

**SLEAFORD TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the **General Purposes Committee** held on  
Wednesday November 7<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 7:30pm  
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

**PRESENT: Councillor D Suiter (Chairman)**

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

**Also Present:** Cllr M Allan, K Dolby, Cllr D Vere-Critchler, Mrs S McIntyre (Clerk),  
Mrs M Waddingham (Assistant Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed all present.

**GP.1 APOLOGIES.** There were none.

**GP.2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.** There were none.

**GP.3 MINUTES.** The Clerk's Notes from the meeting held on September 19<sup>th</sup> 2012, had been circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr D Andrews and seconded by Cllr D Birks that these be accepted as Minutes of the meeting.

Vote – 11 for. The Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

**GP.4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.** The Chairman said he was trying to control the agenda and keep the number of items to a minimum, a number of extra items had been added at a late stage which he was unaware of. The Clerk challenged this and there was a discussion about the process of producing an agenda. The Chairman eventually said he referred to only one item – Tractor sheds. The Clerk explained this had been requested to be on all committee agendas by the last Finance and Strategy meeting, of which he was a part.

**GP.5 CLERK'S REPORT.** There was nothing to report.

**GP.6 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT.**

- Regular Committee Report.
- Discuss and agree the 2013/14 budget. There was extensive discussion about all topics of income and expenditure.  
**Office Maintenance:** (1) It was proposed by Cllr B Watson and seconded by Cllr D Birks that £4,000 be allocated to Office Maintenance, to cover re-decorating and re-carpeting.  
(2) It was proposed by Cllr G Titmus and seconded by Cllr T Mayfield that there should be £2000 on this budget line.

Vote on the amendment (2) 6 for 2 against (Cllr BW asked to be named),  
3 abstentions. The amended Resolution was passed.

**ACTION: SF to investigate preliminary costs for decorating and re-carpeting.**

**Honorary Freedom.** It was proposed by Cllr B Watson and seconded by Cllr D Suiter that £500 be allocated on this budget lines.

Vote; 2 for; 5 against and 4 abstentions. The Resolution failed. The Chairman said no funds would be placed on this line.

**LALC subscriptions.** It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr K Fernandes that the amount allocated to LALC subscriptions be reduced from £1700 to £1350.

Vote - 11 for. The Resolution was passed.

**New Initiatives –** The Chairman asked for a ‘New Initiatives’ budget line to be created with a sum of £3,000 allocated. The Chairman had not explained what was meant by ‘New Initiatives’ and Councillors did not understand.

Cllr J Mathieson said the Committee could not make a decision without detail and explanation.

The Chairman did not allow further discussion and proposed that £3000 be allocated to a new budget line – ‘New initiatives’.

Vote - 3 for; 6 against and 2 abstentions. The proposal failed.

- **Donation policy.** To consider passing all grant monies up to and including £1500 to the Town Fund and ask all applicants to apply through the official single application process administered by the Lincs Community Foundation. There was a lengthy discussion about various aspects of this. It was eventually proposed by Cllr B Watson and seconded by Cllr K Fernandes that the budget amount for donations and grants of £8140.00 be approved. A further discussion about the allocation of this to be on the next agenda.

Vote - 10 for and 1 abstention. The Resolution was passed.

- **Budget 2013/14.** It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr K Fernandes that with the amendments to the Office Maintenance and LALC lines, that the 2013/14 budget be accepted.

Vote - 9 for; 2 abstentions. The Resolution was passed.

**GP.7 COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE –** Draft TOR attached. It was proposed by Cllr G Titmus and seconded by Cllr J Charlesworth that, with the addition of ‘electoral costs’, the Terms of Reference as submitted, be accepted.

Vote 11 for. The Resolution was passed.

**GP.8 UPDATES/PROGRESS REPORTS**

- **Sleaford Awards –** Location and date to be arranged by Standard, before any further action can be taken. Cllr T Mayfield said there had been a delay in booking a venue, date and time. Once these are known, progress can be made.

- **Christmas hospitality.** Breakfast booked for Friday Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. The closing date has passed; the appropriate booking will be confirmed.

**GP.9 CHRISTMAS MARKET** – Progress report. Volunteers still needed. The Councillors not committed will be approached individually. The Clerk gave an update from the Christmas Market meeting. It was proposed by Cllr G Titmus and seconded by Cllr K Fernandes that Cllr D Suiter be authorised to organise the entertainment on behalf of the Christmas Market committee.

Vote - 11 for. The Resolution was passed.

Cllr B Watson asked the Chairman for an assurance that this would progress.

**ACTION: Cllr D Suiter to organise the entertainment.**

**GP.10 HEARING FACILITIES** – Examine costs and comparisons and decide the way forward. Cllr D Vere-Critchler explained his report, he is continuing the enquiries with the expert he contacted. Cllr K Fernandes offered further details to Cllr D Vere-Critchler to consider – he agreed to continue enquiries and to report to the next meeting.

Cllr M Allan asked if there could be the use of the Source sound system on all Full Council meetings until the matter was resolved. The costs being borne out of 'room hire'.

Cllr M Allan, not being on the GP committee, could not propose this.

Cllr D Birks proposed the above as a resolution.

There was no seconder so the proposal failed.

**ACTION: Cllr D Vere-Critchler to continue enquiries.**

**GP.11 GRANTS AND DONATIONS.**

- **SIB.** To receive and note the accounts for 2011/12. This was noted.
- **Friday Night Football.** To note and receive letters of thanks from FNF. This was noted.
- **Citizens' Advice** – To note their documents and approve donation for 2013/4. It was proposed by Cllr D Suiter and seconded by Cllr T Mayfield that the funds allocated for C.A.B. be approved and released.

Vote - 10 for and 1 abstention. The Resolution was passed

**GP.12 DEPUTY MAYOR'S CHAIN.** To approve circulated design for backing plate for Deputy Mayor's Badge. Cllr D Suiter circulated a picture of the proposed larger backing plate. Cllr D Andrews asked if all appropriate papers could be circulated before the meeting.

The Chairman said that, after this meeting, any items not supported by paperwork would not be accepted on the agenda.

Cllr K Dolby confirmed that there would be no charge for this.

It was proposed by Cllr T Mayfield and seconded by Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford that the proposed design and Cllr K Dolby's offer is accepted.

Vote - 11 for. The Resolution was passed.

Cllr M Allan commented on the need for a review of the civic insignia and they should reflect the status of the Town.

**ACTION: Cllr K Dolby to action.**

**GP.13 MAYORAL CHARITIES – FUNDRAISING CAR BOOT SALES.** Agree in principle whether charity car boot sales could be staged on the recreation ground – subject to conditions imposed by NKDC.  
Cllr J Charlesworth asked who was to run the events and what costs would there be?  
The Chairman explained some of the ideas about organising sales and the costs involved.

It was proposed by Cllr D Suiter and seconded by Cllr K Fernandes that the TC should apply to NKDC for permission to hold car boot sales on the recreation ground and to come back to a future meeting to discuss the management and organisation.

Vote - 8 for and 3 abstentions. The Resolution was passed.

**ACTION: The Chairman to make the application.**

**GP.14 TRACTOR SHED –** Does this Committee foresee any future use for the Tractor Sheds on Eastgate car park?  
After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr G Titmus and seconded by Cllr G Jackson that the committee agrees that there is some utility value in the sheds, and pass that comment to Finance and Strategy.

Vote - 10 for and 1 abstention. The Resolution was passed.

**ACTION: pass that comment to Finance and Strategy.**

**GP.15 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –** any items for future agendas – no discussion in this meeting.

- **Office building** – Decorating. BW.
- **PA system** – portable for the Mayor. KF.
- **Donation policy** – from this meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.26pm.