

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

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the **Full Council** held on
Wednesday 14th May, 2014 at 8.40pm, at The Source, Sleaford

PRESENT: Councillor K Dolby, (Vice Chairman)

Cllr D Birks	Cllr M. Graves	Cllr G. Titmus
Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford	Cllr K Fernandes	Cllr M. Allan.
Cllr G Jackson	Cllr T. Mayfield.	
Cllr M Suffield	Cllr D Suiter	
Cllr J Titmus	Cllr H. Lorimer	

Also in Attendance: Members of the Public (14), Press (1) & Council Officers Mrs L. Savage (R.F.O) and Mrs. S.M. Scholes.

Vice-Chairman, Councillor K Dolby took the Chair and opened the meeting at 8.40p.m. He welcomed all present.

FC.1 APOLOGIES. Apologies, with reasons were given and accepted from Councillors J. Mathieson and C. Darch.

FC.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. To receive any Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests. There were none.

FC.3 COUNCILLOR RESIGNATIONS.

3.1 Cllr B. Watson has resigned with effect 7th May, 2014, NKDC Monitoring Officer has been informed and due process begun.

3.2 Election of Chairman to serve until 28th May, 2014 (AGM).

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Cllr K. Dolby be elected Chairman of the Council to serve until 28th May, 2014. Proposed by Cllr M. Allan and seconded by Cllr M. Graves, the Resolution was carried. Vote: Unanimous. The Chairman was requested to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3.3 Casual Vacancy resulting from the resignation of Cllr Ian Dolby. Notice of intention to co-opt a Councillor has been published; applicants are to be requested to obtain an application form from the office. ***IT WAS RESOLVED THAT*** the proposed time scale to receive expressions of interest would be accepted by Council. Vote: unanimous. The Resolution was carried.

3.4 Resignation of Cllr D. Vere-Critchier had been received by the Office on 14th May and due process will be carried out.

FC.4 APPROVE RECOMMENDATION FROM F&S COMMITTEE (14.05.14) TO ALLOCATE FUNDING FOR HONORARY FREEDOM PARADE.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT £1,250 be made available, as recommended by the Finance & Strategy Committee. Vote: Unanimous.

FC.5 RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION.

5.1 The Chairman advised that Councillors needed to discuss confidential matters and that after this discussion, he proposed to reopen the meeting to the public.

5.2. **IT WAS RESOLVED 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 – Unanimous. The Resolution was carried.

5.3 Councillors have previously received confidential correspondence from solicitors (30.10.13 & 04.11.13), and are reminded to respect the sensitivity of information and confidentiality request.

5.4 Professional advice is that the Council re-iterate its statement (May 2009) with regard to request for land from Tesco and C.P.O. action by NKDC.

5.5 The Chairman reported that at the Annual Town Meeting, Council had been asked to confirm its stance on these issues and distributed copies of the proposed reports to be made public which are reproduced below in full:

“(Report A – Original Statement May 2009) Sleaford Town Council have had no communication from NKDC or Tesco on the latest developments regarding the building of the superstore or a CPO. We only know of these latest developments from the reports in the media.

The Town Council finds itself “between a rock and a hard place”. It is the opinion of our legal advisors that we cannot sell the Recreation Ground or any part of it, without declaring it surplus to requirements – which it obviously is not.

It is recommended that we repeat Sleaford Town Council’s comments of May 2009 – before the original Planning meeting.

1. Sleaford Town Council still supports the principle of the Regeneration Scheme of the area.
2. Sleaford Town Council is not satisfied that the proposed traffic scheme will provide a viable alternative, or even improve traffic flows.
3. Sleaford Town Council believes that the closure of the Level Crossing should only be done on a trial period once the new (road)bridge has been completed and when it has been proved beyond doubt that there has been a significant improvement to traffic flow within the town
4. Sleaford Town Council is not satisfied that all alternative routes for the link road have been thoroughly examined.

It is therefore with regret that Sleaford Town Council cannot support the proposed scheme until the points above have been satisfactorily answered.”

“(Report B – Additional Council Comment, May 2014). The concerns raised by Sleaford Town Council in May 2009 have not been addressed. In fact it is now admitted that journey times through the town with the bridge in place and the crossing closed will be longer than now.

The Town Council has been accused of not having the support of the townspeople. Below are the results of questionnaires and referenda:

- The Referendum on the original two-lane road through the Recreation Ground: 52% for the road, 48% against.
- For keeping the Rec. as a recreation ground, 85% for, 15% against.

- A questionnaire regarding the consideration of the route through the Bristol Bowls Club showed 98% in favour of that route, and 2% for the route through the Recreation Ground. (There were almost 1500 signatures.)
- The petition objecting to the closing of the level crossing had 2800 signatures.
- The referendum on the closure of the crossing showed 92% in favour of keeping it open and 8% for its closure.

5.6 In summary, Sleaford Town Council cannot be a willing participant in this process.

5.7 Members of the public and press were re-admitted to the meeting (9.10 p.m.) and thanked for their patience.

5.8 The Chairman read the Reports A&B in full.

5.9 Cllr M. Allan proposed and Cllr G. Jackson seconded the proposal that Sleaford Town Council accept the statements (Reports A&B) and reconfirms its position in relation to the proposed Tesco superstore and associated matters. A Recorded Vote was taken:

Cllr M. Allan	FOR	Cllr D. Birks	FOR
Cllr K. Dolby	FOR	Cllr B. Dunbar-Beckford	FOR
Cllr K. Fernandes	FOR	Cllr M. Graves	FOR
Cllr G. Jackson	FOR	Cllr H. Lorimer	FOR
Cllr T. Mayfield	FOR	Cllr M. Suffield	FOR
Cllr D. Suiter	FOR	Cllr G. Titmus	FOR
Cllr J. Titmus	FOR.		

Votes AGAINST none Abstentions none.

THE RESOLUTION WAS CARRIED.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.20p.m.

Mrs. S.M. Scholes,
Sleaford Town Council
15th May, 2014.