

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Tedder Hall, Manby Park, Louth on Wednesday, 4th December, 2019 at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor David Andrews (Chairman)
Councillor Sarah Devereux (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Terry Aldridge, Richard Avison, Stan Avison, Adrian Benjamin, Wendy Bowkett, Billy Brookes, Danny Brookes, Jimmy Brookes, Trevor Burnham, Sandra Campbell-Wardman, Richard Cunnington, Mark Dannatt, Sid Dennis, Carleen Dickinson, Dick Edginton, Stephen Eyre, Martin Foster, Richard Fry, William Gray, Chris Green, Adam Grist, Will Grover, David Hall, Paul Hibbert-Greaves, George Horton, Tony Howard, Rosalind Jackson, Thomas Kemp, Terry Knowles, Craig Leyland, Jill Makinson-Sanders, David Mangion, Graham Marsh, Fiona Martin, M.B.E., Steve McMillan, Daniel McNally, Edward Mossop, Claire Newman, Sarah Parkin, Julie Platt, Paul Rickett, Phyll Smith, Jim Swanson and Mel Turton-Leivers.

60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tom Ashton, Graham Cullen, Colin Davie, Alex Hall, Sandra Harrison, Neil Jones, Steve Kirk, Andrew Leonard and Helen Matthews.

61. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY):

At this point in the Meeting Members were invited to declare any relevant interests. Councillor Jackson advised that her son was an intern for Age UK Lindsey (in respect of Minute No. 56) and she abstain from voting.

Councillor David Hall asked that it be noted that his son was an intern for Age UK Lindsey in respect of Minute No. 56.

62. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

63. ACTION SHEETS:

The Actions of the Meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2019 were noted as complete.

64. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to those in attendance. Members received an update on the engagements that the Chairman and Vice Chairman had attended since the last Council Meeting. The Chairman had also been pleased to attend the East Lindsey District Council Inspire Staff Awards.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to those who had attended his Civic Service in November and also for the many messages of support afterwards. Members were advised that the collection during the service had raised £338.00 to be shared between the Church and the Chairman's Charities.

65. QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC:

Pursuant to Council procedure rule 10.9, Written Answers, as the member of the public was not in attendance, the question would be answered in writing. A copy of the question and response is attached at Appendix A to these minutes.

66. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

The Chairman of the Executive Board presented his report and highlighted the following points:

Towns Fund – An initial meeting had taken place and the Council was working on future arrangements. It was highlighted that funding would be provided on the back of quality schemes and the Council would do all it could to ensure its success.

Achievements of Officers – Congratulations were extended to Tyler Wray, (Environmental Health Department) and Ian Henton, (Building Control) for their recent qualifications.

Enforcement – Recent statistics placed the Council as the leading Shire District Authority in the country for the service of planning enforcement notices.

Cat C Licences – The Street Scene Department, in recognising the national shortage of HGV Drivers, had offered an opportunity to loaders to obtain a Cat C Licence. This was a great opportunity for employees to progress and a way of improving service resilience.

Wellbeing Service – The service was having a genuine impact on the wellbeing of residents across Lincolnshire. Further reference was made to the Rough Sleeper Intervention Programme, for the fantastic work undertaken and congratulations were extended to the team for the quality of their intervention work.

N.B. Councillor Grover joined the meeting at 2.20 pm.

Following which, questions were asked as follows:

Councillor Howard referred to the Towns Fund. He highlighted that a vital element of this was the promised seed corn fund of £140k for Mablethorpe and £160k for Skegness, Councillor Howard queried progress on this.

In addition, Councillor Howard referred to Magna Vitae gaining a national award and asked if this good news could be shared with Councillors.

In terms of supporting British Food Fortnight, Councillor Howard commented that it was noticeable that the Council hadn't supported the Small Business Day as in previous years and he believed that this was a retrograde step.

Councillor Jackson queried if given the high enforcement caseload, whether the Council should be undertaking a public awareness campaign on planning enforcement and what measures were in place to make that department staffing more resilient.

In addition, Councillor Jackson asked if the Council would lobby Government to continue funding for the Rough Sleeper Initiative. Councillor Makinson-Sanders highlighted that whilst enforcement notices may have been served, there were still two eyesore properties in Uppgate, Louth, despite an assurance that work would start in November.

