



Sleaford Town Council
Finance & Strategy Panel
Notes and Report of Meeting – 29th August 2019
10am – 11.35am

Panel Members present:

Councillor Anthony Brand (Lead)
Councillor Ken Fernandes
Councillor Tarek Hayat
Councillor Paul Edward-Shea
Councillor Stephen Shanahan-Kluth
Councillor Linda Lowndes
Councillor David Suiter

Meeting supported by the Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Administration Officer (LS)

1. Apologies

No Apologies were received

2. Welcome by Panel Lead

The Panel Lead welcomed Panel members and other Councillors.

3. Notes from the last meeting on 25th July 2019

The Panel agreed the notes which had been presented to Council on 14th August 2019. The Panel Lead updated the panel on the proposed internal changes to the Town Hall; that the architect's drawings have been completed and the Clerk is now seeking quotations from relevant businesses to carry out the work.

4. Capital Programme 2019-2026

The Panel reviewed an updated version of the Capital Programme following the last Panel meeting; individual entries were discussed as follow;

a. Tractor Shed (Grounds Maintenance Storage Unit)

A budget of £20k had previously been allocated for improvements/additions to the Tractor Shed. The Lead explained a meeting has been arranged with the Service Team members to obtain their views. Panel Members and other councillors were then invited to visit the Tractor Shed thus the meeting was suspended at 10.06 am and resumed at 10.35am. After discussion, the following action was agreed:

Action: The Deputy Clerk to compile a report following the meeting with Services Team; embracing where possible the comments of the Panel. This report to be presented to the next Panel meeting on 26th September.

b. Future of Sleaford Cemetery

The Deputy Clerk explained that the provision of cemetery was a statutory responsibility of the council and required strategic direction. Funds were identified in the Capital Programme but these needed to be considered in a wider context in terms of the existing site linked to the adjacent allotment site.

- c. Toilets – It was noted that the toilets in Moneys Yard are owned by NKDC, STC have a lease on the building. The toilet block is rather old and tired and Panel members discussed the possibility of a new toilet block as part of the Heart of Sleaford Project.

Recommendation to Council:

The Clerk to meet with the appropriate officers at NKDC to investigate the future potential of relocating a new toilet block within the Heart of Sleaford area.

- d. Panel Members acknowledged that the Capital Programme is a live document and would need to be revisited on a regular basis, in the meantime it needed to be approved

Recommendation to Council:

That the current programme is approved by Council, subject to regular review. The current contribution from the annual precept is sufficient at the present time to support the overall programme.

5. Strategic Plan Items 2019-20

The Lead highlighted the following areas;

Car Park – The Clerk has continued to chase a consultant acting for the Council. It was highly unlikely the car park would be completed this calendar year. It was noted that some emergency patching work may be required over the winter.

Eastgate Car Park – The Clerk has recently gained access to the real-time software system for the car parking machines. He would endeavour to extrapolate the information and report to Council on a quarterly basis.

Action: Clerk to follow up with NKDC for the technology needed to require car registration number entry by all users.

Chairman's Allowance – The Panel Lead confirmed that a Civic Fund budget line has been created in the Council's current year budget in readiness of a recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Chairman's allowance.

Action: The Clerk to follow up a response from the Review Panel by contacting NKDC

6. S.106 Monies – Potential Funding Source (note this item continued into Closed Session)

The Panel Lead and the Deputy Clerk visited NKDC to discuss the S106 monies available from the Castle Park development. It was noted that approximately £106k which could be used for the benefit of the community in the vicinity of the development. The Deputy Clerk explained that STC would need to put forward a proposal in order to claim the money within 5 years of it being available.

7. Website

The Lead explained that the Clerk has approached a company that specialises in websites for Town and Parish Councils. Separately to the website there would be a need for secure email addresses for Councillors.

Action: The Clerk to bring a report to the next meeting

Move into Closed Session

At 11.10am The Lead Proposed to go into Closed Session – as third-party information contained not in the public domain would be discussed. All non-Panel members left the meeting.

Following discussion:

Recommendation

The Clerk to make enquiries concerning the availability of land for possible recreational use within Sleaford.

8. Date and time for next meeting

Thursday 26th September 2019 10am

The Meeting Closed at 11.35am