that he was extremely concerned that there was no provision of coach parking and that currently the two spaces at the Eastgate Car Park are well used and provide town centre accessibility to many visiting coaches bringing people to use the shops, market and cafés etc. Cllr G Lucas noted that they were willing to bring HGVs in but apparently not coaches.

Concerns were voiced regarding the position of the disabled bays and the fact there is no pedestrian access to Providence Place, the nearest route to the town centre.

Further concerns were voiced that the car park should remain free of charge to all uses for perpetuity.

After more discussion it was **agreed** with Cllrs M Rogers, M Garrard, F Smith, P Rounding, G Helliwell, K Stack, P Stocker, T Watson in favour and Cllrs M Blakeston, J Fletcher, G Lucas and A Coleman against to:

Drifffield Town Council approve this application in principle, however would insist that the following be addressed:

The creation of two coach parking spaces. The two spaces currently in use at the existing Eastgate Car Park are very well used and bring vital tourists to the town on a very regular basis. There is sufficient turning space for these vehicles into the new car park from Exchange Street and we feel it is imperative that coach parking provision is retained in the town centre.

The creation of a pedestrian access onto Providence Place is essential as the most direct and quickest way to access the town centre. Stainless steel bollards are planned for the area of car park adjacent to Providence Place which will impede pedestrians and wheelchair users accessing the road to reach the town centre. It seems strange that the disabled parking provision has not included an access to Providence Place as it would give those with difficulty in walking an easier and quicker route to Market Place.

We also feel that it should be highlighted how narrow the pavement is on Exchange Street.

The implementation of a covenant to ensure this car park will remain free of charges to users for perpetuity.

97/22

**Alfred Bean Healthy Towns Project Group Update:**

Due to the passing of the Queen the meeting had been cancelled.

98/22

**Drifffield Youth Action Update:**

The report was received and Cllr P Rounding said that real progress was now being made and that the installation of the heating, agreed to be paid for by the town council some months ago, was now ready to go ahead.

- 99/22            Painting of Umbrella Plaza:**
- Cllr G Helliwell suggested that the council buy an original painting by Marcus Cowling of Umbrella Plaza as a lasting memento of the installation on Market Place. Councillors referred it to the next meeting and were asked to view the painting at the Methodist Church.
- 100/22           Conclusion of Audit:**
- The conclusion of audit for financial year end March 2022 was **agreed** with 11 in favour and 1 abstention. The Mayor thanked the clerk (in her role as RFO) for her successful audit and accounting procedures. Cllr A Coleman commented that he was not happy with the internal audit arrangements or the banking and wished to have the situation resolved by the time the new clerk was in post.
- 101/22           Community Speed Project Update:**
- Cllr G Helliwell reported that she had received a very disappointing response (only one volunteer) so far.
- 102/22           Adoption of the Personnel Committee Minutes of September 6<sup>th</sup> 2022:**
- The minutes were presented by Cllr G Lucas.
- Cllr G Lucas reported that the Town Clerk recruitment pack was to go out the next day.
- The minutes were **adopted** with all in favour.
- 103/22           Adoption of the Planning Committee Minutes of September 8<sup>th</sup> 2022:**
- The minutes were presented for adoption of Cllr G Lucas.
- The minutes were **adopted** with all in favour.
- 104/22           Adoption of the Allotment Committee Minutes of September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022:**
- The minutes were presented for adoption by Cllr G Helliwell.
- The minutes were **adopted** with all in favour.
- 105/22           Adoption of the CCTV Committee Minutes of September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022:**
- The minutes were presented for adoption by Cllr P Rounding.
- The minutes were **adopted** with all in favour.
- 106/22           Adoption of the Market Committee Minutes of September 27<sup>th</sup> 2022:**
- Cllr S Fletcher presented the minutes for adoption.
- The minutes were **adopted** with all in favour.

**107/22 Adoption of the Property & Assets Committee Minutes of September 27<sup>th</sup> 2022:**

Cllr F Smith presented the minutes for adoption.

Minute Number PA/13/22: Purchase of forklift. Cllr A Coleman suggested looking at a similar machine chosen to purchase beforehand.

The minutes were **adopted** with all in favour.

**108/22 Highways Matters:**

**St Johns Road/Lockwood St double yellow lines:** The clerk reported that the highways officer was looking into why they had not been installed yet.

**Disabled Parking:** Cllr P Rounding, who is in possession of a disabled badge, informed the council that those with blue badges were permitted to park at no charge in the pay and display car parks in Beverley, this was not the case in Driffield.

**109/22 Responsible Financial Officers Report & Spend against Budget:**

The RFO report was **agreed** with all in favour.

**110/22 Temporary closure of the meeting for public discussion and comment:**

No comments.

**111/22 The Meeting re-opens**

**112/22 Delegate Reports:**

There were none.

**113/22 Date of Next Meeting:**

Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.

**114/22 Confidential Items:**

It was **agreed** with all in favour that in view of the sensitive nature of the following agenda items the press and public be excluded.

**115/22**

**Property and Assets Committee Minutes:**

Minute Number PA/10/22: It was **agreed** with 10 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention to commission Studio H to produce the preliminary design brief and design concept for Number 43.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

..... Signed

..... Dated