

**SLEAFORD TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Full Council** held on
Wednesday April 4th 2012 at 7:45pm
in The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT: Councillor T Mayfield (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr M Allan	Cllr D Vere-Critcher	Cllr D Birks
Cllr B Watson (Leader)	Cllr D Croker	Cllr I Dolby
Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford	Cllr K Dolby	Cllr K Fernandes
Cllr M Graves	Cllr J Mathieson	Cllr D Suiter
Cllr G Titmus	Cllr J Titmus	

Also Present: Mrs S McIntyre (Clerk), C/Cllr D Dickinson, C/Cllr A Hagues.

The Chairman was not present, the Vice Chairman took the Chair.

FC.1 APOLOGIES. Apologies, with reasons, had been given to the Clerk by Councillor J Charlesworth, Cllr G Jackson and Cllr D Andrews. These were accepted.

FC.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were none.

FC.3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

- Report of recent Mayoral activities. A report was circulated. The chairman said he attended the Tennis Club opening and met Andrew Castle who was very complimentary of the Town and the Club.

FC.4 CLERK'S REPORT.

- **LCC** - General Maintenance programme: Work planned for Grantham Road – patching. York Rd/Lincoln Rd – pedestrian refuge and junction widening. Network Rail on Bonemill Lane and King Edward Street and National Grid Gas on the Drove and Meadowfield.

FC.5 FINANCIAL MATTERS.

- **Finance Report** – This report was noted, after a clarification question concerning Money's Yard sweeping.

FC.6 MINUTES. To look at the Clerk's Notes from the meeting on February 8th 2012, and accept them as Minutes of the meetings.

It was proposed by Cllr I Dolby and seconded by Cllr D Croker that the Clerk's Notes of February 8th be accepted as Minutes.

Vote – 14 for and 1 abstention. The Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

FC.7 COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES: To take note of the Clerk's notes from the last round of committee meetings: these will then go to their next meetings for approval as Minutes. Services, February 22nd, 2012, General Purposes, February 29th, 2012, Personnel, March 7th 2012, Finance and Strategy, March 14th, 2012.

It was proposed by Cllr D Suiter that these be noted en-bloc. Seconded by Cllr I Dolby.

Vote – 15 for. The Resolution was passed.

FC.8 FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

- **St George's Day:** Update on progress. A report from Mrs S Goodland was noted. Cllr D Suiter said there has been good progress. It was proposed by Cllr J Mathieson and seconded by Cllr D Suiter that permission be granted for a bouncy castle as part of the event.

Vote – 15 for. The Resolution was passed.

Cllr I Dolby volunteered to assist – other volunteers to contact Mrs S Goodland directly.

FC.9 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES. Any Councillor who has represented the Council on their nominated outside body is asked to report to the Full Council meeting after this representation.

The following Councillors gave reports from meetings:

- Cllr J Charlesworth – His report was circulated.
- Cllr D Suiter – LALC Committee. He explained a 'Guide to Neighbourhood Planning'. Localism Act – not clear at the moment. Power of General Competence – replacing the Power of Wellbeing – Clerks to be additionally trained.
- Cllr D Birks – Business Breakfast – 30 people attended. Next meeting May 4th.
- Cllr J Mathieson – Youth Club meetings.
- Cllr D Vere-Critchler – Standards Committee – postponed, but the District is looking to comply with a county wide standard.

FC.10 OTHER AD-HOC COUNCIL REPRESENTATION – Councillors invited to meetings etc on an ad-hoc basis – are asked to report to the Full Council meeting following their meeting.

- Cllr K Fernandes - Musical evening at St George's
- Cllr G Titmus – War memorial – outlined progress – this will be reported to Services Committee.
- Cllr G Titmus – Monument Gardens – met with SIB and SM Trust to look at a garden project – to be reported to Services Committee.

FC.12 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. – March 28th - Report circulated. The chairman said this had been very well attended and was very encouraging. Cllr D Vere Critcher asked for thanks to be recorded to the people organising (Clerk and Assistant Clerk).

The Clerk circulated the notes from the meeting for Councillors to check whilst the event was fresh in their minds.

FC.13 COMMITTEE PREFERENCES. 2013/14. Committee preference forms to be handed back before or during this meeting. These were submitted.

FC.14 COUNCIL CHAIRMAN/VICE CHAIRMAN – MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR.
Report circulated. The Clerk explained a point of order concerning discussing this matter.
It was proposed without notice by Cllr M Graves and seconded by Cllr M Allan that Standing Orders be suspended.

Vote 13 for and 2 against. The Resolution was passed.

A report from the Clerk had been circulated recommending that the 'time served' qualification be removed as this could be considered indirect discrimination.

Cllr M Graves explained some of the history of the 'time served' qualification, and then the split between the role of Chairman/Mayor and Leader. He said it was an honour and privilege to be Mayor.

It was clarified that the only legal qualification to be Chairman was that a councillor is an elected councillor. There was discussion about the change and the removing of the 'time served' element. The current council was 2/3 new members and this prevented them from being considered.

Cllr B Watson said the whole chamber should be considered and then fellow members decide who was suitable. Cllr D Vere-Critchler said any regulation should not preclude a section of the council.

Cllr M Allan proposed that the Standing Orders relating to the eligibility to be Deputy Mayor should remain the same – the 3 years' time served to remain. The was seconded by Cllr K Fernandes.

Vote 9 for and 6 against. The resolution was passed.

It was proposed by Cllr M Graves and seconded by Cllr T Mayfield that the Town Council's Standing Orders can be amended/alterd in any Full Council meeting.

Vote -15 for. The Resolution was passed.

It was proposed without notice by Cllr M Graves and seconded by Cllr K Fernandes to re-convene under Standing Orders.

Vote - 15 for. The resolution was passed.

FC.15 RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION.

It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critchler that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. Seconded by Cllr K Fernandes.

Vote – 15 for. The Resolution was passed.

FC.14 REPORT(S), IF ANY, FROM MEETINGS RELATING TO THE ROAD/RAIL/TESCO ISSUES WHICH ARE ONGOING.

- **Meeting with NKDC/LCC representatives** – Letters circulated.
- **E mail reply from Brian Thompson, LCC Highways.**

It was resolved that the Clerk writes to NKDC saying:

The position of the TC remains the same as there has been no fresh information. The TC is more than happy to meet with NKDC if any additional issues come to our attention and/or require discussion. With regard to the meeting on March 6th – the TC is still awaiting information promised from that meeting and asks if this can be supplied.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:50pm.