

**SLEAFORD TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the **Services Committee** held on
Wednesday 19th February 2014 at 7:30pm
at The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

PRESENT: Cllr G Titmus (Chairman)

Cllr C Darch (Vice Chairman)	Cllr M Allan	Cllr D Birks
Cllr D Suiter	Cllr K Fernandes	Cllr M Graves
Cllr H Lorrimer	Cllr T Mayfield.	

Also Present: Cllr B Watson. In the absence of an Officer, Notes were taken by Cllr C Darch

SER.1 APOLOGIES. No apologies were received.

SER. 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

SER.2.1 Cllr C Darch - a member of Slea Paddlers

SER. 3 MINUTES.Notes of the meeting held on January 8th 2013 had been circulated.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the minutes from January 8th 2014, be accepted as Minutes of that meeting.

Vote – all agreed. The Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

SER. 4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman offered a verbal report:

- In the absence of a Services Supervisor and Foreman, a Senior Operative has currently been given the role temporarily of liaising between the Services Team and the Office.
- A section of a tree from the former Advanta Seeds site has fallen into the Recreation Ground. It will be dealt with.
- Tamar Court Play Area. STC still awaits confirmation that responsibility for this has been transferred from the developer. Emails were reportedly sent to STC advising of the transfer process. In the meanwhile and in the absence of any urgent action from any other authority, Services personnel are repairing a section of safety fencing around the play equipment following a report from a member of the public.
- Cllr G Titmus stated that there is a good working relationship between the Services team and committee.
- It was requested that a formal meeting between councillors and staff be held. The Chairman stated he would take that to Full Council.

SER.5 CLERKS REPORT. (report by the Chairman)

- Fairtrade signs – there has been no progress. Cllr M Allan stated he had written to Rowan Smith and he had seen the response to the Clerk.
- Slea Paddlers – an email had been received regarding their 'come and try it' event for them to have a gazebo on Eastgate Green. It was agreed for the gazebo to be erected.

SER. 6 FINANCIAL REPORT.

The Chairman stated in the absence of the RFO through sickness, had meant several queries were still outstanding. These included:

- several overspends not yet adjusted, including the Sessions House Clock,
- litter bins,
- maintenance contract for Green Machine;
- the invoice for play equipment inspection,
- signs for the Market Place &
- the cost of business rates for the Market Store.

The Committee noted the Financial Report as it stood.

SER. 7 WORKING GROUPS.

- **Market Working Group**. The Chairman stated he was aware that it hadn't met; however several councillors were currently working very long hours. The WG comprises Cllr B Watson, Cllr K Fernandes, Cllr C Darch with Mr N Butler from the Services Team. It was agreed that the WG should meet as soon as possible to discuss signage and publicity for the Market amongst other issues.
- **Allotment Working Group** The Chairman stated that the working group had not met for some time. The award of a grant for compost toilets means that we need to re-engage with Hill Holt Wood to discuss a programme for the erection of the toilets and how we are to operate them. The WG would be ideal to take the lead on these tasks .and has spent time with Hill Holt to discuss the design and returning to them to discuss timings for installation of the toilets.
- **It was resolved** that the Allotment WG take the lead for the installation and operation of the compost toilets for the Drove and Millfield Terrace Allotments.

Vote - all agreed. The Resolution was carried.

SER. 8. DOG ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Councillors discussed the issue of stray dogs. It was noted that the control of stray dogs is not the responsibility of, nor the reason for the employment of the Dog Law Enforcement Officer. The DLEO's latest report, which included a request for more signs and plastic ties, was noted

SER. 9. TRACTOR SHED

The Chairman relayed a request from the Sleaford Museum Trust to transfer some of the larger artefacts, currently stored in the Woodbridge Road Depot, to the Tractor Shed. This is to enable more space to categorise and prepare artefacts in the depot. They would be stored in the Shed under the same conditions that they are stored in the Depot. A concern over possible flood damage was raised and noted.

It was resolved that the Sleaford Museum Trust be granted approval to store artefacts in the Tractor Shed for a period of 12 months.

Vote - all voted in favour. The Resolution was passed.

SER. 10. SKATEPARK

Chairman reported there is a new crack in the remaining western ramp. Although the ramp is safe to use, there is concern that it could quickly deteriorate. In addition there are several areas of corrosion on the side of the ramp. If the ramp was removed for safety reasons it would restrict severely the recreational use of the skatepark. Concerns were also raised by councillors regarding the current safety of the ramp

In discussion on the future of the skatepark and its repair and replacement,

- Cllr M Graves reported that the item is due to be replaced in the last year of the 5 Year Open Spaces Plan, meaning that expenditure of up to £100,000 expenditure would not be available for at least 2 years.
- A solution to expediate replacement would be a fund raising campaign/grant aid request. It was accepted that much work and energy would be required to provide the necessary funds and Cllr C Darch suggested seeking sponsorship from local businesses.
- Cllr T Mayfield suggested a working group be set up and recommended that it assess the cost of a new skatepark and look at funding opportunities. .

It was resolved to: investigate the cost of conducting immediate repairs and carry them out, research the cost for the provision of a replacement skatepark, explore avenues for grant funding and provide the findings to Finance and Strategy Committee.

Vote - all in favour. The Resolution was passed.

SER. 11 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”. **It was resolved** to move into closed session. Vote – all in favour. The Resolution was passed.

SER.12 ALLOTMENTS

It was resolved – A Councillor will speak with the lady complainant. Vote – all in favour. The Resolution was passed.

SER. 13 MISSING EQUIPMENT

It was resolved – to submit a single insurance claim for the three items; to investigate why the claim had not been submitted and advise the Personnel Committee accordingly.

Vote – all agreed. The Resolution was passed.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting.