

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

Minutes of the meeting of the **General Purposes Committee** held on  
Wednesday January 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 at 7:30pm  
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

**PRESENT: Councillor D Suiter (Chairman)**

Cllr G Jackson (Vice Chairman)	Cllr D Andrews	Cllr D Birks
Cllr J Charlesworth	Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford	Cllr K Fernandes
Cllr T Mayfield	Cllr B Watson (Leader)	Cllr G Titmus

**Also Present:** Cllrs K Dolby, D Vere-Critchler, M Allan, M Graves.  
Mrs S McIntyre (Clerk), Mrs M Waddingham (Assistant Clerk), Mrs L  
Savage, (R.F.O.), one member of the press and one member of the public.

The Chairman welcomed all present.

**GP.1 APOLOGIES.** Cllr J Mathieson, her apology, with reason, was accepted.

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

**GP.3 MINUTES.** The Clerk's Notes from the meeting held on November 7<sup>th</sup> 2012, had been circulated. Cllr K Fernandes questioned 2 items from last meeting which were not on this agenda. Councillors asked if this was amending the Notes, as some were not clear. After discussion, it was eventually agreed that no amendments were needed to the Notes and Cllr's comments should be referred to Item 13 on this agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr J Charlesworth, and seconded by Cllr D Andrews that these be accepted as Minutes of the meeting.

Vote – 9 for, 1 abstention. The Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

**GP.4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.** There was no report.

**GP.5 CLERK'S REPORT.** There was no report.

**GP.6 ITEM REMOVED.**

**GP.7 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT.**

- Regular Committee Report. It was proposed by Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford and seconded by Cllr G Titmus that the report be accepted.

Vote 7 for, 3 abstentions. The Resolution was passed.

- **Sleaford Awards** – The Clerk said that some sponsors had not come forward this year and there was a fear that the event might not go ahead. It may be that an emergency meeting of the group must be called. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr K Fernandes that this be noted.  
Vote 8 for, one no vote. The resolution was passed.
- **Christmas hospitality for staff** – Report from staff Christmas Breakfast. Cllr T Mayfield said he felt this new event rounded off the year and had been an enjoyable occasion.
- **Hearing Facilities** – Report from Cllr D Vere-Critchier. Some costs had been circulated. He explained the details. Any system would need transporting, setting up and dismantling. He felt the ones quoted were too expensive and he offered to continue to make enquiries. A discussion took place about officer time in managing and transporting the equipment. Future meeting room premises may not need amplification. The Chairman said there are other adaptation for disability discrimination – for example training in voice projection. Cllr D Birks felt a voice tutor should be consulted.  
Cllr T Mayfield thanked Cllr D Vere-Critchier and said he should be asked to continue.  
Cllr B Watson said some new grant funding stream may be available to assist.  
The Chairman proposed and Cllr D Birks said that LALC should be asked to provide suitable training for Councillors to improve their voice techniques.  
Vote 4 for, 5 against, 1 abstention. The Resolution failed.  
The Clerk explained that LALC advises and trains on legal and procedural matters and doubted whether this would be in their remit.

It was proposed by Cllr G Jackson and seconded by Cllr D Andrews that the committee should forget amplification until the council has a permanent home and then see if it required.

Cllr B Watson said meetings are meant to be accessible to all, and asked if the Committee was saying they are doing nothing to help people who can't hear.

There was a discussion about systems, process and the management of any equipment.

Vote 3 for, 3 against and 4 abstentions.

The Chairman cast his vote against the proposal; the resolution failed.

Members asked – if the vote is against 'doing nothing' then what should the Committee consider doing.

There was further discussion about Disability Lincs and other organisations. Members were reminded that Standing Orders requires members to stand to speak in Full Council meetings.

It was proposed by Cllr G Titmus and seconded by Cllr D Birks that the Committee asks Cllr D Vere-Critchier to continue his research, and look at other means of providing better facilities for improving hearing. Also other organisations should be asked for advice.

Vote 7 for, 3 abstentions. The Resolution was passed.

- **Deputy Mayor's Chains** – Cllr K Dolby passed around a sketch showing the actual size deputy Mayor's badge on a new backing plate, the same size as the other civic badges. A bar stating Deputy Mayor will go along the top. It was agreed this should go ahead as appropriate. He was thanked by the Leader for his work.
- **Mayoral Charities – Fundraising Car Boot Sales** – The Chairman had circulated the NKDC rules and booking form for holding car boot sales within the Town area. He said NKDC have agreed in principle that the TC may hold up to 14 car boot sales on the recreation ground.  
**There were questions about the operator** – is it an outside operator with a small fee paid to the TC, or does the TC organise the events?  
 The Chairman said it would be simple for the TC to organise; previously the car boots were popular.  
 Any costs to the Council relating to Officer and staff time would need to be considered. Cllr M Graves said that this would need to be detailed. He also remembered that previous such events were stopped by NKDC due to the traffic congestion.  
 The Chairman said the Committee needed to decide in this meeting.  
 Cllr M Allan said the TC should not be subsidising charity fundraising events. He asked for clarification of the reason for the events.

It was proposed by Cllr D Birks and seconded by Cllr T Mayfield that any decision should be deferred until proper research has taken place as to how the event should be run and what the cost implications are to the TC.

Vote 9 for. One no vote. The Resolution was passed.

- **Website** – Update on progress; verbal report from the Clerk. No Councillor has submitted any ideas or suggestions. Miss Volkes and Mr Moses worked on the project over Christmas and have met with Justin to discuss ideas. Some hard copy ideas and suggestions will be brought to a future meeting.  
 Cllr J Charlesworth said he felt the current web site had shown a gradual improvement, is informative and up to date. He said he was happy to support the continued progress.

8.21pm The Chairman left the meeting. The Vice Chairman took the Chair.

**GP.9 CHRISTMAS MARKET** – Chairman. Christmas Market Committee to take debrief. Proposed date Wednesday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm. Report for next General Purposes. Committee to also look at matters beyond Committee such as Christmas lights and other Christmas matters not directly connected with the committee. Other councillors to be asked to attend.

It was proposed by Cllr D Birks and seconded by Cllr G Titmus that this item be deferred until the Chairman returned to the meeting.  
 Vote 9 for. The resolution was passed.

8.24pm Cllr B Watson left the meeting.

**GP.10 OFFICE BUILDING – DECORATING.** Some preliminary guide prices obtained. The Clerk said two guide prices had been obtained. The amount remaining in the current year was £300 and the amount in next year's budget

was £2000. One quote for decorating and one quote for carpet tiles had been obtained and together these amounted to just under £3000. Further quotes will be obtained and a full set of quotes will be brought to a meeting when they have been obtained.

**GP.11**      **MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS BUFFET – SOLO CLUB.** To consider whether this was value for money. Cllr M Graves felt this should be in closed session. It was proposed by Cllr D Birks and seconded by Cllr D Andrews that this should be at the end of the meeting in closed session.  
Vote 8 for. The resolution was passed.

8.26pm the Clerk and Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford left the meeting. The Clerk returned one minute later.

**GP.12**      **WORKING PARTY DATES.** Chairman. This item deferred until the Chairman could attend.

**GP.13**      **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – any items for future agendas – no discussion in this meeting.**

1. Donations Policy – Cllr K Fernandes
2. Portable PA system – Cllr K Fernandes.
3. Fallen Servicemen's details on the War Memorial – Cllr G Titmus.

At 8.30pm the chairman suspended the meeting.

The meeting was re-opened at 8.32pm. Cllr B Watson returned.

The Chairman proposed and Cllr K Fernandes seconded that the meeting be closed and all outstanding matters be transferred to the next GP meeting.

Vote 7 for, one against. The Resolution was passed, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.