

## MOSTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.00pm.

**Present;** Cllr. Neil Hickman (chair), Cllr Angela Bullock arrived during item 21/0026, Cllr Robert Fry, Cllr Dion Shoemark, County Cllr Rebecca Knox and 42 members of the public.

#### 2017/0025. PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF ITEMS ON AGENDA

There was a lengthy public discussion about the idea of Mosterton Parish Council (MPC) securing a loan on the behalf of Mosterton Preschool (MPS) to assist MOS with the cost of a new building in the grounds of Parrett & Axe CE VA Primary School.

Representatives of MPS confirmed that they are a registered charity, and they have been offered a loan through a charities bank, but with the repayment period being short, the repayments are very high. A loan through the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) would be over 25 years, at a low rate of interest. The repayments would be £1070.95 twice yearly. The loan would be taken out by MPC who would remain liable for the loan, should MPS be unable to make repayments.

County Cllr Knox explained that Dorset is just one of 4 counties in the country, which is piloting the new 30 hours free childcare scheme.

Parrett & Axe School support the moving of MPS to a new building in the grounds of the primary school.

Questions were raised and answered as follows:

Do MPS have the ability to repay the loan? MPS confirmed they believe they do, but did not have all the necessary income forecast available at the meeting.

How many staff do MPS employ? Currently 8 members of staff are employed by MPS, would increase should the opening hours extend in the new building. MPS has grown from 10 children attending 10 years ago, to 36 children currently.

Is there a contingency in the building project budget for overspend? Yes, but this may need to be increased.

Representatives from MPS explained that they have secured a grant from the DfE, but time scales are tight and they need funds to cover the shortfall as soon as possible, in order to meet the grant stipulation of opening in September 2017.

How long a would the loan be for? MPS advised ideally 25 years.

How much would the loan be for? £40,000

Is there an asset to back the loan? The loan is not secured on an asset.

Can other parish councils be asked to contribute if children from those parishes attend MPS? This is not an option.

Can children attending MPS from outside of the village pay a higher fee? Fees are under review by MPS, but it will not be possible to charge children outside of Mosterton more to attend MPS than those who live within Mosterton.

Could MPC make money out of taking the loan and lending it on to MPS? No details of this nature have been discussed yet, pending a decision on whether or not to take out the loan.

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Signed

Date

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One resident discussed the idea of some funds from the Mosterton Summer Show fund being donated to MPS in order to help reduce the shortfall in building costs.

There was a discussion about MPS's ability to repay the loan. MPS confirmed they have made sufficient income in excess of expenditure in recent years to cover the loan repayment. However, as forecast figures from income and expenditure were not available, MPS agreed to produce information on this to share with residents.

As there were questions which could not be answered with regard to the projected income and expenditure of MPS in the new building, it was agreed to hold another meeting to further discuss the matter. MPS will provide information about the project, and income and expenditure forecasts. This information will be made available through MPC website [www.mosterton.com](http://www.mosterton.com) and paper copies will be available from The Admiral Hood pub and Mosterton Stores. The next meeting will take place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm in Mosterton Village Hall, at which time a vote will be taken on the matter.

As a result of the above discussion, it was agreed not to open the formal MPC meeting, and to hold the items over until the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

**End of public discussion.**

The public discussion closed at 8.25pm and no meeting followed.

Date of next meeting

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm