CONFIDENTIAL

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Confidential Council Meeting
held on 25th January 2012
at 7 p.m. at Norton Canes Community Centre

Present: Cllrs:A.Gilbert   P.Gilbert
          A.Bernard   J.Bernard
          J.Hampshire   J.Beddows
          Z.Stretton   S.Harding
          J.Davies   J.Preece
          M.Hopley
          Mrs.L.Florence (Clerk)

251/2012   Apologies:
          Cllr.J.Bridgen

252/2012   Declaration of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Councillors as follows:

Cllr.J.Bernard   District Council Planning Committee
Cllr.J.Davies   Volunteer at Koncas
Cllr.J.Beddows   Chairman of Koncas
Cllr.M.Hopley   Treasurer of Koncas
Cllr.J.Preece   Member of the Lido Working Mens Club
Cllr.Z.Stretton   Previous employee of Hunter Douglas (re Lease on
                  Unit 13- Koncas)

253/2012   Koncas

Cllr.J.Beddows as Chairman of Koncas presented a Business Plan for the Project to the meeting. This included recommendations for the future of the Project when the lease expires in September 2012.

Cllr.Beddows has approached Sunflex who are the current landlords for Unit 13 with a view to a discussion about the future of the Lease. It is understood that potentially Sunflex have another two years left on the lease which they may be prepared to negotiate a new lease at a reduced rate. Cllr.Beddows is awaiting a response from Sunflex but wished to approach the Parish Council for an outline agreement that the Parish would pay half of the rent for the next two years from September 2012.

Discussion ensued on the alternatives that were available for the Project. It was stated that other venues have been looked at but they do not provide the facilities that are currently available at Unit 13 which has contributed to the success because of what is on offer to the young people who attend. Cllr.A.Bernard informed the meeting that she had spoken to the High School with a view to using the Gym as an alternative venue. The High School have said that they are interested in finding a common ground and Koncas were encouraged to approach the school directly about this.

Other funding streams have been looked into but many organisations will not fund lease costs and mainly look to fund resources such as staff, training or equipment.

Financial information was provided which included income and expenditure. It was evident from the figures provided that there was not enough income generation to sustain the Project and that better promotion of the facilities and venue should be initiated to bring funds into the Project. The venue costs £1,000 per month plus VAT and the venue needs to be used more extensively.

The meeting was informed that Youth Clubs generally are struggling and that the County Council themselves are looking to change how they provide youth activities in the future which may mean commissioning services out.

The question remains that either the Project is supported or that it will close. The Parish Council position is that it has contributed £41,000 over the 5 years of the term of the Lease but there is no evidence to support what has been achieved. Police would say that anti-social behaviour in the community has declined as a result of Koncas but the number of young people that are currently attending the Project is very low compared to when it first started. The Parish Council would need to demonstrate to the public their rationale for supporting the Project further with public money when other groups in the village receive very little financial support. It was suggested that if the Parish Council did support the additional two years on the Lease then they would require to see a change in the management structure as they are aware that there are currently some barriers to young people accessing the Project.

It was agreed that before any decision could be made more information would be required in terms of the amount of funding the Project was requesting from the Parish Council. It was agreed that a further meeting should take place in February as the deadline for the Parish Council to give notice on the lease is the 1st March.

Action: It was agreed to hold a further meeting when information available.

254/2012 <u>**Amended Planning Application re The Lido Workings Mens Club – 125 Norton East Road**</u>

An amended planning application has been received for the proposed development at 125 Norton East Road. Previous consideration was that this was an overdeveloped site which would cause parking problems for residents in School Road. Cllr Z.Stretton went through the amended Plans and told the meeting that she has spoken to the Planning Officer at the District with regard to the proposed changes. The issue of noise from the building was raised but the plans demonstrate that the external wall would be soundproof which would alleviate this problem and it should be noted that as part of the main building was being demolished the external wall was not now as near to residents homes. It was stated that the plans were within the legal limits with regard to the parking spaces provided but information relating to the usage of the building needed to be explored. It was acknowledged that the Club needs to survive.

Action: **Investigate the usage of the building and report back to Councillors for decision.**

255/2012 <u>**Letter from RIchborough Estates re Proposed Development on Brownhills Road/Red Lion Lane**</u>

A letter had been received from Richborough Estates following their presentations to full Council. The letter contains information relating to the points raised at the meeting and they have addressed many of the points in detail. Cllr.J.Davies felt that the issues of infrastructure have still not been addressed and would welcome further clarification. Generally Councillors felt that the letter had gone a long way to responding to the questions raised. Cllr.Stretton wished to consider the letter and will report back to the Clerk with any comments for inclusion in the response.

Action: **Clerk to write to Richborough when information from Cllr.Stretton available.**

256/2012 **Date of Next Meeting:** **15th February 2012**

Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Signed: ……………………………………. Dated ………………………..