

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

Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance and Strategy Committee** held on  
Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 7:30pm  
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

**PRESENT: Cllr M Graves (Chairman)**

Cllr I Dolby (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr M Allan	Cllr D Andrews
Cllr B Watson (Leader	Cllr D Birks	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-Critchler	Cllr J Titmus	Cllr G Jackson

**Also present:** Mrs S McIntyre (Clerk), Mrs M Waddingham (PA to the Clerk), C/Cllr Hagues and a representative from the Sleaford Standard.

**F&S.1 APOLOGIES.** Apologies, with reasons had been given to the Clerk from Councillors D Croker and J Charlesworth. These were accepted.

**F&S.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

**Item 7** (from other Committees –Twinning) – Cllr D Suiter – personal – member of Twinning Committee.

**Items 8** (Recreational amenities working group) – Cllr D Suiter – personal – lives nearby.

**F&S.3 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT.** There was nothing to report.

**F&S.4 CLERK’S REPORT.**

- Regeneration Meeting – Tuesday 6 March, 5pm start.

**F&S.5 MINUTES.** Notes of the meeting held on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2011, had been circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr I Dolby and seconded by Cllr G Titmus, that the Notes from November 16<sup>th</sup> 2011, be accepted as Minutes of that meeting.

Vote – 16 for. The Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

**F&S.6 FINANCIAL REPORT.** Overview of whole council’s positions.

Cllr M Graves explained the report and said there will be a surplus and recommended that this goes to the next meeting and to discuss where it should be placed. This report was then noted.

**F&S.7 FROM OTHER COMMITTEES:** To ratify Committee resolutions:

- **General Purposes, January 11<sup>th</sup> 2012: Budget 2012/2013** – agree an amendment to the 2012/2013 Budget to include a new line for official representation at Twinning Events.

Cllr B Watson proposed £1500 be a separate budget heading. Should this £1500 not be required, it should be moved back to general reserves and not carried forward to the next year. The £1500 to come from the Capital Contingency line. Seconded by Cllr K Fernandes.

Vote – 16 for. The Resolution was passed.

**F&S.8 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS:**

- **Recreational amenities working group** - Cllr D Vere-Critchler explained the report. Play equipment reports were handed out and a 'thank you' to Dave Howorth, Acting Services Supervisor, for his hard work in preparing the reports, was given. The reports were noted. To go to the next group meeting.
- **Sleaford regeneration Group meeting** – This report was noted.
- **Olympic Torch relay** – Cllr G Titmus said there were some concerns over safety and this report was noted.
- **Meeting with Graylees developer, January 17<sup>th</sup>**. – After discussion, Cllr B Watson proposed to contact Mr N Feltham and make enquiries as to where the original planning permission changed. The three Councillors who attended the meeting to take up this matter. Seconded by Cllr I Dolby. Vote – 16 for. The Resolution was passed.
- **Christmas Town Meeting** – After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr D Suiter that the comments from the Christmas Town Meeting go to the appropriate committee meeting or Full Council. Seconded by Cllr I Dolby. Vote – 14 for and 2 abstentions. The Resolution was passed.

**F&S.9 AUDITORS' REPORTS:**

- **External Auditor.** To note the closure of the 2010/11 audit and the unqualified audit report. Cllr M Graves explained the report.
- **Internal Auditor.** To note the Internal auditor's report and the staff comments. This was noted.
- **Internal Auditor.** To invite applications for this role, to appoint Staff/Councillor(s) to examine any replies and to make an appointment for 2012/13.

It was proposed by Cllr M Graves that Councillors M Graves, I Dolby, B Watson and an Officer look at applications and appoint an Internal Auditor. Seconded by Cllr J Mathieson.

Vote – 16 for. The Resolution was passed.

**F&S.10 QUALITY STATUS** – Report attached – does the Council wish to start looking towards an application in 2013?

The Clerk explained that the Town Council can start working towards gaining getting Quality Status. It was proposed by Cllr D Suiter to work to towards this. Seconded by Cllr I Dolby.

Vote – 16 for. The Resolution was passed.

**F&S.11 INVITE MARY PORTAS TO COMMUNICATE/ASSOCIATE WITH STC**– Cllr D Birks – Discuss whether to invite Mary Portas to identify with STC's efforts for the promotion of realisable strategies for the revitalisation of the Town.

Cllr D Birks explained, quoting some relevant publications.

It was proposed by Cllr D Birks to form a Working Group. The first meeting to find out costs etc and report to the next Finance & Strategy. Volunteers on the Working Party are: Councillors D Vere-Critchler, D Andrews, J Titmus, K Fernandes, G Jackson, K Dolby and D Birks.

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

**F&S.12 TOILET PROVISION IN THE TOWN.**

It was proposed by Cllr D Suiter to plan ideas for toilets to be situated at Monument Gardens and the Market Place. Seconded by Cllr M Graves.

Vote – 16 for. The Resolution was passed.

**F&S.13 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS?**

Future agendas ideas are:

- Look at the future of Sleaford in a wider view and the future of the town as a whole.
- Services Agenda – Johnson Sweeper.
- Volunteers to improve the town.
- Play area for Holdingham.

The Chairman asked Councillors to support these items with written reports.

**F&S.14 RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION.**

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

Vote – 16 for. The Resolution was passed.

**F&S.15 REGENERATION ISSUES** – Report(s), if any, from any meetings relating to Tesco/recreation land/level crossing.

- Meeting held with NKDC/LCC members and officers January 20<sup>th</sup>.