

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

Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance and Strategy Committee** held on
Wednesday July 10th, 2013 at 7:30pm
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT: Cllr M Graves (Chairman)

Cllr J Mathieson

Cllr B Watson

Cllr G Jackson

Cllr K Fernandes

Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford

Cllr D Vere-Critchler

Cllr H Lorimer

Cllr D Suiter

Cllr M Allan

Cllr D Birks

Cllr G Titmus

Also present: Mrs S McIntyre (Clerk), Mrs M Waddingham (Assistant Clerk), Mrs L Savage (RFO), 1 member of the press and one member 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 and J Titmus. These were accepted. Cllr I Dolby was not present and no apology had been received.

It was proposed by Cllr M Allan and seconded by Cllr D Vere-Critchler that Cllr I Dolby's non-attendance with no reason be minuted.

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 MINUTES. The Clerk's Notes from the meeting held on May 15th, 2013 have been circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critchler and seconded by Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford, that the Notes from the meeting held on May 15th, 2013, be accepted as Minutes of this meeting.

Vote – 12 for. The Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

F&S.4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. There was no report.

F&S.5 CLERK'S REPORT.

- **Action Log** – Enclosed. This was noted.
- **Core Strategy** – presentation by members of Core Strategy June 19th. The report was noted.

- F&S.6 FINANCIAL REPORT** . The Chairman briefly introduced the financial report.
- Overview of whole council's position appropriate reports attached. This was noted.
 - Budget overview – The RFO presented a report on the night. This was noted.
 - Virement of £1500 from General reserves to 'Twinning Hospitality' line – amount approved in January 2013. It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critchler and seconded by Cllr B Watson that this Committee recommends to Full Council approval for this virement to take place.
Vote 12 for. The Resolution was passed.
 - Cheque book for earmarked reserves – Report from RFO. The Chairman explained the current system for transferring funds between budget lines. This can be subject to human error and double counting of Income and Expenditure. A cheque book had been recommended by the Internal Auditor. It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critchler and seconded by Cllr D Birks that the committee recommends the use of a cheque book for the reserves account for Full Council approval.
Vote 12 for. The Resolution was passed.
 - Internal Auditor: - recommend to FC the appointment of Internal Auditor – Statement of Assurance signed and brought to the meeting.
It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critchler and seconded by Cllr K Fernandes that this committee recommends the re-appointment of the Internal Auditor for Full Council approval. The Statement of Assurance to be brought to that meeting.
Vote 11 for. 1 abstention. The Resolution was passed.

- F&S.7 TERMS OF REFERENCE** – enclosed – for approval and recommended adoption to FC. The Clerk confirmed that following some LALC advice, the Quorum had been changed slightly to be 3 councillors or one third of the committee membership.
It was proposed by Cllr M Allan and seconded by Cllr H Lorimer that the Terms of reference be accepted.
Vote - 12 for. The Resolution was passed.

- F&S.8 FROM LAST MEETING:**
- **Town Plan** – meeting June 7th – meeting cancelled. There was a discussion about expert advice and the cost implications. It was proposed by Cllr J Mathieson and seconded by Cllr G Titmus that the Chairman of the Applications Committee, Cllr J Matheison and Cllr Mr Allan to meet and compile a report. Cllr J Mathieson to produce a short report.
Vote – 12 for. The Resolution was passed.
Cllr M Allan said he was resigning as Chairman and member of the Working Group as he had made his recommendation. The Working Group did not accept his resignation.
 - **Allotment toilets** – grant to Eco2 applied for. Cllr G Titmus explained that this grant has been refused but can be re-applied for. This was noted.

- F&S.9 CAR PARK WORKING GROUP**
- To receive an interim report from the Car Park working Group. Cllr M Allan. Cllr M Allan explained some detail and said the Residents Parking Scheme may have some effect on this. Land issue needs clarifying.

- To agree any recommendations as appropriate. There are no recommendations to consider and present.

F&S.10 BEST VALUE WORKING GROUP

- To receive a report of the meeting held 31st May 2013. This was noted.
- To note that a Braunstone Town Council officer has agreed to visit STC. Date to be confirmed. Suggested dates for visit are 9th or 16th August – Cllr M Allan to confirm.
- To approve questionnaire to be sent to neighbouring Councils. Cllr D Vere-Critchler to send questionnaire to the Clerk & RFO.

F&S.11 TRAFFIC MODEL – report from meeting held at NKDC on July 1st.

- To receive Councillors comments and agree a response to the traffic model presentation.

The Chairman said he would like this Committee to formulate a reply to NKDC.

MA: Helpful, but not good results. Not really regeneration route as doesn't regenerate; will not save congestion. Only really allows traffic to get to Tesco. Must test its robustness. New proposed housing not tested against it.

JM: Model must be made public.

GJ: Has proposed eastern by pass been taken into account – will be more traffic on A15 and Holdingham Roundabout.

General: Not against genuine and meaningful regeneration. Expert advice should be obtained to look at this especially if CPO goes ahead.

It was proposed by Cllr M Graves and seconded by Cllr D Vere-Critchler that Councillors K Fernandes, D Vere-Critchler, M Graves, Heather Lorimer and the Chairman of Planning, Cllr J Mathieson to formulate an initial response to NKDC.

Vote – 12 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.12 MONUMENT GARDENS MUSEUM/TOILET BLOCK. Progress of project – quotes, planning application etc.

Cllr G Titmus said the basic planning application has been provided by the local Architect and the quote for the toilets has come in under budget. SMT still to do the seconded application to Heritage Lottery. This was noted.

F&S.13 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, if any.

Cllr M Allan – Allocation of funds to support expert advice.

Cllr B Watson – Parking at Drove Lane – double yellow lines – Cllr B Watson to produce a report for the next F&S Meeting.

Cllr G Titmus – Boston Road Lay-by.

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

It was proposed by Cllr K Fernandes, and seconded by Cllr D Suiter, 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 – 12 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.15 OFFICE PREMISES – Update on progress and future implications.

The Clerk explained the borrowing approval process. Borrowing approval granted, now loan application has been submitted. Nothing further had been heard.

The Chairman asked if Councillors wished for a full formal survey of the buildings and if so, there will be a cost.

It was resolved that a structural survey be commissioned – subject to our solicitor's initial approval of contract and up to a maximum of £3,000.

It was resolved that a vote of thanks goes to the Clerk for her hard work in this process.

F&S.16 PLANNING APPLICATION - Road link Boston Rd/Mareham Lane- discussed in the previous Applications meeting – this item may be referred from that meeting. This matter had been discussed in the Applications meeting and no business had been referred to this meeting. Expert advice may be sort.

F&S.17 EASTGATE CAR PARK – Boundary issues. To agree any instructions to the Clerk as necessary .

Working Group to meet with Clerk before July 29th, to look at boundaries of the car park.

It was resolved to suspend Standing Orders for ten minutes and continue the meeting.

F&S.18 DEBTOR. Report from R.F.O. about money owed to TC (attached.)

The RFO explained that a final payment reminder has recently been sent out by recorded delivery.

This item to come back to Committee, after waiting to see if there is a response.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.