

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

Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance and Strategy Committee** held on
Wednesday November 16th 2011 at 8:00pm
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT: Cllr M Graves (Chairman)

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

Also present Mrs S McIntyre (Clerk), Mr S Fletcher (Deputy Clerk) and Mrs M Waddingham (PA to the Clerk)

F&S.1 APOLOGIES. Apologies, with reasons had been give to the Clerk from Councillor J Titmus . This was accepted.

F&S.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Item 15 – Cllr J Mathieson – personal – knows the person who wrote the letter.

F&S.3 CHAIRMAN's REPORT. There was no report.

F&S.4 CLERK's REPORT.

- **Markets:** The Farmer's Market traders cannot come for more days – they are committed to other markets throughout the month. The trading days are set by the Market Charter – which is held by NKDC.
- **Money's Yard toilets:** This has gone through the NKDC Executive committee and there is a Resolution that these will be demolished – Nina Camm believes this will now be after Christmas.
- **Eastgate Car Park.** Eastgate car park income is now being paid monthly. Today (Wed November 16th) the Office manager is meeting with NKDC personnel to look at their process of invoicing and payment. Her report was circulated.
- **Trees – on the rec.** A letter was sent to Karen Bradford asking for support for her claim re the trees. No reply was received. A second reminder letter was sent last Friday (11th) – again no reply to date.
- **Internal Audit report** - Draft report has been received – Chairman, RFO and the Clerk have liased with Mrs Silverton regarding some points – the finalised report will be brought to the next F and S meeting.
- **External Audit.** Clement Keys have closed the 2010/11 Audit and given an unqualified audit report. The details of this will be brought to the next Full Council meeting.

F&S.5 MINUTES. Notes of the meeting held on September 28th 2011, had been circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critcher and seconded by Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford, that, with some minor amendments, the Notes from September 28th 2011, be accepted as Minutes of that meeting.

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

F&S.6 FINANCIAL REPORT

- Overview of whole council's position.

Cllr M Graves explained the report by each committee, giving an overview.

- Set Finance and Strategy 2012/13 budget and examine other Committee budgets.

Cllr M Allan asked a question regarding the Personnel Budget. Cllr M Graves answered.

Cllr M Graves said he was happy with other committees budgets and explained the balancing figure. He also said the Capital Programme figure may change.

It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critcher to accept the Budget for 2012/2013. Seconded by Cllr I Dolby.

Vote – 15 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.7 FROM OTHER COMMITTEES: None this meeting.

F&S.8 RECREATIONAL AMENITIES WORKING GROUP - Set date for next meeting.

Cllr B Watson said to meet before Christmas. It was agreed to meet Friday, December 9th at 10am. Councillors on the Working Group are D Vere-Critcher, M Graves, D Suiter, B Watson and I Dolby.

F&S.9 'REVITALISATION' OF SLEAFORD.

Cllr D Birks explained the report.

It was proposed by Cllr D Birks and seconded by Cllr D Suiter to adopt new branding to identify the way forward for Sleaford and link it to the developments from the meeting to be held on December 7th.

There was no vote, as it was felt there is a need to identify strong ideas firstly to go with re-branding, so this item to be deferred until after the meeting on December 7th.

F&S.10 STC SUPPORT FOR GRAYLEES HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Cllr G Titmus explained his report.

Cllr B Watson said that LCC Highways have to adopt the roads.

After much discussion, Cllr G Titmus proposed to meet with the developers with a view to progressing their adoption of the site. Seconded by Cllr I Dolby.

Vote – 15 for. The Resolution was passed.

Councillors G Titmus, B Watson, M Allan and I Dolby to meet with the developers.

F&S.11 OFFICE ACCOMODATION – To note current lease expires – discuss and decide future of TC offices.

Cllr M Graves explained the present office accommodations lease is coming to an end in November.

It was proposed by Cllr M Graves to extend the lease for 6 months and look for alternative accommodation. Seconded by Cllr G Titmus.

Vote – 15 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.12 DEMOLITION OF GARAGES EASTGATE CAR PARK

It was proposed by Cllr M Graves to submit a new planning application to demolish the garages and replace with a wall. Seconded by Cllr J Mathieson.

Vote – 14 for and 1 abstention. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.13 GOODS ON PAVEMENT OUTSIDE SHOP ON SOUTHGATE

Cllr K Dolby explained his concerns and incidents and said he had tried talking to Pierre Davidson.

Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford left the room.

Cllr K Dolby also said LCC needs to act on this.

Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford re-entered the room.

It was proposed by Cllr K Dolby to write a letter to Mark Heaton at LCC and send a copy to Brian Thompson to oversee removal of good on pavements and consider them to be a danger. Seconded by Cllr M Allan.

Vote – 15 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.14 MUSEUM TRUST – Report from meeting with Museum Trust personnel Tues November 15th.

The Clerk and Cllr G Titmus explained the report. This report was then noted.

F&S.15 COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS:

- Queen's Jubilee – Discuss whether to stage any event.

It was proposed by Cllr D Suiter to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in the Recreation Ground with a Beacon, subject to cost and a Risk Assessment.

Vote – 15 for. The Resolution was passed.

- Jubilee Woods Project – Create a small Jubilee woodland on the recreation ground?

All Councillors were in favour of the trees. It was proposed by Cllr J Mathieson for herself and Cllr K Dolby to liaise through the Deputy Clerk.

Vote- 14 for and 1 abstention. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.16 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS?

Information regarding the Town Plan to be collected for the meeting in December 7th.

F&S.17 RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION.

It was proposed by Cllr M Allan, 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 Vere-Critchler.

Vote – 15 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.18 REGENERATION ISSUES – Report(s), if any, from any meetings relating to Tesco/recreation land/level crossing.

Cllr M Graves and Cllr B Watson explained to members a meeting that had taken place with Allbourne. This was noted.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:30pm.