

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Full Council** held on  
Wednesday September 4<sup>th</sup> 2013 at 7:45pm  
in The Source, Southgate, Sleaford

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

Cllr K Dolby (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr H Lorimer	Cllr D Birks
Cllr K Fernandes	Cllr D Suiter	Cllr T Mayfield
Cllr D Vere-Critchler	Cllr G Jackson	Cllr G Titmus
Cllr B Dunbar-Beckford	Cllr M Graves (8.45pm)	Cllr J Titmus

Cllr C Darch took her seat Item 3.

**Also Present:** C/Cllr A Hagues, 2 members of the press and 15 members of the public.

Mrs S McIntyre (Clerk), Mrs M Waddingham (Assistant Clerk), Mrs L Savage, (R.F.O.), Mr S Beane (Services Supervisor).

The Chairman welcomed all present and opened the meeting at 7.50pm.

**FC.1 APOLOGIES.** Apologies, with reasons, had been given to the Clerk from Cllr M Allan, Cllr M Graves, Cllr J Mathieson and Cllr 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 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

- The Chairman said he had attended the opening of the Credit Union office in Money's Yard. They would like to give a presentation to the Council. There was agreement for this idea.
- Miss C Darch to sign her Declaration of Acceptance and take her seat. Miss C Darch signed her declaration of Acceptance and had completed her Declaration of Interests form. She took her seat and was welcomed to the Council.

**FC.4 CLERK'S REPORT.**

- Action Log – circulated.
- Audit. The Clerk said the External Auditors had completed their work and had signed off the 2012/13 audit. There had been no comments or further explanations requested.
- Vandalism. The Clerk explained some recent serious vandalism to a section of the stake park that resulted in the Police being involved. Cllr G Titmus described the damage to the equipment and to the fencing. The culprits have been identified on CCTV. An expert looked at the park this morning and one ramp will be removed, the remaining section made safe.

**FC.5 MINUTES.** To look at the Clerk's Notes from the meetings held on July 17<sup>th</sup> and August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and accept them as Minutes of these meetings.

**It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critchler** and seconded by Cllr G Titmus that the notes from July 17<sup>th</sup> and August 7<sup>th</sup> be accepted as Minutes of those meetings.

Vote 13 for. The Resolution was passed. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

**FC.6 CLERK'S NOTES.** To look at the Clerk's Notes from the last round of committee meetings which will then go to their next meetings for approval as Minutes. Services, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013, General Purposes, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and Finance & Strategy, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 – not yet complete. Personnel, June 26<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and August 21<sup>st</sup> – not yet complete.

**FC.7 FINANCE:**

- To receive Financial Report. It was proposed by Cllr H Lorimer and seconded by Cllr D Vere-Critchler that the financial report be accepted. Vote 13 for. The Resolution was passed.
- 40040/1-40040/5 – From F&S August 21<sup>st</sup>. It was proposed by Cllr K Fernandes and seconded by Cllr G Titmus that funds showing on budget line 40040/1-40040/5 be moved into Earmarked Reserves when the funds from the second half of the precept have arrived in October.

Vote 13 for. The Resolution was passed.

**FC.8 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.** Any Councillor who has represented the Council on their nominated outside body is asked to report to the Full Council meeting after this representation. Cllr G Titmus briefly outlined a recent SMT meeting – WREN funding has been applied for and there has been a re-application to Heritage Lottery.

**FC.9 OTHER AD-HOC COUNCIL REPRESENTATION –** Councillors invited to meetings etc on an ad-hoc basis – are asked to report to the Full Council meeting following their meeting.

- **Cllr K Dolby – Quarryfest.** Cllr K Dolby attended this event and made some presentations. He said it had been a successful event.

**FC.10 FROM OTHER COMMITTEES:**

- **Services Committee, July 31<sup>st</sup>** – It was proposed by Cllr G Titmus and seconded by Cllr J Titmus that Cllr, C Darch to replaces Mr D Andrews on the Services Committee. She was willing to be appointed. Vote 13 for. The Resolution was passed.
- **General Purposes, August 7<sup>th</sup>** – It was proposed by Cllr G Jackson and seconded by Cllr K Fernandes that the councillor who replaces Cllr J Charlesworth is appointed to the GP Committee. Vote 13 for. The Resolution was passed.
- **Personnel, August 14<sup>th</sup>** - It was proposed by Cllr J Titmus and seconded by Cllr K Dolby that Cllr G Titmus replaces Cllr D Andrews on the Personnel Committee. He was willing to be appointed. Vote 13 for. The Resolution was passed.

- **Applications and Finance and Strategy.** Cllr C Darch was willing to be elected to the Applications and the Finance and Strategy committees. It was proposed by Cllr D Suiter and seconded by Cllr K Fernandes that Cllr C Darch be appointed to both committees.  
Vote 13 for. The resolution was passed.
- **Personnel, August 14<sup>th</sup>** - National Salary Award 2013/14 – Rates of pay increased by 1% from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 – Full Council to formally approve this. It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critchler and seconded by Cllr T Mayfield that the Council agrees with the recommended 1% pay increase as from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013.  
Vote 12 for. 1 abstention. The Resolution was passed.

**FC.11 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES:**

- August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Cllr B Watson & Cllr K Dolby. Cllr K Dolby spoke – 5 people had attended and he had summarised the comments on the sheet which had been circulated.

**FC.12 FIELDS IN TRUST.** Cllr K Dolby said a piece of stone is being supplied by Goldholme and the Co-op will place the plaque and transport it. There is no charge for this. A white board has been ordered to be placed on the Recreation ground opposite Lord's garage. He asked that FIT be informed of events officially and be kept up to date with the CPO intentions. There is greater eligibility for grants with FIT membership.

**FC.13 AUTHORISATION OF LETTERS** – To propose in the absence of the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk, that the Chairman, or Vice Chairman in the absence of the Chairman, be allowed to authorise letters. There was some discussion about this and some explanations were given as to the circumstances for this agenda item. Cllr H Lorimer asked for clarification.  
It was proposed by Cllr D Birks and seconded by Cllr K Fernandes that that the Chairman, or Vice Chairman in the absence of the Chairman, be allowed to authorise letters.  
Vote 11 for; 2 abstentions. The Resolution was passed.

It was proposed by Cllr D Vere-Critchler and seconded by Cllr G Jackson that the Office Manager and R.F.O. are authorised to sign TC letters in the absence of the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.  
Vote 10 for; 3 abstentions. The Resolution was carried.

**FC.14 MARKING OUT OF THE RECREATION GROUND** – To agree to mark out the area of land shown on the CPO map.  
There was some discussion about this. Maps showing the extent of the actual CPO had been obtained. Cllr G Titmus said the area could be initially painted, then left un-cut – which would be better as paint would be disappear. All the trees affected would be marked.  
The TC must be seen to be accurate – should members of the public be present?  
Cllr D Birks explained why it should be a Sleaford 'Revitalisation', not a 'Regeneration'.  
It was proposed by Cllr K Fernandes and seconded by Cllr G Jackson that the CPO land on the recreation ground be marked out, plus all the affected trees.

Members of the public should be invited to come and observe so eliminate any misunderstanding.

Vote 13 for. The Resolution was passed.

Cllr B Watson proposed and Cllr H Lorimer seconded that a press release is issued with the date and time of the marking out so the public may come and observe this.

Vote 13 for. The Resolution was passed.

**FC.15 PUBLIC MEETING AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>** - To discuss the outcome of the Public meeting and any Full Council Resolution(s) as appropriate.

Cllr B Watson spoke about the meeting. He has received 2 petitions and several letters and e mails. He said the 'silent majority' must be targeted. He suggested a press release and setting up a working group to look at all the responses and comments.

8.45pm Cllr M Graves attended.

Cllr G Jackson said many people were unsure of the facts. Answers must be given. The TC should seek clarification to be able to answer.

Cllr H Lorimer said there must be some mechanism for getting more people to give their opinions.

Cllr B Watson said Town Polls were expensive and may not be taken note of. He said he preferred to get public opinion by other means.

Cllr M Graves said everybody at the meeting was passionate. He asked that it be minuted that the Town Council had no intention to use any of these funds to build or buy any office premises.

He proposed and Cllr K Fernandes seconded that the amount that was offered by Tesco and any supporting information available that can be put into the public domain, should be – subject to advice from LALC.

Vote 14 for. The Resolution was passed.

Cllr B Watson said some of the comments on facebook sites were appalling. The TC has been gagged for long enough and should publish some of the facts.

Cllr G Titmus asked if a joint TC/NKDC/LCC statement could be issued, with agreed facts although he suspected an approach may not be successful.

9.12pm Cllr C Darch left the meeting.

There was discussion about how to reach more of the population of Sleaford.

9.15pm Cllr C Darch returned.

There was a suggestion about forming an 'Action Committee' – to look at all the results.

Cllr G Titmus suggested a leaflet could be prepared explaining some of the facts and giving ways of submitting comments – and the all Councillors could distribute these around their wards.

Cllr B Watson asked if a Town Poll should take place.

Cllr M Graves said there should be a mechanism in place to answer question being submitted.

Cllr H Lorimer again said there must be different mechanisms to reach Sleaford residents.

**FC.16 RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION.** Cllr D Vere-Critchler proposed and Cllr M Graves seconded 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 – 14 for. The Resolution was passed, members of the public and the press left the meeting.

**FC.17 OFFICE PREMISES** - Update, and any Full Council Resolutions if any are needed.

The Clerk updated the meeting on contact from the new owners.

It was resolved that a BACS payment for monthly rental as described be agreed by the Council.

Cllr K Dolby outlined a property recently on the market which may be suitable.

9.50pm It was proposed by Cllr D Suiter and seconded by Cllr K Dolby that the meeting should continue.

Vote 14 for. The Resolution was passed.

**FC.18 EASTGATE CAR PARK** – To resolve parking for adjacent hotel. Report attached.

It was resolved that the adjacent business be offered up to 3 ‘open’ car park permits; and/or up to 3 marked spaces.

It was resolved that the 3 recommendations from F&S be approved en bloc. These are:

1. The Clerk writes to the adjacent business to clarify the planting to the North West corner, although it was the opinion of the WG that this would not restrict parking at present.
2. The Clerk writes to the adjoining landowner of the Nursing Home highlighting the condition of the boundary wall and asking that remedial action is taken.
3. Issues relating to the general condition i.e. the weeds, debris and missing blanking plate are addressed and a regular interval of inspection is agreed and formalised..

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.07pm.