

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

Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance and Strategy Committee** held on
Wednesday 8th October, 2014 at 7.500pm
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT:

Cllr M Graves (Chairman)	
Cllr M Suffield (Vice Chairman)	Cllr D Birks
Cllr K Fernandes	Cllr P. McCallum
Cllr R Dunbar-Beckford	Cllr D. Suiter
Cllr P McCallum	Cllr J Titmus
Cllr H Lorimer	Cllr G Titmus
Cllr M. Allan	Cllr S. Fields

In attendance:

Press (2) & Council Officers Mrs. S.Scholes, Mrs L Savage & Mr. K. Martin.

The Chairman welcomed all present and opened the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT item 6 (•) Staff Costs - to date and year end projections be moved into Closed Session; Vote 11 for, 2 Abstentions. The Resolution was carried.

F&S.1 APOLOGIES. Apologies, with reasons had been received from Councillors Mrs. J. Mathieson, Mr L Mitchell and Mr K Dolby, these were accepted.

F&S.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. To receive any Disclosable interests. There were none.

F&S.3 MINUTES. Notes of the meeting 23rd July had been previously circulated. **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** these are accepted as Minutes of this meeting. Vote:10 For, 3 Abstentions. The Resolution was carried.

F&S.4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

4.1 Eastgate Car Park: White lining is complete, yellow lining has been overpainted. No decision taken as yet regarding coach space allocation. The contractor is aware of the problem with loose cobble stones, and a solution is being sought.

4.2 Proposed Cinema: The interested party does not currently wish to discuss this matter further.

4.3 Bank Mandate: The Chairman requested that this matter be concluded without further delay and requested all councillors wishing to be included in the mandate to submit information to the office by 10th October.

F&S.5 CLERK'S REPORT.

5.1 Action Log: Not updated by Office.

5.2 Boston Road Layby: Officers to progress quotations for repair/surfacing work to include in Budget 2015 – 6

F&S.6 RFO REPORT.

- 6.1 **Christmas Market** Thanks are expressed to Emma Evans for her work on this event; a large number of stall bookings are being taken.
- 6.2 **Virements for Current Projects** have been actioned.
- 6.3 **Budget Lines** have been examined and reviewed where necessary.
- 6.4 **Sleaford Museum & Toilets** - Contract Works Insurance cover extended to 3rd of October, 2014.
- 6.5 **Half Yearly Report.** The Chairman asked members to note that a full Half-Yearly Report will be presented to Full Council on 22nd October.
- 6.6 There were no questions on the RFO Report.

F&S.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS.

- 7.1 **Finance Report.** Noted
- 7.2 **Option to Tax, HMRC.** Councillors noted that approval has been received from HMRC, enabling VAT on the Museum/Toilet project costs to be reclaimed.

F&S. 8 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH SCHEME – LRSP LAUNCH.

- 8.1 The Working Group has not yet met. Composition of the Working Group is confirmed as comprising Cllrs M. Allan, G. Titmus, K. Fernandes, D. Suiter and M. Suffield.

F&S.9 BEST VALUE FOR SLEAFORD TOWN COUNCIL - PROJECT LEAD.

- 9.1 Report and recommendation previously circulated were noted. **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Project Lead and Best Value Working Group meet to agree what would be included in the proposed Internal view. Vote: Unanimous. The Resolution was carried.

F&S.10 TOWN PLAN – PROJECT LEAD.

Report previously circulated was noted. **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** as the Council's limited resources were currently utilised with its Planning Consultants, further work on a Town Plan be deferred until after the May 2015 local elections and reviewed thereafter. Vote: unanimous. The Resolution was carried.

F&S.11 RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION.

IT WAS RESOLVED 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. Vote: Unanimous. The Resolution was carried

11.1 Staff Costs (Agenda Item 6).

It was noted that unforeseen personnel expenses are being incurred as a result of long-term staff absence, due to sickness. The budget will run at par and costs will be presented with other budgets to Full Council. The Chairman requested that members be aware of changing staffing arrangements.

F&S.12 OFFICE PREMISES.

- 12.1** Having taken into account confidential information, contained in the report (08.10.14) of the Project Lead, IT **WAS RESOLVED TO** authorise the Project Lead to initiate negotiations on a possible property to purchase. Vote: Unanimous. The Resolution was carried. The Project Lead was provided with financial parameters with which to work.

F&S. 13 TRACTOR SHED.

- 13.1** Having taken into account confidential information contain, **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** further work be undertaken on this project, in conjunction with the needs of the Services department.

F&S. 14 EDGE COMPUTER SYSTEMS.

The proposal to use the company for additional financial services was noted.

F&S 15 TRAFFIC MODEL CONSULTANCY FEES

- 15.1** Having taken into account confidential financial information, it was noted that the Consultants had been instructed to prepare their report which will be an integral part of the Council's response to the CPO Notice within the known CPO objection deadline.

- 15.2** **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Consultancy Fees be approved, and these and other professional fees will be presented to Full Council as part of the Half-Yearly Budget report. Vote: 11 For; 1 Against. The Resolution was carried.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.05p.m.

Mrs S.M. Scholes,
21st November, 2014.