

Sleaford Town Council

Annual Town Meeting Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 1st May 2019 at 7:00pm at The Town Hall, Quayside House, Navigation Yard, Sleaford, Lincs, NG34 7TW

Present: Councillor G Jackson, Chairman of the Council

Officers: Clerk.

Members of Staff: 4

Press: 0

The meeting was attended by approximately 19 members of the public including Sleaford Town Councillors and staff

ATM. 1 Apologies

Apologies, with reasons had been received from Councillors J Mathieson, S Clegg and H Lorimer. These were accepted.

ATM.2 Minutes

IT WAS RESOLVED that the notes from the meeting held on 9th May 2018 be accepted as Minutes of that Meeting. The majority of those in attendance agreed. The Resolution was carried.

ATM.3 Mayor's Report

The Chairman read his report:

“Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow Councillors, those from other authorities, members of staff and, most importantly, members of the public and welcome to the Sleaford Town meeting of 2019.

I have enjoyed the role of Mayor supported by my fellow Councillors in our decision making at Town Council meetings and representing the Town at Civic Events. Over the year I have chaired some interesting meetings and some significant decisions have been made affecting the town.

I would like to thank my wife Carole for joining me in attending many civic events staged in other towns and districts of Lincolnshire, and local RAF stations. In total we attended fifty-five events over the year and Cllr Adrian Snookes, as my deputy, and his wife Alison have attended others on our behalf, and I thank them for representing Sleaford in this valuable way.

My appointment as Mayor was a little unexpected but having made the decision not to stand in this week's election for another four year term well in advance, I realised that this would be my last opportunity to serve Sleaford in this capacity and so agreed to the request of a number of my colleagues to stand for election to the post.

It is usual for the incoming Mayor to disclose on appointment their priorities for the term of office and what charity they intend to support. I wanted to support two

practical groups with which I have been involved over the years, one working with the elderly and one with young people.

Evergreen provide support for the elderly by befriending those who live alone and the Boys' and Girls' Brigade work with under 18's, helping them to grow as good citizens. It has been a pleasure to support and promote the work of both Evergreen and the 1st Sleaford Boys' and Girls' Brigade based at the Riverside Church in Sleaford. It has been an inspiration to see how many young people have developed in confidence and older people regain their confidence throughout the year.

Carole and I were very privileged to support the Town Twinning Association and were able to visit Fredesdorf-Vogelsdorf in August and host six French visitors from Marquette la Lille in October as part of the reciprocal visit in October.

In my position as Mayor of Sleaford, I have been able to play an active role in encouraging local organisations in Sleaford to join together for the benefit of the environment and local communities. The meetings have been successful, and I know that this is something that the Town Council will continue to support even when I am no longer Mayor.

I have also been joint chairman of the Sleaford Castle Development Group. Over the year the Town Council have worked with the Civic Trust to promote the Castle and investigate how we can make it more interesting to a wider audience. Practical measures have already been implemented and exciting developments can be looked forward to in the coming years.

Switching on the Christmas lights following a very successful Christmas market was a significant highlight of the year. The Christmas light display showed Sleaford in all its glory and it was a joy to celebrate this event with all those who attended the Christmas market.

I have enjoyed representing this Council in hosting a well-received civic service at the Riverside Church, welcoming civic guests from around the county and further afield. The service was very different to those we have attended in other towns as we had modern hymns and music whilst retaining the traditions of earlier times.

Looking forward, I hope many of you will become involved in developing a Neighbourhood Plan, after something of a false start, the council has begun work again on a project that will significantly affect those communities that live and work in Sleaford and Kirkby La Thorpe. The Neighbourhood Plan will ultimately assist in ensuring we create a place that people wish to visit, live and be part of."

ATM.4 Clerk's Report

Achievements 2018/19

- Enhanced involvement with the Voluntary Sector
- Increased use of Town Hall and provision of more events for residents
- Closer working with Local Authorities/Agencies
- Greater transparency, awareness and accountability

- Provision of Sleaford in Bloom facility
- Play equipment, fencing and furniture at Woodside

Financial Matters 2018/19 & 2019/20

• Budget 2018/19	£782,122	
• Precept	£621,540	(£110.72 per Band D)
• Balances/reserves	£670k	
• Budget 2019/20	£791,500	
• Precept	£648,554	(£112.72 per Band D)
• Balances/reserves	£859K	

Financial Matters 2018/19

Main Reserves are:

• Eastgate Car Park Refurbishment	£271k
• Parks & Playing Fields Capital Programme	£111k
• Other Assets Capital Programme	£117k
• General Reserves	£160k
• Planning & Project Consultancy	£ 44k
• Elections	£ 26k
• Pride in Sleaford	£ 24k
• Tree works and signage	£ 29k
• Castlefield Site	£ 10k

Some of the challenges for 2019/20

- Markets (NKDC)
- Street Cleaning & Highway Verges (NKDC & LCC)
- Pride in Sleaford (street furniture)
- Eastgate Car Park Refurbishment
- Castlefield Site
- Town Hall Alterations
- Website Improvements

Some of the challenges for 2019/20

- Major changes to Council (8 out, 6 in)
- Budget & Capital Programme recognising challenges
- Review of assets and resultant changes
- React to likely service changed by principal authorities
- Developing and promoting events
- Building relationships with voluntary sector

Supporting in 2018/19 given to:

Sleaford Dementia Group; Sleaford Be Litter Free; River Clean Team; Rainbow Stars; Sleaford Civic Trust; NKDC Seniors; Parkinson's Support Group; South Lincs Blind

Society; Sleaford & District Museum; Sleaford in Bloom; Sleaford Twinning Association; Notts & Lincs Air Ambulance; Evergreen Trust; Hope for tomorrow; Armed Forces Day; New Life Community Impact; Laffletics; Mid Lincs CAB; Lincs Association of Senior Fora; Sleaford Art Group; Police Community Support Group; Sleaford Division Girl Guides; Christian Church; Castle Heritage Group; HART; British Legion, Sleaford Town Awards

Thank you

- My team and work colleagues
- Outgoing Councillors (Welcome to the new)
- Voluntary Sector and Organisations
- Sleaford Civic Trust
- Other public bodies
- Residents and stakeholders

ATM.5 Questions from the Public

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and questions included:

- How does it fit in with NKDC and the Central Lincolnshire Plan?
- What funding is there?
- Wider framework is needed for progression of the NHP.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed a designated area has been approved by NKDC and is available on from NKDC's website. There will be a public forum from which a steering group will evolve from this to move the plan forward and it is envisaged that this will be a lengthy process. The steering group will receive technical advice from NKDC

ATM.6 Ideas and Suggestions for future council consideration

- Climbing Frame/walls in Boston Road Recreation Ground and Lincoln Road, for adults and children to use;
- More publicity for voluntary groups working in partnership with NKDC
- Tourism promotion
- Chamber of Commerce/Business Directory

There were no more questions and the meeting closed at 8:06pm.