

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

Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance and Strategy Committee** held on
Wednesday August 21st, 2013 at 20.11pm
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT: Cllr M Graves (Chairman)

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|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Cllr B Suiter | Cllr D Birks | Cllr J Mayfield |
| Cllr K Dolby | Cllr K Fernandes | Cllr H Lorimer |
| Cllr B Watson | Cllr J Mathieson | Cllr J Titmus |
| Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford | Cllr D Vere-Critcher, | Cllr G Titmus, |

Also present: Mrs L Savage and Mr S Beane.

The Chairman welcomed all present.

F&S.1 APOLOGIES. There were none.

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

F&S.3 MINUTES. The Clerk's Notes from the meeting held on July 10th, 2013 have been circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor D Birks and seconded by Cllr J Mathieson, that the Notes from the meeting held on July 10th, 2013, be accepted as Minutes of this meeting.

Vote – 12 for and 1 against. The Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

The Chairman thanked Mrs L Savage and Mr S Beane for attending the meeting to take notes and proposed that Cllr J Mathieson assist with the note taking. Cllr J Mathieson was then thanked her for her assistance.

F&S.4 CHAIRMAN's REPORT.

There was no report.

F&S.5 CLERK's REPORT.

- **Action Log** – was noted
- **Traffic Model** – This item was deferred to Item 6 on the agenda (Financial Report)

A comment from Councillor Mark Allan was noted and referred to Item 19 of the agenda.

This item was noted.

F&S.6 FINANCIAL REPORT

- Overview of whole Council's position – was noted.
- Budget overview – RFO. The overview was presented and noted.
- 40040/1-40040/5 – agree funds showing on budget line to be moved into Earmarked Reserves. The proposal to move the funds when the second half of the precept money has arrived in October was made by Cllr D Vere-Critchler and seconded by Cllr Garry Titmus.

Vote – 11 for and 2 against. The Resolution was passed.

- Finance software – The Chairman gave an overview of the issues with the finance software and potential problems for the future if not dealt with quickly.

The Chairman proposed that the software developers should be sent a letter to highlight the issues and request a meeting to discuss and provide answers. Cllr D Vere-Critchler seconded the proposal.

Vote – 13 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.7 CONSULTANT FOR VARIOUS PLANNING MATTERS and allocation of funds to support this.

Recommendation from Cllr M Allan that expert(s) be appointed to assist STC. After discussions surrounding the professionalism of previous objection submissions, it was agreed that a report needs to go to the next F&S meeting for a decision as where the money is to come from. Chairman, MA and RFO to meet to discuss possibly £60K at £20K per year over 3 years.

F&S.8 BEST VALUE WORKING GROUP

Report was noted and all councillors will be sent out the pack from Braunstone Town Council. Also Mrs L Savage to contact all members of the Best Value working group to arrange a meeting date. The Chairman suggested that the information sheets presented by Braunstone should be circulated to all Councillors. This was agreed by all.

F&S.9 MONUMENT GARDENS MUSEUM/TOILET BLOCK.

Cllr Garry Titmus spoke and gave his report update. He said the Museum Trust and WREN are going to meet and he will also attending the meeting. Hopefully the Museum Trust will be successful on getting the lottery funding through.

F&S.10 There is no Item 10.

F&S.11 BOSTON ROAD LAYBY – Cllr Garry Titmus requested this be turned into a proper Car Park. Cllr M Allan stated this is an asset to STC, and the yellow line will go down. Cllr D Birks explained why parking is important for people using the Rec. Cllr D Suiter had concerns about the implications of charging or not charging for parking. Cllr K Dolby raised that his understanding was that the layby was to be incorporated into the Rec and not used as anything else and this needs to be clarified before any works are started. How will STC know this is being used only by people on the Rec. Cllr G Titmus said funding may be found from elsewhere for the work to resurface etc but was at a loss as to where

to go from the current position, he requested help from others as well as requesting that office staff should assist with costing and management of this. The Chairman asked for costs to make the layby into a car park
Cllr M Allan stated a figure of slightly in excess of £19k.

Vote- 12 for and 1 against. Cllr B Watson requested his objection to be minuted, as he wanted the area to be incorporated into the Rec.

F&S.12 CEMETERY TOILETS – from Services – Cllr G Titmus gave his report on current progress and replacement options. After some discussion 2 options were tabled for voting.

Option 1 – 1 Unit Male/Female toilet + Staff office

Vote – For 9 Against 4 No Abstentions

Option 2 – 2 Units 1 male / 1 female

Vote – For 4 Against 9 No Abstentions

Cllr G Titmus proposed that the Council proceed with option 1. Cllr D Vere-Critchler seconded the proposal

Vote – For 13 Against 0 Abstentions 0

F&S.13 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, if any. Cllr B Watson asked for double lines in Newfield to be added to the next agenda, this request was then withdrawn. No other items to be added

F&S.14 RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION. To propose 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”.

Vote - 13 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.15 DEBTOR.

A verbal update was given by the Chairman.

F&S.16 CAR PARK WORKING GROUP

It was resolved that 3 spaces at a rate of £390.00 inclusive of VAT be offered to the business and their staff require spaces, they should either purchase a daily ticket or a permit in the usual way as other members of the public do when leaving their car to go to work. This recommendation will need to go to Full Council. It was also added that the business should be given two options either the 3 spaces at a discounted rate and /or the other 3 space at normal rate.

F&S.17 CEMETERY PATHS – Progress report from Services Supervisor on obtaining quotes. - Noted

F&S.18 OFFICE PREMISES – Update – Chairman.

- Resolve not to draw down the agreed funds.
It was resolved to draw down the funds

- It was resolved that this subject be deferred for report on available options.

F&S.19 PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT STIGA GRASS CUTTER. Item referred from Services

It was resolved to gather information and present it to the next Full Council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:40pm.

ACTIONS FROM F&S AUGUST 21ST 2013.

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| FINANCE | Agreed funds to be moved into Earmarked Reserves. | RFO |
| | Finance software developers to be sent a letter requesting a meeting | |
| CONSULTANT FOR VARIOUS PLANNING MATTERS | Report needed for F&S Oct 9 th for a decision about where money is coming from. MG, MA & RFO to meet to discuss possibly £60K at £20K per year over 3 years | MG, MA & RFO |
| BEST VALUE | RFO to contact all members of the Best Value WG to arrange a meeting date. Information sheet presented by Braunstone to be circulated to all Cllrs | RFO |
| BOSTON ROAD LAYBY | Investigate costs to make the layby into a car park | Cllrs & Officers |
| CAR PARKING WG | It was resolved that 3 spaces at a rate of £390.00 inclusive of VAT be offered to the business and their staff require spaces, they should either purchase a daily ticket or a permit in the usual way as other members of the public do when leaving their car to go to work. This recommendation will need to go to Full Council. It also added that the business should be given two options either the 3 spaces at a discounted rate and/ or the other 3 space at normal rate. | |
| OFFICE PREMISES | Deferred | |
| PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT GRASS CUTTER | To go to the next FC | |