

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Full Council** held on  
Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 at 6:30pm  
in The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

**PRESENT: Councillor B Watson, (Chairman)**

|                  |                       |                        |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr K Dolby     | Cllr D Birks          | Cllr M Graves          |
| Cllr D Suiter    | Cllr D Vere-Critchler | Cllr J Titmus          |
| Cllr M Allan     | Cllr T Mayfield       | Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford |
| Cllr K Fernandes | Cllr G Titmus         |                        |

**Also Present:** Mrs S McIntyre (Clerk).

The Chairman welcomed all present and opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

**FC.1 APOLOGIES.** Apologies, with reasons, had been given to the Clerk from Cllrs C Darch, J Mathieson, H Lorimer, G Jackson and I Dolby. These were accepted.

**FC.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** To receive disclosable pecuniary interests in accordance with the Localism Act 2011. There were none.

**FC.3 RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION.** Cllr proposed by Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford and seconded by Cllr D Birks 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 – 12 for. The Resolution was passed, members of the public and the press left the meeting.

**FC.4 LEGAL ADVICE -** To authorise the Chairman & Vice Chairman to seek alternative solicitors for advice regarding staff resignation.

The Chairman explained that he and the Vice Chairman went to the Solicitors for legal advice about the situation of a member of staff.

It was resolved that Cllrs B Watson and K Dolby be authorised to seek an alternative solicitor and seek advice on the same issue that was given in the Resolution of the previous meeting.

***For information – below is the Resolution from Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013:***

*It was resolved that the Chairman and Vice Chairman only see the solicitor, but keep the Clerk up to date. Seek advice about the original e mail, on the bullying claim and what STC needs to do to bring this to a conclusion in the best interests of STC and the staff.*

*They should report back to the Full Council meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

Before the meeting was closed, Cllr M Allan said he was to move a Resolution without notice. He said he would be asking the TC to terminate its contract immediately with the HR Company.

The Clerk explained that such an item could not be moved without notice – this was confined to procedural matters and were listed in the SO's. She suggested Cllr M Allan places the item on the agenda going out for next week's FC meeting.

Cllr MA said this could not wait. He said the council was at immediate risk and it was urgent this be dealt with.

He said he would be proposing the resolution any way.

The Clerk said again this was not a resolution which could be made without notice and she would Minute that it was against her advice.

Cllr M Allan said to go ahead, but he was making the resolution.

The Resolution he made without notice, and was subsequently Resolved was:  
(This includes some amendment made as a result of the following discussion)

1. That STC takes action to terminate its contract with Peninsula but suspends its use by the TC as soon as (2) is in place.
2. That the Chairman and Vice Chairman are authorised by this Council so that new arrangements are made with NKDC HR immediately to obtain advice on HR and employment issues with appropriate degrees of confidentiality being operated by NKDC HR.
3. That the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised by the Council to use this new arrangement to obtain all and any necessary advice on the current issues facing the Council in relation to the Clerk and former employee [REDACTED]
4. Until protocols are developed at the Personnel Committee in relation to the use of the new arrangement with NKDC HR for more general HR and employment issues, the Clerk is authorised to contact NKDC HR to obtain general HR and employment advice with proper records being kept and reports to Personnel Committee via the Chairman.
5. That the Clerk immediately puts together a pack of all relevant Council documents relating to Personnel Management and Council Operation so that NKDC HR can ensure that the new arrangement operates effectively and efficiently.

Cllr M Graves returned to the matter relating to the solicitor.

7.15pm KD left the meeting.

It was resolved that the Clerk writes to [REDACTED] clarifying they would continue acting for the TC. Also that protocols should be put in place as there may be occasions when this might happen again.

There was no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.21pm.