

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

Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance and Strategy Committee** held on
Wednesday January 30th 2013 at 7:30pm
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT: Cllr M Graves (Chairman)

Cllr B Watson (Leader)	Cllr D Suiter	Cllr D Birks
Cllr T Mayfield	Cllr K Fernandes	Cllr G Titmus
Cllr J Titmus	Cllr D Vere-Critchier	Cllr J Mathieson
Cllr D Andrews	Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford	
Cllr M Allan	Cllr H Lorimer	

Also present: Mrs S McIntyre (Clerk), Mrs M Waddingham (Assistant Clerk),
Two members of the press and two members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed all present.

F&S.1 APOLOGIES. Apologies, with reasons had been given to the Clerk from Councillors K Dolby, J Charlesworth, I Dolby, G Jackson. These were accepted.

F&S.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. To receive Disclosable pecuniary interests in accordance with S.34 of the Localism Act 2011. There were none.

F&S.3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- **BID** – Chairman confirmed that 25% of the residual monies, the sum of £3902.62 to be allocated to STC (Christmas Market account.)
- **Town Plan** – working group to carry out preliminary work prior to funding being available 2013/14 financial year – report to future F and S meeting. WG of BW, MA, KF, GT AND GJ – date set for Friday Feb 8th at 10am, hopefully at 4 Mill House. **Action: To report to a future F&S Meeting.**
- **Additional F and S meeting.** There will be an additional F and S meeting on Wednesday February 20th 2013 at 7pm in the Source. This will be for the discussion of item 8 – the Resolution/action register. **Action: An extra F&S Meeting to be held on Wednesday 20th Feb.**

F&S.4 CLERK'S REPORT.

- **'Green Machine'** – Delivered this week. Training for the operatives early next week.
- **Questions to Developers** – Reminders sent, reply from the agent for the Drove received – will be circulated.
- **Training.** The Clerk reminded all Councillors about the programme issued by LALC. Councillors to make bookings through Mrs S Goodland.

F&S.5 MINUTES. Notes of the meeting held on November 21st 2012, had been circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critchler and seconded by Cllr M Allan that the Notes from November 21st 2012, be accepted as Minutes of that meeting.

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

F&S.6 VIREMENTS. None this meeting.

F&S.7 FINANCIAL REPORT

- Overview of whole council's position appropriate reports attached. There were some questions about the car park income. The Car Park WG is due to meet. **Action: Car Park working to meet.**
- **2013/14 Budget** – Report attached – tax base implications now received from NKDC – the Resolution of the Full; Council at December 5th stands. There was some discussion about the possibilities for the 2014/15 precept. The Clerk's recommendation was that Officers would be working with NKDC to try and ascertain what may happen well before the TC budget setting procedures.
After further discussion, the Chairman said the issue was for the Council to note that the precept payment per household has been frozen for 2013/14 and that Officers will continue to monitor the situation.
Action: Recommendation was that Officers would be working with NKDC to try and ascertain what may happen well before the TC budget setting procedures. Officers to continue to monitor the situation.

F&S.8 FROM LAST MEETING:

- Meeting with Committee Chairmen to discuss their budgets – held Tuesday 24th January - a report was circulated and the recommendations to go to the next Full Council meeting. Cllr M Allan asked a question about the phasing of the cemetery paths. 8.10pm Cllr DS left the meeting.
- It was proposed by Cllr M Allan and seconded by Cllr H Lorrimer that the recommendations about the potential use of the underspend goes to the FC meeting on February 13th, together with a supplementary report from Cllr G Titmus. Vote 13 for. The resolution was passed. **Action: Recommendations to go to FC Meeting 13 Feb.**
- Resolved items from F and S meetings – Action Log Chairman. The Chairman said this item was withdrawn and will be on the agenda on a meeting set for February 20th. **Action: extra FC Meeting to be held on Feb 20th.**
8.13pm Cllr DS returned.
- Eastgate car park – Deeds now obtained - Set up a meeting with Councillors as nominated last meeting, and staff as appropriate. Councillors DS, KF, GT, MA, MG plus an officer to meet at 11am Friday February 8th. **Action: WG Meeting to held Fen 8th.**
- Fields in Trust – update on progress, Cllr K Dolby. The Clerk said that the application is in its final stages and will be signed and submitted next week.

F&S.9 EASTGATE GARAGES – Only for discussion if there is any new information. Cllr G Titmus summarised the situation regarding the covenant – which was still awaiting clarification. This was noted.

F&S.10 MONEY'S YARD TOILETS – Reply received re Money's Yard toilets – circulated. Reply to be sent to NKDC. Cllr B Watson said that a 12 month renewal was disappointing. Cllr M Allan said this was difficult for planning improvements and for budgeting. It was the general view that the TC needs a longer term commitment from NKDC.
It was proposed by Cllr M Allan and seconded by Cllr D Birks that the matter be raised in the Leaders' Meeting next week and that the Clerk replies stating that the TC requests a longer term agreement as outlined in the original letter in order to better manage the TC budgets. Vote 14 for. The Resolution was passed. **Action: The matter be raised in the Leaders' Meeting and that the Clerk to reply.**

F&S.11 SLEAFORD REGENERATION GROUP MEETING – This set for Feb 25th (Cllr M Graves and the Clerk attend as TC representatives) – part of the discussion – the Central Lincs Core Strategy – Local Plan Policies. The Committee to consider what direction as to the input into this meeting from STC.
Cllr M Allan referred to the traffic modelling and the Clerk said that LCC and NKDC officers were looking at the latest traffic model on February 15th – no one from STC is invited. The Clerk was asked to write to LCC asking to attend that meeting or for LCC to arrange a meeting with STC representatives. **Action: The Clerk to write to LCC asking to attend that meeting or for LCC to arrange a meeting with STC representatives.**

A document outlining some of the details about the core strategy was circulated. The Chairman asked for any comments to be brought in for the February 20th meeting, although it would not be an agenda item. He said it was important that the TC took part in the consultation. There is a public Drop in Session on Thursday February 21st in the Source from 10am to 6pm. **Action: Comments to be brought in for the Feb 20th Meeting (will not be an agenda item.)**

F&S.12 'BEST VALUE' PERFORMANCE REVIEW.

- Neighbouring Towns contacted and some agreed to be help with the exercise. Some Towns have yet to reply – she will feed the results into the WG meeting.
- Questionnaire will be submitted to the reset WG for discussion / agreement before it goes to F&S for ratification. Cllr MA. WG meeting of BW, MA, DVC, MG called for 10am Friday February 15th, at No 4 Mill House if available.
Action: WG to meet Feb 15th to look at Questionnaire.

F&S.13 MUSEUM PROJECT – Verbal update from Cllr G Titmus. The grant application was submitted on time. STC provided a letter of support. A list of costings and work to be done before any hand-over has been completed. He said if all went well, there could be a Museum open in the summer. The Clerk and a retired solicitor have compiled a draft lease, which may need some minor adjustments. An SMT project group meeting has been arranged for Monday Feb 4th, around 10 or 10.30am.

F&S.14 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, if any. There were none.

F&S.15 RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION. It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critcher, 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 T Mayfield.

Vote – 14 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.16 OFFICE PREMISES – To note no further progress to the date of this agenda. Noted.

8.40pm Cllr JM left the meeting, she returned 8.41pm. Cllr BW left 8.40pm and returned 8.43pm.

F&S.17 CEMETERY BURIALS. A confidential report from Cllr G Titmus, had been circulated. Cllr G Titmus read a further report in the meeting. It was agreed that the only way forward may be for a drainage survey.

It resolved that a drainage survey be arranged – up to £2000. Over that and it has to come back to the Council. **Action: Drainage survey to be arranged.**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:50pm.