

**SLEAFORD TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Meeting held on
Wednesday 13th May at 7:00pm at
The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT: Cllr K. Dolby, Chairman of the Council; Cllr G Titmus, Deputy Chairman.
Officers: Clerk and Project Lead. Members of Staff (2)

The meeting was attended by were approximately 30 members of the public including Town, County and District Councillors, representatives from local organisations: Sleaford Navigation Trust; Sleaford U3A; Sleaford & District CAB; Carre's Grammar School, Community Sport; Sleaford & District Talking Newspaper; Sleaford In Bloom; Dodger Explorer Scout Unit; Adults supporting Adults; Skate Park Users.

ATM.1 APOLOGIES. No apologies for absence were received.

ATM.2 MINUTES. The Clerk's Notes from the meeting of 2nd April 2014 had been circulated. **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** these Notes be accepted as Minutes of the meeting. The majority of those in attendance agreed. The Resolution was carried, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

ATM.3 Cllr K. Dolby welcomed fellow Councillors, including newly elected Members and members of the public.

ATM.4 MAYOR'S REPORT.

The Chairman read his report:

"It has been a privilege and a pleasure for Joan and myself to serve as Mayor and Mayoress of Sleaford for the past year.

I do not intend to bore you with the details of all of the invitations we have fulfilled in that time but would like to say that we have had a real insight into the amount of work that is put in by many organisations for the benefit of the young people and the disadvantaged of the Sleaford area. Much of the work is done by volunteers and we have admired their dedication and enthusiasm.

I would like to make you aware of what the Town Council has achieved, not just in the past year but since being voted into office in 2011.

It has not been an easy 4 years, the financial situation in 2011 was not good but with prudent management by the Finance Committee led by Cllr Mark Graves we have been able to undertake many improvements and renovations to many of the facilities within the town despite not having raised the precept in that time. Among the many projects that the Services Committee led by Cllr Garry Titmus have undertaken, I will name just some.

The Cemetery footpaths. The toilets and museum at Monument Gardens. The composting toilets on the Drove and Millfield Terrace allotments. The demolition of the redundant and dangerous garages on the Eastgate Car Park which allowed extra car parking spaces. The renovation of the two Town War Memorials. The next project in line is the new Skate Park for the Recreation Ground. There are many more projects in the pipeline but I will leave those until the new council is in place.

There have been staffing problems that have, for the most part, been resolved but by far the most important and time consuming problem over the last few years has been the pressure by NKDC on the Town Council to sell a large piece of the Boston Road Recreation Ground for a road to serve Tesco and the Maltings site. This would have meant that the Southgate level crossing would close and could have meant that the rest of the Recreation Ground might have been lost to the Town.

The purpose of this meeting is not just for the Council to tell you what has been done, but also for you, the public, to tell the Council what you would like us to do. So please let us know of any ideas that you may have for the improvements of the Town and its facilities. Sleaford is your Town and the Town Council need your input to make it a better place for everyone.

Finally, I would like to thank Sleaford Town Council staff for their help and support over what has not been an easy year and my fellow Councillors for their support, particularly during my recent illness and not least my thanks to my wife Joan who has had the unenviable task of trying to make me rest over the last few weeks.”

ATM.5 FINANCIAL REPORT.

The Project Lead summarised the RFO's Financial Report:-

The Council's Internal Auditor's Year End report noted:

- **Financial Regulations** – The Councils Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and other policies have been fully considered, discussed and approved and are on a rolling programme review.
- **Risk Assessment** – This document is comprehensive and has been approved by council. All identified risks have been addressed.
- **Assets** – The Councils Asset Register is reviewed and is the process of being overhauled and updated.
- **Salaries** – Salaries are paid promptly and within accordance with the Council's procedures and are properly documented. "Real Time" submissions are made to the Inland Revenue, Pensions and other Fees are also paid promptly and are all properly documented.
- **Insurance** – The Council has recently reviewed its Insurance, which is Council Specific and is fit for purpose.
- **Precept** – Financial Reports are reported to Council and are noted in the minutes. The Precept was agreed following a good robust process.
- **VAT** – Expected income was received, paid directly into the bank and the VAT on payments has been reclaimed.
- **Accounts and Reconciliations** – The correct accounting basis has been used and the appropriate records are kept throughout the year and are easily to follow which gives a good audit trail.
- **General Reserves** – The Council's has General Reserve which meets with the audit requirements and are properly recorded.
- **Earmarked Reserves** – The Earmarked accounts are in a healthy position and properly managed and safeguarded by allocation to specific projects.

During the year the Council has:

May 13th 2015

ATM.2

Signed

- Continuation of investigation into finding alternative Office Premises is still ongoing. Public Consultation will be sought when the time arises.
- The Monument Corner Toilet has undergone a renovation to create a Museum and accessible toilet amenity.
- The Council continues its operation of the Moneys Yard Toilets, previously maintained by NKDC and looks forward to the continuation of this lease on an extended basis.
- The restoration of the Cemetery Paths has taken place.
- Demolition of the disused garages on Eastgate Car Park has taken place and extra parking spaces are now in use.
- The 5 year open spaces plan has been reviewed and during the forthcoming year some major items of expenditure will be required due to the life span of equipment.
- Allotment Composting Toilets have been sited, and grant funding has been secured.
- The Council has maintained the Precept with no increase for the 5th consecutive year.

ATM.6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- Suggestion that STC move into NKDC Offices or .
- Move into LCC building at the Eastgate Centre.
- Suggestion that “tractor shed” on Eastgate Car Park be converted to Offices.
- Is any STC any nearer to a Community Building.
- Suggested sites for car parking
- Future refurbishment of Money’s Yard Toilets.
- Query as to who owns the Market Charter
- Requests for Bus Shelter covers.
- Requests for more litter bins around the town.
- Request for public toilets – Market Place.
- Improvement of the market – suggestions received.
- What is the current position of the Skate Park

A Member of the Public thanked STC for keeping their stance regarding the the CPO.

The Project Lead welcomed all questions on the current position of the Skate Park and advised that there would be further opportunity to discuss this in the informal part of the meeting.

The Chairman invited all to remain for the Informal part of the meeting when refreshment would be served - and closed the meeting at 7.45p.m.

Clerk,
Sleaford Town Council
8th June, 2014