



## **SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

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*Clerk: Karen Wakefield*

**Minutes of the meeting of the Special Projects Group held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, Sherwood Drive, New Ollerton.**

**Present:** Cllrs D Batey (Vice-Chairman), M Pringle, L Shilling, T Spratley, M Staley, B Wells, E Bentley

Mrs K Wakefield (Clerk)      Mr P Munday (Admin Assistant)

**Apologies:** Cllr R Shilling who was away on business and Cllr D Summers due to illness

**Resolved:** That these apologies be accepted.

### **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS:**

None

**SP/16/30 To receive and agree the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Special Project Committee held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016, *enclosed***

The Minutes, having been previously circulated were signed as a true and correct record.

**SP/16/31 Town Centre Development:**

- 1. To receive any updates from the Clerk regarding land at the rear and side of Ollerton Town Hall.**

Cllr Batey reported to members that he had been shocked to see that details of discussions regarding the future of Ollerton Town Hall and the development of the Town Centre had been included in a recent document sent to NSDC members for a forthcoming meeting. This information had been put in the public domain despite OBTC working party members being told that all discussions were currently commercially sensitive. Cllr Batey apologised to members and the Clerk circulated a copy of the report.

After reading the report, members expressed their anger and disappointment that the information was released into the public domain in this manner prior to circulation to OBTC members and lack of confidence in the partnership was noted.

Members of the Working Party stressed that no other information had been kept confidential and that all members were now fully aware of all discussions.

**Following discussion it was agreed that:**

The Clerk arrange an informal meeting immediately after the Planning Committee meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 with all council members present, to bring them up to date with what is happening and for them to freely discuss and ask questions.

It was also agreed that the Clerk contact the NSDC officers concerned who wrote and published the report and invite them to a meeting with councillors to express their disappointment in the way things have been handled.

Cllr Tony Spratley presented his findings from the recent Newark & Sherwood District Council Town Centre and Retail Study Presentation. He reported that he was very impressed with the local knowledge and expertise of the individual who carried out and presented the report.

Key points included:-

- The results of a survey of Ollerton residents on their shopping habits and their impressions on what does and does not need improving within the retail area of the town.
- The need to improve the quality of the retail and leisure outlets in the town.
- The need for a wider mix of beverage outlets.
- A need to tackle a rise in vacant retail units.
- Increasing habits of the public to view products on high street and purchase for cheaper online.

Copies of the presentation are to be made available to councillors on request.

**2. To discuss any relevant matters relating to Forest Road Car Park**

The Clerk reported there had been no further developments regarding the Forest Road Car Park.

**SP/16/32 To receive any updates relating to the Colliery Memorial.**

The Clerk reported that the lease for the land has been signed and returned to the solicitor.

**SP/16/33 To receive any further updates regarding Phase Two and Three of the development of Central Park**

The Clerk reported that The Council had been unsuccessful in their grant funding application to Veolia, stating that this was down to the number of applications received and nothing to do with the application itself. Cllr Pringle suggested hiring a professional to complete future funding applications to ensure a greater chance of success in the future.

Following discussion it was:

**Resolved** that the original information regarding funding to be revisited and brought to the Finance & Audit Committee.

**SP/16/34 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – 6.30pm**