

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

Minutes of the meeting of the **General Purposes Committee** held on
Wednesday April 30th 2014 at 8:10pm
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT: Cllr G Jackson (Chairman)

Cllr D Vere-Critchler (Vice Chairman)
Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford
Cllr K Fernandes
Cllr K Dolby

Cllr T. Mayfield
Cllr M Suffield
Cllr D Suiter

Also Present: Mrs M Waddingham (Assistant Clerk), Mrs S Goodland (Office Manager),
Cllr M Graves, Cllr J Mathieson, Cllr M Allan and 3 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, which opened at 8:10pm.

GP.1 APOLOGIES. Apologies, with reasons, were given to the Assistant Clerk from Councillor D Birks. This was accepted.

GP.2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST. There were none.

GP.3 MINUTES.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Notes from 5th March, 2014, be accepted as Minutes of that meeting.

Vote – 8 for. Unanimous, the Resolution was passed.

The Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

GP.4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

4.1 Electronic Communication – A discussion took place about the Town Council's website and emails. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that the website was up to date with information and Minutes. It was requested that if any Councillor notices anything missing on the website, that they contact the office so that it can be rectified.

4.2 Community Building – Discussions took place about the possibility of the Town Council becoming involved in community buildings in the town or encouraging developers to build one and use community grants for this purpose. Councillor K Dolby informed the Committee that this will be one of the duties of the new 'Project Lead'. He will be looking at the feasibility of a Town Council run building in the Town Centre and costings of such a project. Cllr G Jackson stated that he will bring a proposal to the next GP meeting, regarding possible involvement in helping bring about such community buildings in each ward where there is currently no provision, such as at Holdingham.

GP.5 CLERK'S REPORT.

GP5.1 Action Log – Noted.

GP5.2 Christmas Lights in Trees – The Assistant Clerk informed the Committee that an enquiry had been made into the Christmas lights in the trees and it was confirmed that these lights stay up all year round.

The Assistant Clerk informed the Committee that there is to be a Dog Show on the Queen Elizabeth II Field, Boston Road Recreation Ground, on 1 June 2014. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that all insurances, risk assessments, licences and documents are in place by the organisers and that they are providing the office with full copies. It was requested that this be put on the extra Full Council agenda.

GP.6 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT.

GP6.1 Regular Committee Report – circulated.

Cllr M Graves explained the new 2014/15 column that is now on the report and also explained the virement to F&S, then to FC for approval. Cllr Graves also explained that the line for Honorary Freedom is currently £0. This will be discussed in GP and arrangements will be made to vire £1,250 towards the costs of this event.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the report be accepted.

Vote – 8 for. Unanimous, the Resolution was passed.

GP6.2 SLCC Membership Renewal 2014, Assistant Clerk – The Assistant Clerk left the room at 8.33pm but was then called back by the Chairman to answer a question. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that the Town Council has paid for the membership in previous years.

The Assistant Clerk left the room again at 8.34pm.

Cllr D Vere-Critchler declared a personal interest and informed the Committee that he would not be taking part in any discussions or voting regarding this matter.

Discussions took place about the SLCC membership and what it entails, part of which is support and assistance in the event of grievance and disciplinary issues.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the SLCC membership for the Assistant Clerk is not paid by the Town Council, this is in fairness to all staff, who may be members of trade unions.

Vote – 5 for, 3 abstentions. The Resolution was passed.

GP.7 UPDATES/PROGRESS REPORTS

GP7.1 Website – the analytic data was noted.

GP7.2 St George's Day Market – Cllr D Suiter gave a verbal update on the outcome of the Market. Cllr Suiter reported that the Market had been very successful, despite it being Easter Saturday with lots of people away and out of town. Positive comments have been received from traders and from members of the public who attended. One or possibly more of the traders expressed interest about coming to the Market again on a more regular basis. The live music was very well received and although the Morris Dancers were unable to perform in the end due to injuries, they will be booked in June in order for them to be given plenty of advance notice. Thanks were given to the Office Manager and Administration Assistant for all their help and also the Solo Club for providing electric, plus Vi Hill at Sleaford LIVE and Stephen Scarfe for the live music. It was requested that letters be sent to the organisations who assisted and the letters be signed by the Deputy Mayor.

GP7.3 Armed Forces Day – a written report by Cllr G Titmus had been circulated.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT £1,250 be allocated to the Honorary Freedom budget line. This matter to be put onto the next F&S agenda and then to Full Council.

Vote – 8 for. Unanimous, the Resolution was passed.

GP7.4 STC Newsletter – Cllr D Vere-Critchler informed the Committee that no progress has been made with the Newsletter, due to the absence of the Clerk. It was suggested that perhaps the Assistant Clerk or another Officer could take on this work. Cllr K Dolby stated that the staff are working very hard with their extra workloads and that they are working very well. Cllr Dolby said that he doesn't think it is fair to add anymore work onto the staff at this point, so the Newsletter should be put on hold.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Newsletter is put on hold for now.
Vote – 7 for, 1 abstention. The Resolution was passed.

GP.9 CHRISTMAS MARKET

It was noted that the Christmas Market Sub-Committee will be holding a de-brief meeting on 14 May.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the 2013 Christmas Market Sub-Committee be disbanded by 28 May 2014 and a new Christmas Market Committee be formed. Vote – 7 for, 1 abstention. The Resolution was passed.

GP.10 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The General Purposes Terms of Reference document had been circulated.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the General Purposes Terms of Reference be accepted. Vote – 6 for, 2 abstentions. The Resolution was passed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.07p.m

Mrs S Goodland
Office Manager

April 30th 2014

3

Signed