



**Minutes of the Meeting of Sleaford Town Council held on  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.00pm, at The Town Hall, Sleaford**

**Present:**

Cllr Linda Edwards-Shea – Chairman  
Cllr James Thomas – Vice Chairman  
Cllr Bozena Allan  
Cllr Paul Edwards-Shea  
Cllr Ken Fernandes  
Cllr Heather Lorimer  
Cllr Robert Oates  
Cllr Malcolm Offer

Cllr John Parry  
Cllr Melody Shanahan-Kluth  
Cllr Stephen Shanahan-Kluth  
Cllr Mark Smith  
Cllr Ad Snookes  
Cllr Al Snookes  
Cllr D Suiter

**Also in attendance:** Mr Chris Pilkington (Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), Mrs Debbie Scott (Minute Taker), Cllr Mark Allan (Lincolnshire County Council), and three members of the public.

**23.50 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting, reminding everyone that this would be the last meeting in the current four-year civic cycle of the Council. She offered thanks to all Councillors for their contributions and wished those standing for election the best of luck. She added her thanks to the Clerk, the office staff and the services team for their hard work.

**23.51 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for the meeting and reasons for absence from it had been received from Cllrs David Darmon, Tarek Hayat, Linda Lowndes and James Thomas. It was reported that Cllr Thomas had an earlier commitment and may still be joining the Council meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the reasons for absence of Cllrs Darmon, Hayat, Lowndes and Thomas be approved.

**23.52 (a) TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 31 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011 AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT INTERESTS UNDER THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

There were no declarations of interest.

**(b) TO RECEIVE AND DECIDE UPON REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS TO COUNCILLORS TO TAKE PART IN DISCUSSIONS AND VOTES WHERE THEY HAVE DECLARED DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no requests for dispensations.

**23.53 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

One member of the public raised questions about the state of the area at the Monument end of Boston Road, in terms of accumulated dirt and the frequent damage to the highway by large vehicles. He was referred to the County Council for the physical condition of the kerbs, etc., to the District Council for the accumulated dirt on the road itself and his comments about the footway would be passed to the Town Council's Services Team. Cllr Allan reported that LCC officers were looking at re-profiling the triangle island to reduce damage and improve pedestrian safety. He added that the town centre was already subject to traffic weight restrictions, except for deliveries. The member of the public also raised concerns about a proposed illuminated sign; he was referred to the District Council.

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted.

**23.54 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Allan reported that work would soon be starting on the waterproofing of the Southgate bridge by the Riverside Church. Despite LCC's efforts, it was still likely that some disruption to traffic flow may occur. They planned to use the area where the flower stall stands as their 'welfare' base. He also gave an explanation of the proposed changes to the Southgate Bus Stop, following complaints by the Parking Warden. Trading Standards officers were taking action against shops selling vaping equipment to underage customers. He added that nominations were now open for the Lincolnshire Good Citizen's Awards and reported that this year 86% of children in this area had been given places at their first-choice school. There were no updates from NKDC Councillors present.

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted.

## **23.55 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **(a) MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023, be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman of the Council.

### **(b) DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023**

The Town Clerk reported that the draft minutes of the Annual Town Meeting would go to Town Meeting in 2024 as it was a meeting of the electors of the parish rather than the Council. However he had brought the minutes to this meeting so that members were aware of what had been raised at the Annual Town Meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the draft notes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023, be noted.

## **23.56 REQUEST TO HOLD THE LOYAL COMPANY OF TOWN CRIERS BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SLEAFORD IN 2024**

The Council resolved to that agenda item 12d be brought forward at this point, to allow a member of the public, Mr Griffiths, the Sleaford Town Crier, to speak on the agenda item. Mr Griffiths explained that the prestigious event would attract even more Town Criers and visitors than the regular Town Crier events which had been successfully hosted by the town over several years. He advised that grant funding could be available, but the amount was not yet known. He asked that the Council consider setting aside an amount up to £7,000 to cover the costs of the event.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Griffiths be congratulated on his recent success at the Heart of England Town Crier Competition and the request was agreed for the town to host the Loyal Company of Town Criers British Championships on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024, with a budget of up to £7,000 to form part of the Council's overall budget for 2024-2025.

