

Groby Parish Council

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4th May 2023

DECISION NOTICE FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER THE PUBLIC INTEREST REPORT FOR THE ACCOUNTS OF GROBY PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 2020, 2021 & 2022

Due to objections and other information submitted to the Council's external auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP, the external auditor carried out additional work in relation to 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22. The findings, concerns and recommendations of the auditor can be seen in its Public Interest Report (PIR) which is published on the Council's website at www.groby.com

The Council considered the PIR at a public meeting on 2 May 2023, at which it followed its duties under Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, namely:

- 5 (5) The relevant authority must consider the report or recommendation at a meeting held before the end of the period of one month beginning with the day on which it was sent to the authority.
- (6) At that meeting the relevant authority must decide—
 - (a) whether the report requires the authority to take any action or whether the recommendation is to be accepted, and
 - (b) what, if any, action to take in response to the report or recommendation.

PUBLIC INTEREST REPORT (PIR) ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan is intended to ensure that all recommendations are properly considered in public and that considered actions are put in place at an organisational level which will ensure that all risks associated with a repeat of these failures are fully mitigated.

The below action plan relates to all of the PIR recommendations, namely:

- A. We recommend that the Council ensures that it complies fully with its obligations on publication of minutes and details of decisions taken under delegated authority.
- B. We recommend that the Council ensures that it consistently complies with the specified period for circulation of the draft AGAR to members before approval of the AGAR.
- C. We recommend that the Council ensures that:
 - all decisions are made by the Council, a Committee acting with delegated authority or an officer acting with delegated authority; and
 - in the event of identification of failure to secure the required authority of the Council, a Committee or an officer, prompt retrospective approval is sought.
- D. We recommend that the Council ensures that it follows appropriate processes for considering any compromise agreements including:
 - seeking, considering and acting on appropriate legal advice; and
 - ensuring appropriate decisions by the Council, a Committee with delegated authority or an officer with delegated authority.

E. We recommend that the Council provides training to members on their responsibilities in declaring interests and the action required in response to declared interests.

F. We recommend that the Council:

- expedite the transfer of the legal title to the land to Groby CIC; and
- ensure that it maintains accurate records of its interest in Groby CIC.

	PIR ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATION	ACTIONED
1.	Receive the report and note the recommendations	The Public Interest Report was circulated (via e-mail) to all members initially on 19 th April 2023 with the amended version circulated on 25 th April 2023. At an Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 2 nd May 2023, members noted the recommendations detailed in the report.
2.	Recognise the serious nature of the corporate failures identified, and our responsibilities as council for them	Groby Parish Council (GPC) RESOLVED to accept this recommendation at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 2 nd May 2023.
3.	Recognise that each recommendation needs to be reviewed and dealt with in a meaningful way that will address the current status of the previous failures, the risk of them happening again, and any actions needed in relation to this.	GPC RESOLVED to accept this recommendation at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 2 nd May 2023.
4.	Resolve that the council creates a committee (to be held in public) that will be tasked with reviewing each recommendation, reporting on its current status, and the production of a “traffic light” based action plan to fully address all areas of failure. The committee will speak with relevant stakeholders as part of its work	GPC RESOLVED to accept this recommendation at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 2 nd May 2023.
5.	Resolves to bring forward to the annual meeting of council committee Terms of Reference for adoption; and appoint members of the new council to the committee.	GPC RESOLVED to accept this recommendation at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 2 nd May 2023.
6.	Resolves that the committee only has powers to make recommendations to full council, and that these recommendations must be discussed fully and in public by council.	GPC RESOLVED to accept this recommendation at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 2 nd May 2023.
7.	Resolves that the committee will report back to the council meeting due to be held on 10 th July 2023, and its report to council will be published on the council’s website at least 3 clear days before that meeting.	GPC RESOLVED to accept this recommendation at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 2 nd May 2023.