



**Minutes of the Meeting of Sleaford Town Council held on
Wednesday 25th January 2023 at 7.00pm, at The Town Hall, Sleaford**

Present:

Cllr L Edwards-Shea – Chairman
Cllr J Thomas – Vice Chairman
Cllr B Allen
Cllr D Darmon
Cllr P Edwards-Shea
Cllr K Fernandes
Cllr H Lorimer

Cllr R Oates
Cllr M Offer
Cllr J Parry
Cllr S Shanahan-Kluth
Cllr Ad Snookes
Cllr Al Snookes
Cllr D Suiter

Also in attendance: Mr Chris Pilkington (Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) and Ms M Free (Senior Finance Officer).

23.14 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and thanked those who had attended the recent Burns Night Event which had raised £248 for the Mayor's charities.

23.15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for the meeting and reasons for absence from it had been received from Cllrs T Hayat, L Lowndes, M Shanahan-Kluth and M Smith.

RESOLVED: That the reasons for absence of Cllrs Hayat, Lowndes, M Shanahan-Kluth and M Smith be approved.

23.16 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interest

(a) To receive disclosures 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

Cllrs Ad Snookes and Al Snookes both declared an interest in agenda item 23.19(c) as they lived adjacent to the property to which the planning application related.

(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

None.

23.17 Public Participation Session

There were no members of the public present.

23.18 Governance & Finance Matters

(a) Consideration of amendments to the budget and precept demand for the 2023/2024 financial year

The Senior Finance Officer explained that the precept demand for £746,350.19 agreed at the Town Council meeting on 18th January would in fact result in a 1.47% precept increase on a Band D property rather than a 1.13% increase as had been presented at the meeting. To keep any rise at 1.13% the precept demand would have to be set at £743,850.19. Members were invited to confirm or otherwise that they wanted to keep the precept demand at £746,350.19.

Members discussed the options with some being in favour of option one (£743,850.19) and others option two (£746,350.19). The two options were put to the vote and Cllr Lorimer requested a recorded vote.

For Option One – Cllrs Darmon, Fernandes, Lorimer, Parry and Thomas

Against Option One and for Option Two – Cllrs Allen, L Edwards-Shea, Oates, Offer, S Shanahan-Kluth, Ad Snookes, Al Snookes and Suiter.

RESOLVED: That the precept demand for the 2023/2024 financial year be confirmed as £746,350.19.

(b) Update from Internal Audit Task & Finish Group

The Clerk spoke to the report produced by Cllr Smith in which it was recommended that the report of be noted, the task and finish group now be wound up as its work was complete and that the Chairman of the Human Resources Committee update members on the evaluation of staffing roles. Cllr Suiter, as Chairman of the Human Resources Committee, explained that the latter would be picked up as part of the staffing review being undertaken by the Council.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations of the report be accepted, the internal audit task and finish group wound up and Cllr Smith and his group colleagues be thanked for their work.

(c) Revised Risk Register

The Clerk spoke to the report produced by Cllr Smith in which it was recommended that the revised register be reviewed by the Council, noted and the register now retained and updated by the Town Clerk. Members then reviewed the report.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations of the report be accepted, the risk register be retained by the Clerk and brought back to the full Council on a quarterly basis and Cllr Smith thanked for his work on it.

(d) Revised Grievance & Disciplinary Policies

The Clerk reported that these has yet to be circulated to members for consideration.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and the revised policies be brought to the next meeting of the Council for consideration.

(e) Motion from Cllrs Oates and Suiter regarding laptops for councillors

Cllrs Oates and Suiter spoke to their motion outlining the case for providing councillors with laptops and a discussion took place.

RESOLVED: That the motion be withdrawn and the Clerk to bring a report to a future meeting of the Council on the options for providing laptops or other devices to councillors.

(f) Motion from Cllrs Lorimer and Darmon regarding IT devices for councillors

Cllrs Lorimer and Darmon spoke to their motion regarding the provision of IT devices for councillors reiterating a previous motion passed by the Council.

RESOLVED: That the motion be passed and the Clerk consult with the Council's IT consultant as to the pros and cons of different devices and report back to the next available meeting of the full Council.

23.19 Planning and Highways Matters

(a) Request from Tesco Stores Ltd to extend an option agreement over Town Council owned land

The Clerk reported that he was awaiting a draft option agreement document and associated legal advice to present to the Council.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and an update provided to the next meeting of the Council.

(b) Planning Application 22/1752/RESM, Reserved matters application for the formation of strategic surface water drainage infrastructure (pond 5) in connection with Handley Chase development (associated with scheme previously approved through 21/1614/RESM), Land to the South of London Road, Sleaford

RESOLVED: That no response be made.

(c) Planning Application PL/0138/22, To install a single storey portacabin building to be used as office space for a period of 192 weeks, Lincolnshire Secure Unit, Rookery Avenue, Sleaford

RESOLVED: That no response be made.

