

MOSTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th May 2017 at 7.00pm.

Present; Cllr. Neil Hickman (Chair), Cllr Angela Bullock, Cllr Dion Shoemark, and 94 members of the public.

2017/0026. PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF ITEMS ON AGENDA

Background Information - Mosterton Preschool (MPS) have previously made an approach to Mosterton Parish Council (MPC) to request that a loan be taken out, via the Public Works Loan Board, (PWLB) in the amount of £40,000, over 25 years, to assist with the building of a new preschool in the grounds of Parrett & Axe Primary School. The new building would allow MPS to offer the new 30-hour childcare provision, being piloted in Dorset by the government.

The proposal is that MPS will make the repayments on the loan, but should MPS ever default on the loan repayment, MPC would have to continue to make the loan repayments, in which case MPC may have to increase the precept to cover the loan repayments. The matter was discussed at meetings held on 13th April 2017 and 27th April 2017, and information packs have been made available through MPC website, Mosterton Stores and The Admiral Hood Pub.

MPS gave a presentation on the work that they do. Members of the public were then invited to ask questions about the preschool, the accounts and the loan.

- 1) A member of the public asked what rate the interest on the loan would be charged at? MPS confirmed that the rate quoted by PWLB was 2.4%, but that the interest rate is variable, and is reviewed daily.
- 2) A member of the public asked what rate of interest MPC to MPS? Cllr Hickman reported that the parish council would mirror the interest rate charged by PWLB. However, there would be an administration fee levied on top of the loan repayments, it is expected that this fee would be in the region of £10 per loan repayment, which is twice per year.
- 3) A member of the public asked if there is any other funding available to MPS as a result of planning applications for new developments around the village? There may be some Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or Section 106 funding available in the future, but at the current time there are no qualifying developments planned which would generate these funds. MPS reported that they currently have 6 outstanding grant applications, with decision pending between now and the end of July 2017. Should any of these grants be successful, MPS may not need to proceed with the loan application, or drawing down on the loan, or should the loan already have been drawn down, MPS would arrange early repayment of the loan, subject to any early repayment charges.
- 4) Staff & Governors of Parrett & Axe School reported that the school has worked closely with MPS to assist with the new building project, and would very much like to welcome MPS to the school site, as it is beneficial to the preschool, primary school and village as a whole, to have a thriving joint enterprise. It was noted that children who attend both MPS and Parrett & Axe Primary School do so from Mosterton, South Perrott, Chedington and other villages, both inside Dorset and from Somerset. The Chair of Governors to Parrett & Axe School reported

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that the matter of MPS moving to the primary school site is also due to be discussed at Parrett & Axe Parish Council meeting later this week, in the hope that there may be some support available from the village of South Perrott & Chedington too. Mr Evans, Headteacher at Parrett & Axe CE VA school reported that children have better interaction when starting school if they already know their peers and are familiar with the setting, which would be an additional benefit of having the preschool on the same site of the primary school.

- 5) A member of the public asked what "Lunch Clubs" are and why the income from those is projected to double in the next school year? MPS explained that session fees are charged or claimed for the hours of 9 to 12, but parents have the option of children remaining to have a packed lunch with their peers. This lunch club is projected to produce more revenue as the cost per day is being increased, and the number of children attending lunch clubs is projected to increase, due to the increase in opening hours from 15 to 30 per week.
- 6) MPS reported that the current projections for income for the year 2017 to 2018 which have been produced by MPS are based on the existing children in the preschool and the hours they currently attend. It is expected that the number of hours attended and paid for will increase, once forms are issued to parents in July asking them to confirm how many hours their children will be attending.
- 7) A member of the public noted that should MPS move out of the village hall into their new premises, the village hall would become available for several more sessions per week, to other hall users, allowing the hall to provide a wider range of activities to all local residents.
- 8) A member of the public reported that the capital grant which has been allocated to MPS is time specific, with the new building having to be open to offer the new 30-hour childcare provision from Autumn 2017. This adds to the need for the loan, which may not be required subject to other grant applications with decisions pending. MPS confirmed that they have a grant decision pending with National Lottery funding.
- 9) A number of the public asked about the savings to MPS by having a permanent setting? MPS reported that currently £90 per week of wages is spent on the staff time setting up and packing away the preschool equipment, as the village hall is shared with other users.
- 10) A number of the public raised a concern about residents being aware of this meeting. MPC reported that this meeting was advertised on the Parish Council notice board, on the parish council website and Facebook page, and parish councillors went door to door delivering flyers advertising the meeting. A number of residents who could not attend the meeting have submitted their questions, objections or support via email prior to the meeting.
- 11) A number of the public noted that they felt it was unlikely that MPS would default on the loan repayments, being an organisation who has operated for 35+ years, and fundraised in excess of £60,000 over the past 10 years. MPS noted that have long held the aspiration to own their own building, and have worked hard to make this a possibility, and should they need to, they could further step up their fundraising efforts, if required.

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- 12) A member of the public noted that the village hall has a limited life left, and is in need of some repairs, or possibly replacement over the coming years. This would have a detrimental effect on MPS should they still be based in the village hall at the time.
- 13) A member of the public asked what other revenue streams MPS have considered? MPS reported they will continue to fundraise, including by holding events such as jumble sale in the village hall. They may also consider offering Breakfast, After School or Holiday clubs, once established, in conjunction possibly with Parrett & Axe School.
- 14) A member of the public noted that she currently lives outside of the village, but brings her child to MPS as it has a GOOD Ofsted rating, and hopes that her child will attend Parrett & Axe School, bringing younger families into the village, which could be of benefit to the local economy. Other parents present reported that they currently have to use 2 different childcare settings as MPS isn't able to offer 30 hour childcare due to being based in the village hall.
- 15) A member of the public suggested that a MPC parish councillor might join the MPS management committee – Cllr A Bullock agreed to do this.

Cllr Hickman asked all those present who are not registered residents of Mosterton Parish to leave the room. Prior to this meeting some residents had expressed their support or objection to the proposal. Cllr Hickman asked those people who had already expressed their opinion via letter or email to leave the room also. However, these expressions of opinion were included in the totals below.

Proposal: That Mosterton Parish Council should seek a loan from PWLB to lend onto MPS for the purposes of the new building project:

In Support: 62

In opposition: 27

End of public discussion.

The public discussion closed at 8.03 pm, and the meeting of Mosterton Parish Council was opened.

2017/0027. DISCUSSION ON REQUEST BY MOSTERTON PRESCHOOL AND REQUEST FOR SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

2017/0028. PRESENT & APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence (and record approval if appropriate).

To receive any Declarations of Interest.

To consider Grant of Dispensations.

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Apologies received from Cllr. Rob Fry & Cllr. Jim Cooper.

Declarations of Interest: Both Cllr. Fry & Cllr. Cooper have chosen not to attend this meeting, as they have a conflict of interests, as their grandchildren attend or are about to attend Mosterton Preschool.

The Clerk also declared that she works for Mosterton Preschool.

2017/0029. VOTE ON REQUEST BY MOSTERTON PRESCHOOL AND REQUEST FOR SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

"It was RESOLVED that Mosterton Parish Council will instruct the Clerk to apply to DCLG in seeking the approval of the Secretary of State for Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £40,000 up to 25 years to pass onto Mosterton Preschool, who are a registered charity, to assist with the costs of a new building."

The parish councillors present all voted to support the resolution.

It was agreed that the clerk would prepare the necessary paperwork for the loan application.

2017/0030. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 7.00pm, to include AGM & Annual Village Meeting.

Meeting closed at 20.15pm.

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Signed

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