Whilst it was good news that further staff were being trained to drive refuse vehicles, Councillor Makinson-Sanders hoped that residents parking would become a reality in 2020 to free our streets.

Councillor Makinson-Sanders also asked how many food producers were attracted to our market during British Food Fortnight and what was being done to encourage them to continue to attend such events.

Councillor Makinson-Sanders asked that thanks be placed on record to Michelle Howard and her Team for their work in reducing homelessness.

Councillor Danny Brookes added his congratulations on the success of the Rough Sleeper Initiative, but asked if focus would turn to the professional beggars on the streets in Skegness.

In response the Chairman of Executive Board thanked all for their comments. With regard to the Towns Fund, the seed funding had not been received as yet, but he had every confidence that this would be forthcoming.

Councillor Leyland was happy to acknowledge the award received by Magna Vitae which was the Still Me Award for Alzheimer's and Dementia support project delivery.

In respect of free parking for Small Business Day, it was highlighted that the Council supported events throughout the year, which is why this particular event had not been supported.

In response of an enforcement campaign, Councillor Leyland noted the point made, but highlighted that information was provided on the Council website to inform residents.

Councillor Leyland advised that the Council would continue to lobby government when necessary but highlighted that it was also about what communities and districts did with the money.

In regard to enforcement on properties in Louth, Councillor Leyland was quite happy for Councillor Makinson-Sanders to raise this with the Portfolio Holder for Planning.

Councillor Leyland advised that he understood that residents' parking was work in progress.

Councillor Leyland advised that he would respond to Councillor Makinson-Sanders on Food Fortnight after the Meeting.

With regard to the comments made on professional beggars, this was work in progress and Councillor Leyland advised that officers would make contact with Skegness Town Council.

67. TRANSITION OF THE TELECARE SERVICE:

It was Proposed and Seconded that due to the exempt status of this item, that it should be considered at the end of the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Transition of the Telecare Service Item be considered at the end of the Agenda.

68. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

A report was presented that considered the appointment of representatives to the following Outside Bodies, (which were within the remit of the Council) for the remaining 2019/20 Municipal Year, as required by the Council's Constitution:

- Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire (one nomination);
- Age UK Lindsey (one nomination);

Paragraph 3.2 of the report detailed that Councillor Sarah Devereux would continue as the reserve Member on the Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire Committee.

In introducing the report, the Chairman of Executive Board advised that he wished to nominate Councillor Sandra Harrison for the vacancy on the Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire Committee.

Following which it was Proposed and Seconded

'That nominations be sought and Members appointed to:

Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire and Age UK Lindsey'.

Councillor Makinson-Sanders proposed Councillor David Mangion for the vacancy on the Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire. The Monitoring Officer advised that a nominee must be a current serving appointee to the Council's Overview Committee, therefore this nomination could not be accepted.

The Chairman of Executive Board advised that he wished to nominate Councillor William Gray for the vacancy on Age UK Lindsey.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Councillor Sandra Harrison be appointed as the Outside Body Representative on the Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire Committee;
- 2) That Councillor William Gray be appointed as the Outside Body Representative on Age UK Lindsey.

69. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

Members noted that draft Minutes of the Audit and Governance Meeting held on 30th October 2019.

RESOLVED

That the Draft Minutes of the Audit and Governance Meeting of 30th October 2019 be noted.

70. QUESTIONS:

Question 1.	Councillor Mossop
Subject	Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SUDS)
Response by	Portfolio Holder for Planning
Supplementary	Councillor Mossop tabled a further question to be put the Portfolio Holder for Planning outside of the meeting: If this Planning Authority imposes SUDS schemes as a condition and signs off, this indicates to me that this authority is satisfied the scheme can work. If it doesn't work and downstream properties are flooded as a result, are we aware that some of the blame could inevitably lay with this council?