(d) Planning Application 22/1783/PNH, Single Storey extension 5.4m in length from the original wall, eaves height of 2.4m & maximum height of 3.9m, 124 North Parade, Sleaford

RESOLVED: That no response be made.

(e) Planning Application 23/0001/FUL, Installation of 195 no.roof mounted Solar PV panels, North Kesteven District Council, Kesteven Street, Sleaford

RESOLVED: That no response be made.

(f) Planning Application 23/0039/LBC, Installation of 195 no.roof mounted Solar PV panels, North Kesteven District Council, Kesteven Street, Sleaford

RESOLVED: That no response be made.

(g) Planning Application 22/1789/RESM, Application for reserved matters approval to alter the extent of private garden and boundary treatment to plot 35 (no change to the approved dwellinghouse already constructed) and soft landscaping to adjacent public open space area on phase 1A previously approved by Non-Material Amendments 21/0768/PNMAT and 20/0632/PNMAT in respect of Reserved Matters approvals 19/0493/RESM and 17/0241/RESM, 7 St Vincent's (formerly plot 35, Handley Chase), Sleaford

RESOLVED: That no response be made.

(h) Planning Application 23/0031/FUL, Erection of six commercial starter units, Sellwood Court, Sleaford

RESOLVED: That no response be made.

(i) North Kesteven District Council, Proposed Street Naming at Holdingham, Sleaford

The Clerk reported that North Kesteven District Council were proposing to give the name Davids Court, to a new road at Holdingham.

RESOLVED: That the proposal be supported.

23.20 Council and Town Matters

(a) Town Council Litter Collection Agreement with North Kesteven District Council

The Clerk reported that he was aware from the Council's budget discussion of dissatisfaction with the current litter collection agreement with NKDC and asked for a clear resolution from the Council to empower him to start negotiations with NKDC about it.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk initiate negotiations with NKDC about the litter collection agreement and bring back proposals to a future meeting of the Council.

(b) Request to use Boston Road Recreation Ground for a Fun Fair from 7th May to 21st May 2023

RESOLVED: That the request be agreed to and the Clerk given the delegated power to agree the hire charges and other details with the operators.

(c) Christmas Market 2022 Report

RESOLVED: That the Report and its recommendations be accepted and the members of staff who were involved in the event be thanked for making it a success.

(d) Request to use Boston Road Recreation Ground for the annual Oktoberfest from Monday 11th September to 16th September 2023

RESOLVED: That the request be agreed to.

23.21 Council Committees, Panels, Task & Finish Groups and Outside Bodies

(a) Minutes of the Human Resources Committee Meetings held on 7th November 2022, 18th November and draft minutes of the Committee held on 6th January 2023

The Chairman explained that the minutes of the November meetings had been circulated but the draft minutes of the 6th January meeting had yet to be circulated.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of meetings of the Human Resources Committee meetings held on 7th November and 18th November 2022 be noted.

(b) Notes and Recommendations of the S106 and CIL Funding Task & Finish Group meetings held on 10th January 2023

Cllr Paul Edwards-Shea spoke to the notes of the meetings and the recommendations to full Council from the group.

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meetings be noted and the recommendations of the group contained within them endorsed by full Council.

(c) Notes and Recommendations of the Coronation Event Task & Finish Group held on 10th January 2023

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting be noted and the recommendations contained within them endorsed by full Council.

(d) Proposals from Sleaford Castle Heritage Group

Members considered proposals from the Sleaford Castle Heritage Group for the castle site.

RESOLVED: That the proposals from the group be accepted and delivered over a four year timeline. £16,250 to be set aside in the budget for 2023/2024 and in each of the three following financial years to cover the costs.

(e) Notes of the Twinning Association Meeting held on 9th January 2023 and report on the 2022 Sleaford Visit

Members considered the report provided. The Chairman reported that the notes of the meeting had yet to be sent to the Council.

RESOLVED: That the report of the 2022 Sleaford Visit be noted.

23.22 District and County Council Matters

(a) Lincolnshire County Council Budget and Council Tax Proposal 2023/2024

RESOLVED: That no response be made.

(b) Updates on the work of North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council

Cllr Allan gave an update on some of the recent and forthcoming activities of the District Council.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

23.23 Dates and Venues of Meetings

(a) Annual Meeting of the Town Council

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

(b) Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council in May 2023

RESOLVED: That an ordinary meeting of the Town Council take place on Wednesday 31st May 2023 at 7pm at the Town Hall, Sleaford.

(c) Annual Town Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Annual Town Meeting take place on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 7pm at the Town Hall, Sleaford.

(d) Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED: That the next meeting of the Town Council take place on Wednesday 15th February 2023 at 7pm at the Town Hall, Sleaford.

Chris Pilkington PSLCC
Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Sleaford Town Council
9th February 2023