

**SLEAFORD TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Full Council** held on
Wednesday November 30th 2011 at 7:45pm
in The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT: Councillor J Charlesworth (Mayor)

Cllr T Mayfield (Deputy Mayor)	Cllr D Birks	Cllr I Dolby
Cllr B Watson (Leader)	Cllr K Dolby	Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford
Cllr K Fernandes	Cllr M Graves	Cllr J Mathieson
Cllr D Suiter	Cllr G Titmus	Cllr J Titmus
Cllr D Andrews	Cllr D Vere-Critchler	

Also Present: Mrs S McIntyre (Clerk), Mr S Fletcher (Deputy Clerk), Mrs M Waddingham (PA to the Clerk), a representative from the Standard and 1 member of the public.

Prior to the meeting a member of the public had addressed the Council.

FC.1 APOLOGIES. Apologies, with reasons, had been given to the Clerk by Councillor D Croker. This was accepted.

FC.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Item 6 (Twinning) - Cllr D Suiter – personal- Member of the Twinning Committee.

Item 6 (Twinning) – Cllr J Mathieson – prejudicial – secretary of the Twinning Committee.

FC.3 CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR. To receive the new Councillor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Councillor to take their seat.

- **Committee representation.** Resolution that Cllr D Andrews replaces Cllr C Blackman on the General Purposes Committee.

Cllr D Andrews signed his Declaration of Acceptance and took his seat. He thanked Council Members for their support. The Chairman welcomed him as a Councillor.

FC.4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

- The Chairman gave a report of his recent activities as Mayor.
- The Chairman updated members on his charity involvement.

FC.5 CLERK'S REPORT.

- The Clerk asked members to dress commensurate to the occasion when representing the Council.
- There will be an election for the Mareham vacancy on February 2nd 2012.

FC.6 **TWINNING – Defining Policy towards Europe:** Mayor’s report – Twinning Issues – Clarifying policy regarding Town Council Representation – to recognise the difference between a Civic, Mayoral event and a non-Civic Twinning event.

Cllr J Mathieson left the meeting.

The Chairman had circulated a report asking for guidance concerning the Mayor’s attendance at Twinning events. One important issue was that there were no budgets to cover any expenditure incurred by Mayoral visits.

The Chairman said that the Twinning budget may be inadequate. Cllr M Graves said that the Capital projects budget line could be used to cover other budget lines. Subject to approval from the Full Council, money could be vired from this budget line to Twinning to cover the additional costs.

There was some discussion about elements of attending twinning events. Cllr K Dolby proposed that a working group be formed to examine the policies as outlined in the report. Mrs Sheila Wheeldon should be part of this and should also be asked to speak to a council meeting. Seconded by Cllr I Dolby.

Vote – 14 for. The Resolution was passed.

Volunteers were: Councillors K Dolby, J Charlesworth, G Titmus, D Suiter and K Fernandes.

Cllr J Mathieson returned to the meeting.

FC.7 **FINANCIAL REPORT.** To receive a Financial report of Full Council and Committee status.

- Budget 2012/13. This had been previously discussed at the last Finance & Strategy meeting.

Cllr M Graves explained that the Capital Programme budget heading is the balancing figure. Funds from that heading may be vired to be used on other budget headings through the Finance & Strategy Committee. This may apply to adjustments to the Twinning and Strategic Planning lines.

It was proposed by Cllr M Graves and seconded by Cllr I Dolby that the draft budget for 2012/2013 be approved. The amount charged per household will remain unchanged at £104.07. The anticipated tax base is 5742.90 which will produce a precept request for £597,663.60.

Vote – 15 for. The Resolution was passed.

FC.8 **MINUTES.** To look at the Clerk’s Notes from the meetings on October 12th and November 16th, 2011, and approve them as Minutes.

October 12th 2011

It was proposed by Cllr I Dolby, that the Notes from the meeting held on October 12th 2011, be accepted as Minutes of that meeting. Seconded by Cllr D Vere-Critchler.

Vote – 14 for and 1 abstention. The Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

November 16th 2011

It was proposed by Cllr I Dolby, that the Notes from the meeting held on November 16th 2011, be accepted as Minutes of that meeting. Seconded by Cllr D Vere-Critchler.

Vote – 13 for and 2 abstentions. The Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

FC.9 **NOTES:** To take note of the Clerk's notes from the last round of committee meetings which will then go to their next meetings for approval as Minutes. Services, October 26th, 2011, General Purposes, November 2nd, 2011, Personnel, November 9th, 2011 and Finance and Strategy, November 16th, 2011.

These were noted en-bloc.

FC.10 FROM OTHER COMMITTEES.

- PERSONNEL – to ratify resolution from November 9th, “accept the NJC scale for leave entitlement for all members.”

Cllr I Dolby proposed and Cllr D Vere-Critchler seconded that the Council accepts the resolution from the Personnel Committee that the NJC scale for leave entitlement be accepted for all members.

Vote – 12 for and 3 abstentions. The Resolution was passed.

FC.11 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

The Clerk explained the difference in “interests,” when Councillors are on Outside Committees.

The following Councillors gave reports from meetings:

- Cllr D Birks – Sleaford Business Club.
- Cllr G Titmus – Lincolnshire Playing Field Association – the AGM.
- Cllr D Vere-Critchler – Tamar Road Residents' Association.
- Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford – Sleaford In Bloom – the AGM.
- Cllr M Graves – BID Meeting. Minutes are available to all Councillors.

The Chairman thanked all Councillors for their reports.

FC.12 OTHER AD-HOC COUNCIL REPRESENTATION.

Cllr G Titmus attended meeting with:

- Armed Forces Day Committee.
- Museum Trust Committee.
- War Memorial – Lincs Heritage Trust representative.

FC.13 **INFORMAL CHRISTMAS 'TOWN MEETING' ON DECEMBER 7TH.** Progress report.

The Clerk outlined the basic format for the event. Councillors were asked to start collecting information for a people and skills based asset inventory.

FC.14 **DEPUTY CLERK'S POST.** To take note of the report from the Interview Panel that no appointment has been made.

The Clerk explained that no appointment had been made. A future Personnel Committee will be looking at recommendations to provide cover.

FC.15 **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 public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. Seconded by Cllr D Birks.

Vote – 15 for. The Resolution was passed.

FC.16 **REPORT(S), IF ANY, FROM MEETINGS RELATING TO THE ROAD/RAIL/TESCO ISSUES WHICH ARE ONGOING.**

- **Meeting with network Rail representatives.** Report from meeting, Cllr M Graves recommends: This Council authorises the Clerk to contact all parties as necessary to obtain further information in respect of the closure of Southgate Crossing.

A report had been circulated from the meeting with representatives on November 17th 2011.

It was resolved that the Clerk is authorised to contact all parties as necessary to obtain further information.

It was resolved that the Leader, Cllr M Graves and the Clerk prepare a brief public statement.

- **Meeting with Tesco representatives.**

A meeting had taken place on Monday November 28th and reports were circulated.

It was resolved that the Town Council continues with its decision of August 24th 2011 – not to sell the Recreation Land.

It was resolved that the Leader, Mayor and Chairman of Finance & Strategy seek a meeting with the MP.

At 9:35pm, there being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting.