

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

Minutes of the meeting of the **General Purposes Committee** held on
Wednesday September 25th, 2013 at 7:30pm
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT: Cllr G Jackson (Chairman)

Cllr D Vere-Critcher
Cllr K Fernandes

Cllr B Watson (TC Chairman)
Cllr T Mayfield

Cllr D Birks
Cllr D Suiter

Also Present: Cllr M Allan, Cllr H Lorimer, Mrs M McIntyre (Clerk), Mr S Beane, Services Supervisor, one member of the press and five members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

GP.1 APOLOGIES. Apologies with a reason had been received from Cllr J Mathieson. This was accepted.

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

GP.3 MINUTES. The Clerk's Notes from the meeting held on August 7th 2013, had been circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critcher, and seconded by Cllr T Mayfield that the Notes from August 7th, 2013, be accepted as Minutes of that meeting.

Vote – 7 for . The Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

GP.4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. There was none.

GP.5 CLERK'S REPORT.

- **Action Log** –enclosed - questions before meeting please contact office. There were none.

GP.6 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT.

- Regular Committee Report – circulated. Staff were thanked for the new format.
- SLCC Membership – Services Supervisor – report attached. Cllr D Vere-Critcher proposed that the report's recommendation be accepted and the membership supported.

There was a discussion about membership and training. Cllr M Allan said that the TC should not be investing in training a member of staff on a short term contract, especially as he has only about 3 months remaining. Cllr D Suiter said he would not support the council paying a trade union membership. The Clerk explained the relevance of training and support, independent to and different from that provided by LALC. She explained that the SLCC was a professional support organisation and in no way acted as a Trade Union. Cllr K Fernandes said he would not invest in this as after 6 months the training will be lost. Cllr M Allan also pointed out the S. Supervisor had already done 3 months.

Further explanation was attempted by the Clerk.

Cllr K Fernandes proposed that the recommendation be rejected.

The First proposal was taken first – there was no seconder.
Cllr D Suiter seconded Cllr K Fernandes' proposal.

Vote 3 for; 1 against and 3 abstentions.

The Resolution was carried – membership not supported.

GP.7 UPDATES/PROGRESS REPORTS

- **Town Council Newsletter** – due to holidays and sickness a planned meeting has been postponed.
- **Website** – New site being finalised. Early statistics have shown that since it went live on Sept 12th, there had been nearly 500 'hits'. Cllr D Suiter asked if other similar sized councils could be contacted for statistics on their web sites – for comparison and to measure STC success. The Clerk asked – why – some sort of specification or correlation would be needed. The Chairman asked Cllr D Suiter to bring a properly researched report to the next meeting.
- **CAB** – Town Council representation – letter attached. Nominate Council representative – to go to Full Council for approval. It was proposed by Cllr D Suiter and seconded by Cllr D Vere-Critchler that the Mayor be the TC representative for C.A.B. – this to go to Full Council for ratification. The Mayor was willing to be nominated.
Vote 6 for, 1 abstention. The resolution was carried.

GP.8 CHRISTMAS MARKET – Update from Christmas Market Committee

- Cllr D Vere-Critchler updated the committee on the meeting which had been held earlier the same evening. There has been good progress, it will be a large event with good and varied entertainment.

GP.9 RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION. To propose 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”

GP.10 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The present situation regarding the anchor points and lighting in the market place was explained.

It was resolved that in addition to the above revised instructions; a further extra price should be obtained for all the trees along the front of the market place.

GP.11 INTERNET POLICIES. There was discussion about recent postings on internet sites, and other areas.

It was resolved that F&S should be asked to set aside some funds for legal support as and when needed in connection with councillors and staff. The Clerk was asked to make preliminary enquiries with solicitors to see if they could assist and outline what they could do – if not to find a firm that could assist.

There was further discussion about matters connected with postings on the site.

There being no further relevant discussion, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.18pm.

