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OH WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE



The Duplicitous Duo

HELPING A GOLF CLUB OR HELPING THEMSELVES ?

Of all the many revelations from within County Hall over the last year, this has to be the most contradictory, even the initial contact between Councillor Parnaby, Alan Menzies and the Bridlington Golf Club is disputed. The Council two stating that the club approached them whereas the golf club records show the opposite to be true. Why would the golf club approach the council to buy the freehold when they had no money to do so?

The proposal to develop parts of the site can only have come from the council pair as it was outside the local plan and the golf club did not own the freehold so would not benefit. Was the Valuation Office Agency whose “advice was sort” (and taken?) made aware of the future planned development which would result in a multi-million pound uplift to the land value prior to them reaching the £750,000 figure? assuming that this was their figure, we need to see that paperwork.

Having been told by Parnaby and Menzies that the freehold was available for £750,000 and that development would be forthcoming why did the club then not seek to obtain the best price for this prime seafront site by going to open market tenders? Was this because the club minutes state that a “preferred builder” suggested by Parnaby and Menzies was contacted and that this was the only offer obtained. What possible reason would Parnaby and Menzies have to limit the sale of this potential development to only a specific builder especially as the price offered was so low? A spokesman? from the council (who probably was not at the meeting) again contradicted the club minutes by stating that “the selection of the development partner was a matter for the golf club itself to decide” which just doesn't fit in with the facts.

For a financially strapped golf club to be offered the freehold of the whole course for £750,000 with planning permission for a prime 22 house seafront development and a “Jewel on the East Coast” hotel development is surely like winning the lottery. It is therefore incredulous that this proposal has not been grabbed with both hands. With no explanation it can only be assumed that there is something else we are not being told, has the club realised that there is something underhanded about the whole episode and that’s why they have not grabbed the hook.

Then we have the mystery of the changing entry in the golf club’s website as recently mentioned by Councillor Andy Strangeway, whereby an entry stating that the freehold of the golf course was transferred back to Bridlington Belvedere Golf Club in 2017 was mysteriously deleted following his initial disclosure.

Following the disappearing entry we now have the disappearing Council Leader. Although Councillor Parnaby was at the forefront of this whole confusing and sad episode, he suddenly went absent as soon as questions were asked. His friend Alan Menzies was pushed uncomfortably forward to explain their joint actions on BBC Look North and several others at county hall have tried to do the cover up. Belatedly, after Caroline Bilton’s repeated coverage on BBC television and the following two weeks coverage in the Yorkshire Post, the local paper, The Hull Daily Mail, finally decides that it probably should also comment. Not known for criticising the council or Councillor Parnaby, Angus Young’s only article on Monday March 26th although otherwise comprehensive failed to even mention Parnaby’s involvement.

Finally no report of Parnaby and his proneness to dubious planning issues would be the same without a mention of his close friend, the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Phyllis “Lovely Lady” Pollard who turns up again to save the day by using her casting vote to overturn the planning officers refusal recommendation on this Parnaby proposal at the golf club.

Regards

Peter Robinson

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FAO Members of the Press, Ministers, MPs and Councillors