## **23.57 CHAIRMAN'S & VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Report had been shared. The Chairman had chaired the Annual Town Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March. She thanked Cllrs Alison Snookes and Mark Smith for representing the Council at the Children of Courage Awards and RAF Cranwell's Graduation Ceremony respectively. Cllr Edwards-Shea shared dates of the forthcoming Twinning Association Coffee Mornings and the 2023 Twinning Visits.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

## **23.58 TOWN CLERK & RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk spoke to his report. He had attended the Annual Town Meeting and meetings of the Sleaford Castle Heritage Group, the Sleaford Neighbourhood Working Group and the Armed Forces Day Working Group (twice). He had also met the Council's insurance brokers regarding property valuations, Edge IT regarding asset management software and NKDC representatives regarding the UKSPF project around the Handley Monument area. He reported that work was taking place to get updated insurance valuations of the Council's properties and monuments. He had spoken with a representative from Tesco and, while no further action was possible yet due to pre-election Purdah, he would be reporting back the Council meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> May. With the help of Land & Property Registration he was working to clarify the Council's land ownership, following transfers and deals on and since 1<sup>st</sup> April 1974. He reported that the surfacing works on the Layby on Boston Road were complete but again he was still trying to resolve the ownership legalities, before any further action could be taken.

The Town Clerk also reported that the work on the Town Hall lift would take place after the use of the building as a polling station on 4<sup>th</sup> May; the Coronation banners were now in place on Southgate and would remain until to end of June to also promote the Armed Forces Day events; The Neighbourhood Policing Team had visited one of the allotments sites to talk about security issues and marking their equipment.

A councillor expressed concern that he had previously been told that insurance valuations of assets had been undertaken when it appeared that they was not actually the case. Other Councillors raised questions about the options for the Layby as there was evidence of its use now for commuter parking rather than for users of the Recreation Ground. In addition to the recently completed re-surfacing, Councillors asked that marking spaces, introducing charges and possibly re-kerbing the side nearest the fence be considered. The Clerk assured the meeting that those issues would be looked at once the ownership issues were resolved.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

## **23.59 GOVERNANCE MATTERS**

### **(a) MID-YEAR INTERNAL AUDIT**

19<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Signed:

Date:

The report, with updates so far had been shared. The Clerk explained that many of the outstanding items would be resolved at either the Annual Meeting or the May meeting the next month. The only remaining high risk (red) item was the H&S issue over workstations, which the Clerk was working to resolve as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

#### **(b) RISK REGISTER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk updated members, explaining that the main identified risk was about the under-valuations of buildings, etc., in respect of the insurance cover. As discussed above, he confirmed that this was being rectified.

**RESOLVED:** That the update be noted.

#### **(c) LOCAL COUNCIL WARD SCHEME**

The Town Clerk spoke to the report he had produced on progress towards accreditation and what remained to be done and took questions from members. He was recommending that progress be noted, the actions still required be undertaken and an update provided to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the recommendations of the report be accepted.

#### **(d) NOMINATION OF A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF THE WITHAM FIRST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

The Town Clerk reported that he had been in contact with the IDB to establish whether the Council, as a ratepayer to the IDB, was entitled to nominate a representative to the IDB Board. The IDB had confirmed that the Council could nominate a representative.

**RESOLVED:** That the invitation to nominate a Trustee to the Board of the Witham First Internal Drainage Board be accepted and the nomination be resolved at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

#### **(e) NATIONAL ALLOTMENT SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE, WOODLAND GRANGE HOTEL, LEAMINGTON SPA, SATURDAY 10TH JUNE 2023**

As a member of the Society, the Council had received notice of the AGM. No Councillors expressed an interest in attending.

**RESOLVED:** That the notice of the AGM be noted and no representative sent to the meeting.

## **23.60 PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

### **(a) CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL PLAN INSPECTORS REPORT**

The Inspectors' report had been shared. The Chairman of the Sleaford Neighbourhood Working Group advised that the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan itself had now been formally adopted so the Inspectors' Report was somewhat historic. He added that the Local Plan was a significant factor in the work on the Neighbourhood Plan, the latter's policies having to conform with the Local Plan and now that the Local Plan had been adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan could move towards its next stage. Councillors expressed their concerns, mirroring those of their ward constituents, about the amount of new housing, without any apparent upgrading of the public service infrastructure. They welcomed the clarification that housing numbers were dictated by Central Government, not locally.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted, a link to the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan be added to the Council's website and training in planning matters be arranged for the new Council as soon as possible after the election.

### **(b) DEVELOPMENT OF SLEAFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

A copy of the draft (un-proofed) Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan had been shared. The Chairman of the Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan explained that the Consultants were still working on the policies, the design guides and the Masterplan for the Sleaford West SUE. They and the Working Group would go through the document and ensure conformity with the newly adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and bring a final draft to the Council for approval later in the year before submission to NKDC for further statutory consultation, examination and referendum. It was expected that the part of the process managed by NKDC could be completed by late Autumn 2024. If the referendum accepted the plan, NKDC would adopt it as part of the legal planning framework for the area.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and the Working Group thanked for its efforts.

### **(c) APPLICATION OF INTENDED WORKS TO TREES IN A CONSERVATION AREA PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0273/TCA, T1 MAPLE TREE – REMOVE TO GROUND LEVEL AND ECO-PLUG DUE TO AFFECTING MAST AND ENCROACHING ON BUILDING, LCC OFFICES, KESTEVEN STREET, SLEAFORD, NG34 7EB**

**RESOLVED:** That no response be made.

**(d) PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0312/HOUSE, ERECTION OF FRONT PORCH AND SINGLE STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSIONS, 6 RUSSELL CRESCENT, SLEAFORD, NG34 7JF**

**RESOLVED:** That no response be made.

**(e) PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0305/FUL, CHANGE OF USE FROM USE CLASS E TO SUI GENERIS/CLASS E (DOG GROOMING AND SALE OF PET PRODUCTS), 12 WESTGATE, SLEAFORD, NG34 7PN**

**RESOLVED:** That no response be made.

**(f) PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0317/HOUS, LOCKSMILL HOUSE, BONEMILL LANE, SLEAFORD, NG34 8SR, ERECTION OF A SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION**

**RESOLVED:** That no response be made.

**(g) PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0320/HOUS, ERECTION OF FRONT PORCH AND TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION, 48 FINCH DRIVE, SLEAFORD, NG34 7US**

**RESOLVED:** That no response be made.

**(h) PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0285/ADV, VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN SLEAFORD TOWN CENTRE, INSTALLATION OF SIX WAYFINDING SIGNS**

The Town Clerk explained that the Council had given NKDC permission to put some of the proposed signs on Town Council land and that it would be consistent with that to support the planning application.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council support the planning application for the wayfinding signs.

**(i) PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0377/PNH, SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION 5.18M IN LENGTH FROM THE ORIGINAL WALL, EAVES HEIGHT OF 2.54M AND MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF 3.50M, 10 NORTH PARADE, SLEAFORD**

**RESOLVED:** That no response be made.

**(j) PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0371/ADV, PROPOSED NEW BUSINESS SIGNAGE (RETROSPECTIVE), 15 SOUTHGATE, SLEAFORD, NG34 7SX**

**RESOLVED:** That no response be made.

**(k) PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0384/VARCON, APPLICATION TO VARY CONDITION 2 – (MECHANICAL VENTILATION), CONDITION 3 – (OUTDOOR SEATING), CONDITION 5 – (HOURS OF OPERATION), CONDITION 6 – (BOUNDARY TREATMENTS), CONDITION 7 – (NOISE MITIGATION), CONDITION 8 – (HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPING), CONDITION 9 (PARKING & VEHICULAR MOVEMENTS), CONDITION 10 – (ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT), CONDITION 12 – (APPROVED PLANS) OF APPLICATION 20/1470/FUL – CHANGE OF USE OF FORMER CHAPEL TO RESTAURANT WITH BAR (USE CLASS E/SUI GENERIS), THE OLD CHAPEL, KINROSS ROAD, GREYLEES, SLEAFORD, NG34 8GF**

**RESOLVED:** That no response be made.

**(l) PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0388/HOUS, ERECTION OF A SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND CONVERSION OF GARAGE, 26 FINCH DRIVE, SLEAFORD, NG34 7US**

**RESOLVED:** That no response be made.

**(m) PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0389/HOUS, PROPOSED SINGLE STOREY REAR AND SIDE EXTENSION, CONVERSION OF GARAGE AND DEMOLITION OF STONE PORCH WITH ERECTION OF OAK FRAMED PORCH, CHANGE OF TILES, WINDOWS, DOORS AND ROOF TRIMS AND INTERNAL ALTERATIONS, 1 RICHMOND CLOSE, SLEAFORD, NG34 7RD**

**RESOLVED:** That no response be made.

**(n) UPDATE REGARDING A REQUEST FOR PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON EASTGATE**

The Town Clerk reported that as yet no proposals for parking restrictions had been received from Lincolnshire County Council.

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted.

**(o) FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO SLEAFORD RIVERSIDE, SOUTH OF THE DROVE ALLOTMENTS**

**RESOLVED:** That the forthcoming works be noted.

**(p) LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED LIMITED WAITING BAY FOR LOCAL BUS SERVICES, SOUTHGATE, SLEAFORD**

As explained earlier this proposal was to ratify the current usage of the Southgate bus stop as a 'bus stand' where buses could not only drop off and pick up passengers but could also stand while waiting for their timetabled departure time.



**RESOLVED:** That the Council support for the proposal from Lincolnshire County Council.

**(q) FORTHCOMING PRESENTATION ABOUT THE BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK**

The Town Clerk confirmed that he had arranged for the Beacon Fen company to give a presentation to Councillors on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7pm at the Town Hall. Councillors suggested that the company be urged to arrange a further meeting, open to the public, to discuss the proposal and asked the Clerk to talk to the company about having the presentation to Councillors recorded for others' information.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk speak to the company, as above, and all current and new councillors be invited to the presentation on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**23.61 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**(a) REVISIONS TO THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk asked that regulations be amended in respect of delegation to the Town Clerk, or the Town Clerk and Chairman, explaining that the current limits were no longer realistic.

**RESOLVED:** That Regulation 4.1(a) be amended to allow the Town Clerk to authorise payments (within budget) of up to £5,000 (from £1,000) in conjunction with the Chairman and that Regulation 4.6 be amended to allow the Town Clerk to authorise payments where there is an extreme risk to the delivery of the Council's services of up to £5,000 (from £2,500), subject to then notifying the Chairman and the Council.

**(b) COUNCIL'S BANK BALANCES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Council's Bank Balances be noted.

**(c) FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS MADE RETROSPECTIVELY AND PENDING**

**RESOLVED:** That the financial transactions listed on the reports, £13,172.48, £38,146.51, £18,410.62, £12,643.53, £6,284.81 and £5,822.62, totalling £94,480.57 respectively be approved.

**(d) AUTHORISATION OF ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE**

(i) Mrs Debbie Scott, Minute taking services, March 2023, £320

**RESOLVED:** That the payment be authorised.

**(e) AUTHORISATION OF EXPENDITURE MADE UNDER FINANCIAL REGULATION 4.6**

- (i) Harco, Additional expenditure on Boston Road Layby, £2,520
- (ii) Cardinus, Insurance valuations of properties, £2,520
- (iii) One Stop Disposables, Pallet of refuse sacks, £2,403.96
- (iv) NFU Mutual, Vehicle Insurance, £1,992.59
- (v) SRP Hire Solutions, Toilets for Coronation Day events, £1,428
- (vi) Mountain Skip Hire, Skips for allotments, £1,224
- (viii) Charles H Hill, Service of tools, £1,185.46
- (ix) Gallagher Insurance Brokers, Engineering insurance, £444
- (x) EON, Maintenance of street lights, £81
- (xi) Bush Tyres, Repair of puncture, £50

**RESOLVED:** That the above payment authorisations be noted.

**(f) FUND TRANSFERS WITHIN THE COUNCIL'S BANKING ARRANGEMENTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED:** That the transfer of £30,000 from the Council's Capital Account to the Current Account on 24<sup>th</sup> March and the transfer of £373,175.10, being the first payment of the Precept, from the Current Account to the Capital Account on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, be noted

**(g) TO REQUEST TWO MEMBERS TO SIGN PAPERWORK**

**RESOLVED:** That Cllrs Offer and L Edwards-Shea sign the paperwork.

**(h) UPDATE REGARDING OPTIONS FOR IT SUPPORT TO THE COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk reported that the Working Group established at the last meeting would be meeting with two potential suppliers in the next few weeks. He asked for authorisation to proceed with one of the suppliers in consultation with the Working Group.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk be authorised to place the contract with one or other of the suppliers after consultation with the Working Group.

**(i) PARKING FINE INCOME FROM THE EASTGATE CAR**

The Town Clerk explained that he had identified an omission by NKDC in transferring the proceeds from the parking fines issued by the wardens in Eastgate Car Park. NKDC had corrected the matter and transferred a total of £31,721.33 to the Town

Council, to cover the missing income from 2018-2023. The Clerk was thanked for his vigilance.

**RESOLVED:** That the issue be noted and the Town Clerk liaise with NKDC to make sure that future payments are made and made on time.

**(j) FINANCIAL DONATION TO CITIZENS ADVICE MID LINCOLNSHIRE**

The Town Clerk reported that a request from a grant had been received from Citizens Advice Mid-Lincolnshire. He reminded the meeting that a sum to support Citizens Advice had been included in the Council's 2023-24 Budget.

Cllr Lorimer requested a recorded vote.

For – Cllrs B Allan, L Edwards-Shea, P Edwards-Shea, K Fernandes, H Lorimer, R Oates, M Offer, J Parry, M Shanahan-Kluth, S Shanahan-Kluth, M Smith, Ad Snookes, D Suiter and J Thomas.

Against – None.

**RESOLVED:** That £4,900.00 be donated to Citizens Advice Mid Lincolnshire.

The time had now reached 9.30pm and it was agreed to extend the meeting until no later than 10pm.

**23.62 COUNCIL AND TOWN MATTERS**

**(a) REQUEST TO USE BOSTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND FOR A FAMILY FUN DAY ON SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 FROM 11:30AM TO 5:30PM**

**RESOLVED:** That the Council grant the use of the Recreation Ground, on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 subject to the usual requirements regarding a deposit, insurance, site usage and the casual hire agreement, with a hire charge.

**(b) CHANGES TO THE OPENING HOURS OF THE NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY'S SLEAFORD BRANCH**

A report from the Nationwide Building Society had been shared. Councillors were concerned that the proposed closures would mean no opening on either Fridays or Saturdays.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk write to the Building Society expressing the Council's disappointment about the reduced operating hours.

**(c) REPORT ON THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUNDING (UKSPF) PROJECTS**

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the UKSPF projects including the Castlefield Site, a Castle museum and improvements to the area around the Handley Monument and Monument Gardens.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk continue to liaise with NKDC to progress the UK Shared Prosperity Funded projects in the Town and bring detailed proposals relating to Town Council Assets to a future meeting of the Council.

**(d) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CORONATION YEAR SLEAFORD TOWN AWARDS EVENT**

**RESOLVED:** That the ongoing partnership with the Sleaford Standard to manage the event be approved.

**23.63 COUNCIL COMMITTEES, PANELS, TASK & FINISH GROUPS AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

**(a) MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY AND 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2023**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meetings be noted.

**(b) MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CORONATION EVENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP MEETINGS HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY, 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AND 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes on the Coronation Event Task & Finish Group be noted and the recommendations to establish panels of judges for the Shop Window Competition and the Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Competition, a donation of £50, from a suitable budget line to Help for Heroes in appreciation of their voluntary work in support of the event, were approved with the Town Clerk given the delegated authority to progress these matters.

**(c) NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE S106 AND CIL FUNDING TASK & FINISH GROUP MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 AND AN REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP**

The Chairman of the S106 and CIL Funding Task and Finish Group and the Town Clerk reported that, although three quotes had been received for play equipment for the George St Play Area, the procurement would now be through Contract Finder, and each potential supplier would be submitting their proposals.

In addition, the Task and Finish Group Chairman explained that the community engagement work already started in respect of Woodside would be handed over to the 'new' Task and Finish Group after the Annual Meeting. He expressed his thanks to the members of the group, the Town Clerk, office staff and service team for their support.

**RESOLVED:** That the following recommendations for officer actions be accepted: Invite suppliers to tender for the installation of new equipment in the George Street Play Area using Contract Finder with a budget of 100 thousand pounds. Then to invite a selected number of suppliers to make a presentation to council after which councillors will make a final decision. Progress the creation of a new path connecting the existing path to the Stamford Close entrance, consult appropriate bodies on planning, design, any drainage considerations, getting quotes from suppliers and bringing a report to full council for a final decision. Investigate the resurfacing of the basketball court and bring a report to full council for a final decision. Work with the Sleaford Castle Heritage Group on the installation of benches and picnic tables in castle field and bring a report to full council for a final decision.

**(d) NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SLEAFORD CASTLE HERITAGE GROUP MEETINGS HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH AND 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be noted and the recommendations, that the Council seek three quotes for a pathway on the Castle Site from the entrance to the Nine Foot River and, to reduce littering on the Castlefield Site and to make it more attractive and visible, the shrubbery to be permanently removed, be approved.

**23.64 DATES AND VENUES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**(a) DATE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED:** That the Annual Meeting of the Town Council take place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7pm at the Town Hall, Sleaford.

**(b) DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED:** That the next ordinary meeting of the Town Council take place on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 at 7pm at the Town Hall, Sleaford.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.55pm.