Question 2.	Councillor Makinson-Sanders
Subject	Planning Training
Response by	Portfolio Holder for Planning
Supplementary	Councillor Makinson-Sanders tabled a further

	<p>question to be put to the Portfolio Holder for Planning outside of the meeting:</p> <p>I refer to a document produced by the Council on how to make comments on a planning application. If we are going to be so prescriptive, does this not place those members who have not been planning trained at a disadvantage and should we be more definite about training?</p>
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Question 3.	Councillor Makinson-Sanders
Subject	Equalities Act 2010
Response by	Portfolio Holder for Planning
Supplementary	<p>Councillor Makinson-Sanders tabled a further question to be put to the Portfolio Holder for Planning outside of the meeting:</p> <p>I would like to take this up with Councillor Ashton if he would like to get in touch with me as I am concerned that the Council is not in accordance on this.</p>

Question 4.	Councillor Leonard
Subject	Land purchase for Horncastle Hub
Response by	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs
Supplementary	None

Question 5.	Councillor Leonard
Subject	Cost of Horncastle Hub Site
Response by	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs
Supplementary	None

Question 6.	Councillor Leonard
Subject	Details of the meetings with senior staff on the Horncastle Hub site
Response by	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs
Supplementary	None

Question 7.	Councillor Leonard
Subject	Process for advising of planning application outcomes
Response by	Portfolio Holder for Planning
Supplementary	None

Question 8.	Councillor Mossop
Subject	National Tree Week
Response by	Portfolio Holder for Planning
Supplementary	None

Question 9.	Councillor Horton
Subject	Staff structure
Response by	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs
Supplementary	We have a tremendous licensing team but I find it strange given our district demographics, that one officer can cover all of this. I believe that staffing should be considered to ensure we are fully covered.
Response	I am happy to look at Performance Indicators and respond to Councillor Horton

Question 10.	Councillor Horton
Subject	Growth Team Structure
Response by	Portfolio Holder for Finance
Supplementary	None

Question 11.	Councillor Horton
Subject	Fly tipping
Response by	Portfolio Holder for Operational Services
Supplementary	I find it strange that as an authority that the Council does not maintain figures on the cost of clearing up fly tipping. May I suggest that in the future a record is kept to give an indication of what it is costing?
Response	Although you don't ask a question, I can advise that this is work in process, but the cost of collection is quite negligible

Question 12.	Councillor Horton
Subject	New refuse vehicle specification
Response by	Portfolio Holder for Operational Services
Supplementary	None

Question 13.	Councillor Horton
Subject	Projected Police numbers in East Lindsey
Response by	Portfolio Holder for Partnerships
Supplementary	I have been privy to information that suggests that potentially in the New Year that Police numbers are to be cut quite drastically
Response	I would be pleased to meet with you afterwards if you contact me. We do push on police numbers through the Police Constable but I would be happy to keep you informed with any information.

Question 14.	Councillor Mangion
Subject	Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels
Response by	Councillor Ashton
Supplementary	Councillor Mangion tabled a further question to be put to the Portfolio Holder for Planning outside of the meeting:

	Will the Council be developing a tree planting strategy in the District?
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Question 15.	Councillor Mangion
Subject	Strategy for Broadband improvement and uptake
Response by	Councillor Leyland
Supplementary	None

Question 16.	Councillor Mangion
Subject	Cultural heritage of the Wolds towns.
Response by	Portfolio Holder for Market Towns & the Rural Economy
Supplementary	None

A full copy of the questions is attached at **Appendix 1** to these Minutes.

71. EXEMPT INFORMATION:

It was Proposed and Seconded that the Meeting go into Exempt session for the following items:

RESOLVED

That under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the following items on the grounds that, if they were present, there could be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended).

72. DEVELOPMENT COMPANY BUSINESS CASE:

An exempt Report was presented regarding the Development Company Business Case.

It was Proposed and Seconded

'That the recommendations within the Exempt report be approved'

Following which, it was

RESOLVED

That the recommendations within the Exempt report be approved.

73. TRANSITION OF THE TELECARE SERVICE:

An exempt report was presented regarding the Telecare Service Transfer.

Following which, it was Proposed and Seconded

'That the recommendation contained within the exempt report be approved'

RESOLVED

- 1) That the recommendation contained within the exempt report be approved;
- 2) That the public and press be invited to re-join the meeting.

74. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The programmed date for the next Meeting of the Council was noted as Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 2.00pm.

The meeting closed at 3.07 pm.