

Written Answers to Supplementary Questions at Full Council held on 1 November 2012

Future Arrangements for Payment of Bills issued by the Council (Questions from Cllr Ward)

1.a. What savings are being made and where are they coming from?

The savings are being made as follows and all relate to the withdrawal of the Council from the area offices:

	Savings
Staff costs	£35,000
Rent	£19,000
Misc. costs such as Securicor, internet,	£10,500
Maximum savings as referred to in report	£64,500

1.b. If staff are being redeployed, surely there are no staff savings?

We currently have a number of posts which have been filled on a temporary basis in anticipation of any decision on this matter, and which could provide a reasonable alternative in line with the application of the Councils redundancy and redeployment policy.

2. What consultation has taken place with others which share the buildings, eg: NYCC, Town Council?

Meetings have taken place following the meeting of P and R and prior to the meeting of Council as follows:

- With officers from NYCC who lead on the provision of library services
- with representatives of Kirkbymoorside Town Council

Further meetings have been arranged with Kirkbymoorside representatives following the decision made at Council and ongoing liaison.

3. What impact will there be on accessibility as current staff are trained to know exactly what services are available from the Council?

The skills of the staff will continue to be utilised by RDC to support access to services to the whole of Ryedale not just Helmsley, Kirkby and Pickering. Accessibility will be maintained through the telephone and website and by payment services being extended through the use of Post office outlets and Paypoint. All of the members of the Access to Services team are trained to know exactly what services are available from the Council. An equality Impact assessment was drafted as part of the preparation of the business case for this report. We will continue to develop this as we work with partners on the transition to the withdrawal of area office services.

Ryedale Indoor Bowls Clubs (Questions from Cllr Ward)

Supplementary Question:

“Some marketing had been done a year and half ago, why had more not been done?”

My response is as follows:

Since that initial marketing there had been a number of discussions with the Bowls Club. At that time they were paying £20k per year and obviously this reduced to £10k to keep the club going late in 2011. The further reduction in rental income highlighted

the need to consider the future of the site and this was discussed at Resources Working Party. The only options remaining were to undertake a full marketing of the site to identify a tenant to work with the bowls club or sell the asset, these were the options officers placed before members.

Supplementary question

“Given that very little had been done and the By Election date was not then known can you explain why this was rushed through the last full Council and if it would have been better to go through the committee structure like other similar decisions?”

My response is as follows:

The decision had to be made at that meeting as, if members had chosen the option to market the site, that work needed to start immediately so that the Bowls Club could have some certainty of their future before the end of the ‘bowling year’, which is April 2013.

Ryedale Indoor Bowls Clubs (Questions from Cllr Mrs Shields)

Supplementary question

“Why had the very few people who brought this to the meeting at short notice not had the courtesy to inform Ward Members or Norton Town Council?”

My response is as follows:

[This report is not included in the minutes due to its confidential nature]

I am contacting you following one of your questions at full council and a response I said I would give to your supplementary question around the history of the decision to sell the Bowls Club. I am sorry for the lateness of my reply, although I am sure you will appreciate there has been a lot going on recently!

I said I would provide a history of the decision around the sale.

I have attached a report which was considered by the Resources Working Party at its meeting in January 2012. This sets out some of the history around the club. The report in January last year was in response to the Bowls Club approaching the Council being unable to pay the £20,000 rent at that time.

This was discussed as a potential budget issue at a previous meeting. You will recall that the rent reduction was approved by members as part of the 2012/2013. At that time if the reduction in rent had not been agreed the club would have folded.

As part of the growth items in last years budget it was discussed at the Member Briefing in January 2012, as well as Policy and Resources Committee in February and again at Full Council when the budget was set on the 20 January 2012. The options for the club were subsequently discussed again at the Resources Working Party prior to consideration by Council in September.

It is clear that the situation at the Bowls Club had been considered in detail and if anything the position had worsened since many of these discussions, as the membership had fallen further.

Council in September was the time when a decision over the future was required and the two options were presented to members.

I have had a number of letters expressing concern regarding the sale of the bowls club. However I personally cannot support the annual cost to this council of supporting the bowls club. We do not give revenue support to any other sports clubs, village halls or community centres.

Ryedale Indoor Bowls Clubs (Questions from Cllr Richardson)

Supplementary question

“Could you clarify, does the income figure include feed-in tariff and where has this money gone?”

My response is as follows:

As an update to one of your questions from the November meeting of the Council, the situation regarding Feed-in-Tariff from the solar PV panels at RIBC is as follows;

We now have confirmation and apologies from Scottish Power regarding their mis-administration of our account and they have confirmed that the payment due to us is £1597.92 as the FiT. They said this would be paid into our nominated account in “mid-January”.

In addition to the FiT, the panels will have generated in the region of £350 worth of electricity to the benefit of the current tenant by way of reduction in energy bills (as a rough approximation based on the p /kWh rates we assume they are on). This is from the date of commencement on 08/12/2011 until the reading was sent to Scottish Power on 05/11/12.

Having checked last week, we have not yet received this payment, so will follow up yet again! However, once we have received the payment, the intention is to put this money back into energy efficiency to invest in more energy efficient lighting for which there is an ongoing programme of replacement. This will complete the virtuous circle by assisting in reducing the revenue burden and reducing our CO₂ emissions.