

**SLEAFORD TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the **General Purposes Committee** held on
Wednesday 22nd July 2015 at 7.30pm
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT: Cllr G Jackson (Chairman)

Cllr A Snookes (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr J Charlesworth
Cllr P McCallum
Cllr D Suiter

Cllr B Allan
Cllr K Fernandes
Cllr M Suffield
Cllr G Titmus

Also Present: Cllr S Clegg, Cllr H Lorimer, Cllr J Mathieson and Cllr J Brealey Cook
Council Officers – Assistant Clerk and Project Lead.
Press (1) and Members of Public (0).

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

001 **GP.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE .**

002 Apologies, with reasons were received from Cllr S Fields. This was accepted
and the attendance register was completed.

003 **GP.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** “To receive declarations of
pecuniary interests in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and to receive
declarations of personal interests”. There were none received.

004 **GP.3 MINUTES.**

005 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Notes from the meeting held on 3rd June 2015,
be accepted as Minutes of that meeting. Vote – Unanimous. The Resolution
was carried. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

006 **GP.4 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT.**

007 There was no Chairman’s report.

008 **GP.5 CLERK’S REPORT**

009 5.1 STC Press Policy document (Draft) for consideration and
recommendation to Full Council for approval.

010 **IT WAS RESOLVED** to accept the Press Policy Document, with two minor
amendments, and refer to Full Council for final approval. Vote – Unanimous.
The Resolution was carried.

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Date:

011 5.2 To receive notes from a Media Policy Working Group Meeting held on 9th July 2015.

012 **IT WAS RESOLVED** to rename the “Media Policy” to “PRESS Policy Statement.” Vote – Unanimous. The Resolution was carried.

013 Concerns were raised over bogus STC Social Media sites. It was confirmed that these concerns have been reported.

014 It was agreed that the Working Group would investigate these concerns.

015 **IT WAS RESOLVED** to invite Cllr M Suffield, C Baxter and E Evans to join the Working Group to develop a Town Council Facebook page, Twitter Account and any other social media opportunities that can be used positively to promote the work of Sleaford Town Council. Vote – Unanimous. The Resolution was carried.

016 There was a request to investigate the cost for using mod.gov and back office.

017 **IT WAS RESOLVED** to research further, using electronic communication with the Council in interests of professionalism, confidentiality, cost savings – e.g. briefing councillors more efficiently will avoid negative statements and misrepresentation if councillors speak on social media. Security will be improved as documents are “read only” and password controlled. Vote – Unanimous. The Resolution was carried.

018 5.3 To Resolve to set up a Working Group to establish an STC Social Media presence and other publicity.

019 It was agreed that this item (5.3) was a duplicate of agenda item 5.4.

020 5.4 Action Log - This log was noted.

021 **GP.6 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT**

022 6.1 Financial Report – This report was noted.

023 6.2 Financial management report 01/04/14 to 31/03/15. The Project Lead reported on income and expenditure.

024 It was asked when the next publication of the “Sleaford Town Guide and Map will be.

025 **GP.7 NK COMMUNITY AWARDS**

026 Details for the NK Community Awards had been previously circulated. This was noted.

027 **GP.8 TOWN CRIER**

028 **IT WAS RESOLVED** to nominate the position of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as the member to maintain contact with the Town Crier in an informal manner,

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Date:

show an interest in his work (for and away from Council functions and report back to (in the first instance) the office.

Vote – Unanimous. The Resolution was carried.

029 It was agreed to withdraw recommendation number 2 of the written report.

030 **GP.9 TWINNING MATTERS**

031 Cllr D Suiter declared an interest in this item.

032 9.1 Twinning gifts – Purchasing of suitable gifts to give to the French and German Twinning guests in September 2015, was discussed. Suggestion of gifts included: a 'Turner' print of St. Deny's Church, STC Flag, a framed street map showing the Town's landmarks and a photo album showing pictures of 'old' and 'new' Sleaford.

033 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that Councillors David Suiter and Jan Mathieson investigate a suitable gift. Vote – Unanimous. The Resolution was carried.

034 9.2 Twinning Social event – The Project Lead explained the current budget line.

035 **IT WAS RESOLVED** to support the Sleaford and District Twinning Association with an evening social event on 26th September, for visiting French and German Guests, as per last year - the Twinning Association and Sleaford Town Council to jointly be hosts and share the costs.
Vote – 8 for and 1 abstention. The Resolution was carried.

036 **GP.10 RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION**

037 **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 - 6 for and 3 against. The Resolution was carried.

038 **GP.11 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

039 **IT WAS RESOLVED** to form a Working Group comprising of Councillors J Charlesworth, A Snookes, G Jackson and J BrealeyCook, to:

- 1) examine the proposals with a view to selecting a company for Council acceptance, as soon as possible and;
- 2) carry out such other tasks required to ensure all related requirements are complied with.

The Working Group to fix up a meeting, as soon as possible and to instruct the Project Lead.

040 **GP.12 REMIT OF GENERAL PURPOSES**

041 The remit of the General Purposes Committee was discussed.

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Date:

MW/sms
28.07.15

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 7:30p.m.

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Date: