

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

Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance and Strategy Committee** held on
Wednesday March 14th 2012 at 7:30pm
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT: Cllr M Graves (Chairman)

Cllr I Dolby (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr D Andrews	Cllr D Birks
Cllr B Watson (Leader)	Cllr J Charlesworth	Cllr D Croker
Cllr K Dolby	Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford	Cllr K Fernandes
Cllr G Jackson	Cllr J Mathieson	Cllr T Mayfield
Cllr D Suiter	Cllr G Titmus	Cllr J Titmus
Cllr D Vere-Critchler		

Also present: Mrs S McIntyre (Clerk), Mrs M Waddingham (Assistant Clerk),
D/Cllr Haysum 1 member from the Press

F&S.1 APOLOGIES. There were no apologies.

F&S.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were none.

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

F&S.4 CLERK'S REPORT. There was nothing to report.

F&S.5 MINUTES. Notes of the meeting held on January 25th 2012, had been circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr I Dolby and seconded by Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford, that the Notes from January 25th 2012, be accepted as Minutes of that meeting.

Vote – 16 for and 1 abstention. The Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

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

The Chairman explained pages 1-17 of the financial report and then gave a financial summary and the proposed use of the surplus.

It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critchler to accept the reports. Seconded by Cllr K Dolby.

Vote – 17 for. The Resolution was passed.

Members congratulated all the Council, Finance & Strategy Committee and the Clerk and staff, for their hard work over the past 2 years.

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

- **General Purposes, January 11th 2012: Budget 2012/2013** – agree an amendment to the 2012/2013 Budget to include a new line for official representation at Twinning Events. It was proposed by Cllr K Fernandes that the General Purposes Committee agrees to amend the 2012/13 budget – an additional line be created for Official Twinning Visits, of £1500 – this to be taken from the Capital contingency line. Seconded by Cllr B Watson.

It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critchler to accept the above. Seconded by Cllr B Watson.

Vote – 17 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.8 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS

- **Masterplan meeting, February 27th** – This was noted.
- **BID Open meeting March 1st** – Chairman reported that this was not a well attended meeting. Request for data on usage of Eastgate Car Park.
- **LALC seminar** – Supporting Local Communities – Cllr G Titmus explained his report and was congratulated on it. There was discussion about the value of a Neighbourhood Plan and its legality. It was asked how a Neighbourhood Plan is fitted in with a Local Development Plan and how it was different from current attempts to identify with the Mary Portas reports. Cllr G Titmus clarified some points discussed.
This to go to the next Finance & Strategy Meeting and liase with NKDC and make further enquiries as to the detail of the procedures.

F&S.9 INTERNAL AUDITORS: To note the current Internal Auditor remains until after the end of the current financial year. A new appointment to commence June 1st – the same panel to re-visit applications as appropriate.

The Chairman explained the details, after which this was noted.

F&S.10 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME AND ACCOMPANYING GUIDE.

It was proposed by Cllr D Suiter to adopt the Model Publications Scheme and Accompanying Guide. Seconded by Cllr D Vere-Critchler.

Vote – 17 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.11 SLEAFORD MUSEUM TRUST/MONUMENT GARDENS – Update Cllr G Titmus.

The Chairman explained that a commitment should be made.

Cllr J Titmus left the room at 8:02pm.

Cllr G Titmus explained the report.

Cllr J Titmus returned at 8:03pm.

It was proposed by Cllr B Watson and seconded by Cllr D Suiter that at this stage of the project to agree in principal:-

- a) To lease the Monument Toilet Block to the Sleaford Museum Trust, on mutually agreeable terms and conditions to be decided, for the purpose of establishing a Sleaford Town Museum.
- b) To consider making financial provision for a public toilet in the building to be accessed independently of the Museum. The toilets to be maintained and serviced by the STC.
- c) To agree that a joint (STC/SMT) press release should be authorised by the Leader and Town Clerk.

Vote – 17 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.12 TOILET PROVISION IN THE TOWN. Any progress in obtaining price(s), location(s) of providing public toilet provision?

The Chairman said there was no more information at this stage.

F&S.13 SUPPORT FOR 'PORTAS PILOT'? At the last Sleaford Regeneration Group meeting it was agreed that Sleaford would submit a bid to be a 'Portas pilot'. NKDC is drafting the bid and asks if they could get a letter of support from STC. The bid deadline is 30th March.

Cllr D Suiter was concerned about what instructions may be given by NKDC.

Cllr D Birks spoke about the Portas ideas. There was further discussion about the Portas Pilot.

It was proposed by Cllr M Graves the subgroup to examine the report and decide, with the Leader, whether to support the bid. Seconded by Cllr J Charlesworth.

Vote – 17 for. The Resolution was passed.

Cllr G Jackson proposed STC to lead the bid and to write to NKDC for support. Seconded by Cllr K Fernandes.

Vote – 3 for; 11 against and 3 abstentions. The proposal was not carried.

F&S.14 ITEMS FROM 'FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS' LAST MEETING: Volunteers to Improve the Town.

Cllr D Suiter explained his report.

It was proposed by Cllr D Suiter to accept the policy subject to approval by Mr C Moses, the Volunteer Bureau, and also seek Town Council Officers' comments. Seconded by Cllr I Dolby.

Vote – 16 for and 1 against.

F&S.15 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

Cllr B Watson said new buildings for the Town Council and Cllr K Fernandes said new Recreational Ground for the North of Sleaford. Written reports to be received for these.

F&S.16 RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION.

It was proposed by Cllr T Mayfield, 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 D Vere-Critchler.

Vote – 17 for. The Resolution was passed.

F&S.17 REGENERATION ISSUES– Report(s), if any, from any meetings relating to Tesco/recreation land/level crossing.

- Meeting held with NKDC/LCC members and officers March 6th.

A report and letter were circulated.

It was resolved that the Clerk, the Chairman and the Leader to formulate a reply to NKDC.

It was resolved to seek a specialist Solicitor in CPO'S.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:15pm.