

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

Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance and Strategy Committee** held on
Wednesday January 29th, 2014 at 8:30pm
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT: Cllr M Graves (Chairman)

Cllr M Allan (Vice Chairman)	Cllr D Birks	Cllr G Titmus
Cllr M Suffield	Cllr K Fernandes	Cllr D Suiter
Cllr B Watson	Cllr J Mathieson	Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford
Cllr J Titmus	Cllr G Jackson	Cllr K Dolby
Cllr D Vere-Critchler	Cllr H Lorimer	

There was not officer present. Councillor J Mathieson took the notes.

The Chairman welcomed all present and opened the meeting.

F&S.1 APOLOGIES. Apologies, with reasons had been given to the Clerk from Councillor C Darch, Councillor T Mayfield and Councillor I Dolby. There were accepted.

F&S.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. To receive any Disclosable interests. There were none.

F&S.3 MINUTES. The Clerk's Notes from the meeting held on November 27th, 2013 have been circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr M Graves and seconded by Cllr D Vere-Critchler, that the Notes from the meeting held on November 27th 2013, be accepted as Minutes of this meeting with the date amended on item F&S.11 from 2013 to 2003.

Vote – 15 for. The resolution was passed.

F&S.4 CHAIRMAN's REPORT, verbal report.

Cllr M Graves explained that the RFO was currently on sick leave.

It was proposed by Cllr M Graves and seconded by Cllr M Allan that he should be able to make arrangements for the finances to be kept up to date.

Vote – 15 for. The resolution was passed.

F&S.5 CLERK's REPORT.

- Action Log – enclosed.

The action log was noted. No officers were present to answer questions. P3 first two items now superseded by other action.

F&S.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Financial Report.
The Financial Report was noted.

F&S.7 MONUMENT GARDENS MUSEUM/TOILET BLOCK – verbal report from Cllr G Titmus, if available.

This was deferred until closed session.

F&S.8 GRANT FUNDING – verbal update on Allotment Compost Toilets, if available.

Cllr G Titmus informed the Council that the REP Communities fund has given 75% towards the cost of toilets for the Drove and Millfield Terrace allotments upon the third application.

It was proposed by Cllr B Watson and seconded by Cllr D Vere-Critchler that a vote of thanks be given to Cllr G Titmus.

Vote – 14 for. 1 abstention (Cllr G Titmus). The resolution was passed.

F&S.9 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, if any.

- Concerns about play areas have not yet been answered (F&S.11 from meeting 27.1.13) Chief Planning Officer has been invited to explain. Questions need to be properly prepared for his attendance.
- Commercial cinema in Sleaford?
- Money's Yard toilets 3 year lease?

F&S.10 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”. It was proposed by Cllr M Graves and seconded by Cllr M Allan. The public and press left the meeting.

F&S.11 CHRISTMAS MARKET – Clarification of financial management.

It was resolved that a working group be set up consisting of Cllr M Graves, Cllr G Titmus, Cllr G Jackson, Cllr C Darch and Cllr D Vere-Critchler to clarify finance and governance of Christmas Market 2013. They will ask Cllr C Darch for final accounts from the sub-committee 2013. Better procedures for governance will be set up.

F&S.12 CONSULTANT FOR VARIOUS PLANNING MATTERS, update if any from Cllr J Mathieson.

It was resolved to accept requested permission for two Councillors and one officer to open the remaining tender and to appoint, providing charges are reasonable. The tender is expected 31.01.14.

F&S.13 UPDATES(S) IN CONNECTION WITH RECREATION LAND

- 1) any progress to date
- 2) letter e-mail from Albourne Property plc.

It was resolved that members of the CPO Working Group, without Alan Plummer, meet Richard Batham-Read from Albourne to glean information.

F&S.14 EASTGATE CAR PARK

a) Previous resolution regarding Yellow marked spaces.

It was resolved to inform the residents by letter that they will no longer be entitled to park unless they purchase permits, and to also inform the NKDC parking attendant to this effect.

b) Boundary issues.

It was resolved that a letter be sent to inform them of non-validity of permits. No money received and no contract signed so not valid from 27.09.13. Letter should be hand-delivered and 14 days' notice from receipt be allowed. Legal enforcement is final step due to cost.

F&S.15 OFFICE PREMISES – update on recommendation from F&S 27th November 2013.

This was noted.

F&S.16 UNREGISTERED LAND – To receive a letter from Chattertons Solicitors advising STC ownership.

It was resolved that, following advice from Chattertons Solicitors, all remaining land be registered for which title deeds are held. Also, title deeds for the cemetery and allotments be sought and registered if necessary.

F&S.17 PROPOSED HANDLEY CHASE DEVELOPMENT, LONDON ROAD – STC Management and maintenance of the various community facilities. E-mail attached.

It was resolved that further details be requested and that planning consultant should assist in attaining best value.

F&S.7 MONUMENT GARDENS MUSEUM/TOILET BLOCK (Deferred) – verbal report from Cllr G Titmus, if available.

It was resolved that a return be made to the practice of simply seeking quotations against specifications.

F&S.18 TENDERING – to receive a written report from the Services Supervisor.

It was resolved that the one legitimate tender for demolition of garages and full renewal of cemetery footpaths be accepted.

It was further agreed that the Vice-Chair could be replaced by the Chair of the relevant committee, and indeed that as long as two Councillors and one officer was present, this would be acceptable.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:30pm.