

**SLEAFORD TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance and Strategy Committee** held on
Wednesday August 15th 2012 at 7:30pm
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT: Cllr M Graves (Chairman)

Cllr B Watson (Leader)	Cllr J Charlesworth	Cllr K Dolby
Cllr G Titmus	Cllr J Titmus	Cllr D Birks
Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford	Cllr M Allan	Cllr D Vere- Critcher
Cllr D Andrews	Cllr K Fernandes	Cllr D Suiter

Also present: Mrs S McIntyre (Clerk), Mrs M Waddingham (Assistant Clerk), Mrs L Savage (RFO).

1 member of the public.

Prior to the meeting the Chairman gave a short address in memory of former Councillors D Tomlinson and D Croker. All present then stood to observe a minute's silence.

F&S.1 APOLOGIES. Apologies, with reasons had been given to the Clerk from Councillors J Mathieson, I Dolby, G Jackson, T Mayfield. These were accepted.

F&S.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. To receive disclosable pecuniary interest in accordance with s.34 of the Localism Act 2011. There were none.

F&S.3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

- **Item 17.** The Chairman proposed and Cllr D Birks seconded that this item be moved to the end of the agenda, to be heard in closed session.
Vote 13 for. The Resolution was passed.
- **Meeting October 3rd.** This date has been changed to October 10th.
- **Reports to meetings.** The Chairman reminded all members about the requirement for written reports to be presented to the relevant meetings to go out with the agendas the Thursday before the meeting concerned.

F&S.4 CLERK'S REPORT.

- **Masterplan meeting.** A report from Masterplan meeting had been circulated.
- **Core strategy consultation.** Details circulated – the Clerk to try and arrange a meeting prior to the end of the consultation.
- **Farmer's Market** – volunteers needed to collect market rents.

F&S.5 MINUTES. Notes of the meeting held on July 11th 2012, had been circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critcher and seconded by Cllr M Allan, that the Notes from July 11th 2012, with an amendment to one paragraph, be accepted as Minutes of that meeting.

Vote – 13 for. The Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

- F&S.6 FINANCIAL REPORT** Overview of whole council's position - appropriate reports attached.
- Officer comments were noted.
 - The Chairman commented possible committee virements should be examined on October 10th.
 - Supplier list – from the previous financial year – may be of value to the Committee Chairman.
- F&S.7 BID.** To look at services within Sleaford provided by the BID. The Chairman had circulated a report explaining the situation.
- Cllr M Allan proposed and Cllr J Charlesworth seconded that the Clerk and the Services Supervisor have the authority to negotiate and establish what assets and services could be transferred to the Town Council and what associated funding would be available from residual funds held by Sleaford BID. If the opportunity arises, to include other authorities then this should be undertaken. A press release to be issued if any services are taken.
- Vote - 13 for. The Resolution was passed.
- F&S.8 STANDING ORDERS.** Working group to set a date to work on the Guide to Standing Orders.
- F&S.9 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES.** Councillors noted that the report from the first surgery will be presented to the meeting on October 10th.
- F&S.10 VOLUNTEER POLICY –** Cllr D Suiter said his report would be ready for the October 10th meeting.
- F&S.11 BEST VALUE REVIEW.** A report from the Chairman had been circulated. Cllr M Allan proposed and Cllr G Titmus seconded that the recommendations from the report be accepted. These were:
1. Councillors note the report above.
 2. An initial letter is sent to neighbouring Town Councils seeking their co-operation in this exercise.
 3. A suitable questionnaire should be designed and presented to council for approval.
- Vote - 13 for. The Resolution was passed.
- F&S.12 MEETING WITH LCC HIGHWAYS – TRAFFIS ISSUES.** A report had been circulated. This was noted.
- F&S.13 MUSEUM TRUST.** It was proposed by Cllr M Graves and seconded by Cllr D Andrews that Cllr G Titmus is confirmed as the leader of the Museum Trust working group.
- F&S.14 FIELDS IN TRUST.** Should this be in 'closed session'? A report had been circulated outlining the various guidelines concerning the exclusion of public and press. This was discussed. The Chairman explained why he felt this topic should have been in closed session. The Clerk clarified some points.

It was proposed by Cllr G Titmus and seconded by Cllr D Birks that whenever it is possible items should be considered in open session. The Standing Orders working group should look at the guidelines and incorporate a suitable section for STC's Standing Orders.

Vote - 13 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.15 CEMETERY – PATHS AND OTHER MAJOR WORKS – DRIVEWAY AND TOILET BLOCK. Some upgrades and repairs to paths have been and will be carried out by the Services Committee within their budget. A report will be brought to the Finance and Strategy on October 10th if funds from reserves will be needed.

F&S.16 TOILET PROVISION. The Working Group met too late for a report to this meeting – report to October 10th.

F&S.17 REGENERATION ISSUES. Moved to closed session – see Chairman's report.

F&S.18 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, if any.

There were none.

The Chairman proposed that Item 20 moved to this point, in open session. This was seconded by Cllr D Vere-Critchler.

Vote -13 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.20 NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT – BOSTON ROAD. A report had been circulated outlining the need for a new piece of play equipment on the Boston Road Recreation Ground.

The Clerk explained some of the reasons for the recommendation. Cllr G Titmus explained some of the services related issues.

It was proposed by Cllr M Allan and seconded by Cllr D Birks that the replacement equipment should be Option 2 – The Core. This to be funded from the 2012/13 budget and within the context of the five year repair and replacement plan.

Vote - 13 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.19 RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION.

It was proposed by Cllr D Birks, 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 the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. Seconded by Cllr D Suiter.

Vote – 13 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S. 17 REGENERATION ISSUES. (Traffic Modelling).

It was resolved that a report be forwarded to NKDC with a request for them to provide the information requested.

F&S.21 NEW OFFICE ACCOMODATION.

The Chairman explained some of the details behind the report circulated. He explained the reason for the confidentiality of this item. He said the Council and the Officers needed some guidance as to the way forward.

It was proposed by Cllr M Allan and seconded by Cllr D Vere-Critchler that the recommendations in the report be accepted. These were:

- Re-evaluation of both the Council, and if required, any community need is undertaken.
- That initial parameters are identified to help officers source and evaluate alternative premises.
- A comparable cost of any provision is presented to Council in any proposition.
- The likelihood of grant funding is established and reported back to Council.
- Officers are permitted to make further enquiries with any suitable accommodation options.

Vote - 13 for. The resolution was passed.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:58pm.