



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Sleaford Annual Town Meeting held on  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at 7.00pm, at The Town Hall, Sleaford**

**Present:** Cllr Linda Edwards-Shea (Chairman, Sleaford Town Council), Mr Chris Pilkington (Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, Sleaford Town Council) and 17 electors of the parish of Sleaford.

**23.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

**23.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for the meeting had been received from local electors Paul Edwards-Shea, Heather Lorimer, Robert Oates and James Thomas. These were noted.

**23.3 MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman of the Meeting.

**23.4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

An elector asked for an update on progress with the neighbourhood plan since the last Annual Town Meeting. The Clerk explained that progress had been made, documents were under preparation and it was hoped that the plan would go to referendum in either late 2022 or in 2023.

**23.5 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

The Chairman spoke to report she had prepared setting out the work of the Town Council over the last year. She mentioned the civic work she had undertaken as Mayor and thanked staff for their support. During the year the Council had recruited a new clerk who had started in October. The Council had met on a regular basis and continued to deliver a range of services for residents including maintaining the cemetery, allotment sites, recreation grounds, running a market and operating the Eastgate Car Park. In addition the Council had put on various events during the year

(e.g. the Christmas Market) and responded to planning applications and consultations on behalf of the Town. The neighbourhood plan was under development and plans were in preparation to upgrade the play equipment at the George Street Play Area. The Sleaford Castle Heritage Group was working with the Council on plans to enhance the site as a visitor attraction. The Council had continued to support the work of the Twinning Association and other organisations in the Town. In January the Council had set its budget and precept for the 2023-2024 financial year and the latter would be £746,350.19 which would represent a 1.47% increase in the parish precept based on a Band D property.

A discussion took place and an elector mentioned that the Council had received criticism for the quality of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the Town. The Chairman explained that this had been noted and the planning underway for the Coronation Day events in May would reflect learning from the Jubilee celebrations. She detailed the activities being planned. It was also suggested that there be a children's colouring competition and some bunting be put up in Greylees. The Chairman added that the Boston Road Layby would be repaired in time for the day. Another elector mentioned the community engagement work underway with local residents near the Woodside Play Area to establish what new play equipment they would like at the site. An elector asked about the condition of the Eastgate Car Park. The Clerk reported that in the 2023-2024 he expected the contract for the required repairs to be put out to tender. In the meantime, temporary repairs would be made as and when required.

## **23.6 MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS**

A range of matters were raised by local electors including encouraging press and public attendance at Town Council meetings, making better use of the Council noticeboards, the possibility of holding a Town Council meeting at the golf club and the lack of facilities at Greylees. Cllr Edwards-Shea was thanked for her work as Mayor over the past year.

The business being concluded the Chairman closed the meeting.

Chris Pilkington PSLCC  
Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
Sleaford Town Council  
14<sup>th</sup> April 2023

21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Signed:

Date: