

## **STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.00PM IN THE TOWN HALL, STAMFORD**

**PRESENT** Councillor T Story, Chairman  
Councillor M Sawyer  
Councillor H Bisnauthsing  
Councillor M Exton  
Councillor B Sandall  
Councillor Mrs S J Sandall  
Councillor J Dawson  
Councillor B Griffin  
Councillor B Turner  
Councillor D Taylor  
Councillor A Croft  
Councillor A Swan  
Councillor S Carroll  
Councillor D Dorson

**ALSO PRESENT** Town Clerk  
Councillor M Lee, SKDC Leader  
Ian Yates, Strategic Director of SKDC  
Councillor R Davies – LCC Highways Portfolio Holder  
Councillor D Brailsford, LCC Stamford West  
Councillor R Foulkes, LCC Stamford East  
The Very Rev. Mark Warrick - Dean of Stamford  
No public in attendance.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**613. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE(Agenda Point 1)**

Councillor Ms M Couch, Councillor Mrs S Sismore, Councillor Mrs G Johnson, Councillor A Hewett and Councillor A Billington, together with SKDC Councillor M Lee submitted reasons for absence. The reasons were noted and accepted.

Councillor B C Sumner and Councillor Mrs B A Sumner were not present at the meeting.

**614. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (Agenda Point 2)**

Councillor M Exton, declared a Personal Interest in respect of any discussions related to planning as he is on the SKDC Development Management Committee.

Councillor B Turner declared a Personal Interest in respect of any discussions related to the Royal British Legion, as he is a member.

Councillor D Dorson declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in respect of Personnel matters as his wife is Deputy Town Clerk

**615. MINUTES (Agenda Point 3)**

The notes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday, 30 January 2018 had been circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor Turner, seconded by Councillor Dawson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that these minutes are a true record of the meeting and be signed by the Chairman.

**616. REPORTS ON OUTSIDE BODIES / ORGANISATIONS(Agenda Point 4)**

- a. *Lincolnshire Police* – The report received from Inspector Martin was circulated to all members of the Town Council. This was noted.
- b. *Councillor R Foulkes* – Reported that LCC had approved a Council Tax increase of 2.9%, plus a 2% increase related to Adult Social Care.
- c. *Councillor D Brailsford* – Reported on the transfer of the custodianship of the heritage items currently stored at the former museum store. LCC would welcome the transfer of the items to the Town Council subject to it acquiring Accreditation. In respect of the building, LCC is examining the possibility of an 8year full repairing lease with a peppercorn rent. It could be operated on the same lines as the current arrangement with Greenwich Leisure which operates the library services. With the agreement of the Town Council, discussions will be pursued by the Town Clerk, Chairman of the Finance Committee Councillor Mrs Sandall and Councillor Brailsford. It is hoped that these discussions will commence very shortly. Following discussion, it was viewed that Accreditation should be pursued as a matter of urgency. However, Town Councillors did express concern over what would happen after the 8year period expired and that the building which houses the artefacts should be adequately protected. The Town Council thanked Councillor Brailsford for his efforts in negotiating a way forward.

**Proposal 1** – It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall, seconded by Councillor Bisnauthsing and unanimously **RESOLVED** that this matter is directed by the Finance Committee with discussions being undertaken with the LCC Heritage Officer, Councillor Brailsford, Councillor Mrs S Sandall and the Town Clerk as soon as possible.

Concern was further expressed over the recent correspondence received relating to LCC not continuing the current routine of cutting grass in the urban areas of Stamford. Councillor Brailsford reminded the Council that this was an issue raised a year ago.

- d. *Councillor R Davies* - Reported that he recognised the issues raised by the Town Councillors and that the problems of road repairs were not unique to Stamford. Lincolnshire has one of the largest road networks in the country with the smallest strategic element of highways covered by Highways England. The roads through Lincolnshire carry the heaviest of loads and consequently suffer the most congested pinch points. However the road network is not busy in relation to residential numbers resident in Lincolnshire and therefore the funding is much reduced. In real terms this has resulted in the County Council's funding being halved. Considering the large number of services provided by the County Council, Highways does encounter a number of problems which it is trying to tackle with an already large deficit. The County Council has taken a proactive approach to address the highway issues by directing its' funding onto priorities and dealing with primary stretches of roads. However, it is recognised that the minor road network repairs are delayed, but investigations are in progress into how to handle this difficult problem effectively. The Fairer Funding Campaign is still being pursued with central Government, and the support of the Town and District Council is greatly appreciated. Following discussion the difficulty regarding funding was recognised. The question was raised in respect of the Town Council's decision to support a tarmac surface for the Red Lion Square carriage way. What is the County's forward plan; also would there be any consideration of installing clearer road and kerb side demarcations? Councillor Davies confirmed that a number of stakeholders needed to be consulted and the local view to be confirmed with the hope of the surfacing being addressed in the next financial year 2018/19.

Parking issues continuing to plague Stamford in areas where the signs and markings are not properly visible, together a number of vehicles and coaches parking in inappropriate areas such as on pavements; also, the paving slabs by St. Georges Street need to be addressed. The matter of illegal parking is an issue which needs to be tackled, but parking on the pavement is not illegal if the vehicle is not causing an obstruction. The matter is one for the Police. However the funds are being used towards reviewing the Traffic Restriction Orders in place, but this process does take time. There is an Appeal system available to motorists if they consider that a parking ticket has been incorrectly issued. There was a request for clarification on LCC's policy on dropped kerbs. It was observed that if a vehicle is parked in front of a household where there was no dropped kerb, but the frontage is being utilised as a parking space, this would be a matter for the police but is difficult to enforce.

In respect of the grass cutting, LCC will no longer cut amenity areas but only undertake highway safety cuts twice a year approximately, in May and September. If the Parish and Town Council are unable to accept this responsibility, it could be an issue but the County's priority is the care of people. Following discussion, the pressures on the County Council are appreciated and efficiencies are sought to be achieved; but there is a small resource from which the largest share covers the delivery of a number of essential caring services.

- e. *Mr I Yates, Director of South Kesteven District Council* – Informed the Town Council that a pilot scheme is being trialled in respect of the collection of food waste, in an attempt to change peoples' behaviour. But following discussion it was thought that having one caddy for food waste would be preferable, rather than a range of different colour containers. It was also noted that SKDC has a Trade Waste system and encourages retailers to take advantage of the scheme. There was a repeated request for a Household Recycling facility in Stamford. It was recognised that this would be of benefit to Stamford, but is a County Council issue.
- f. *Town Councillors On Outside Bodies* - The Town Clerk informed the Council she had received a request from Browne's Hospital in respect of Councillor Brian Sumner's nomination as a representative of the Town Council. Following discussion it was agreed that this should continue.

**Proposal 2** – It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall, seconded by Councillor J Dawson and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Brian Sumner continues representing the Town Council on Browne's Hospital. There was one vote Against.

#### **617. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT(Agenda Point 5)**

- a. *Correspondence* – A schedule of correspondence had been e-mailed to all members to examine. Any queries relating to any element of such correspondence should be directed to the Officer dealing with that item.
- b. *Action Points* – The status of action points relating to each committee had been circulated to members to keep them informed.
- c. *Other matters related to Council business:*
  - i. *Code of Conduct* - The Town Clerk reminded all Councillors of the Code of Conduct and that proper respect should be shown to all fellow colleagues and Councillors.
  - ii. *Town Meeting 19 March 2018* – Councillors were reminded of the forthcoming meeting and that this meeting is an opportunity for the electorate to raise matters of concern with the Town Council.
  - iii. *Town Council Agenda booklet* – It appeared that the new style agenda booklet is functioning well. Any issues to improve the document should be directed to the Town Clerk.

- iv. *The 2018/19 schedule of meetings* – This was circulated and comments welcomed. Following discussion, it was agreed that the operation of simultaneous committee meetings would support the administration.

**Proposal 3** – It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall, seconded by Councillor Dawson and unanimously **RESOLVED** committee meetings should adopt the following pattern – Events Committee convene on First Monday of the month at 5pm; Planning and Amenities Committee convene on First Tuesday of the month at 6pm and 7pm respectively; Strategic Committee convene on first Wednesday of the month at 10am; Finance Committee convene on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm, and Scrutiny and Audit Committee convene quarterly every second Wednesday of the month at 10am. Town Council meetings will continue to be held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

- v. *SKDC Local Plan Brief* – It was reported that SKDC would like to brief the Town Council, possibly before the next Town Council meeting.

**Proposal 4** – It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall, seconded by Councillor Taylor and **RESOLVED**. Following discussion there was consensus agreed to an SKDC briefing on the SKDC Local Plan prior to the next Town Council meeting at 5.45pm. There was one abstention

**618. MAYORALITY 2018/19 (Agenda Point 6)**

To enable arrangements to be put in place for the 2018/19 Mayoralty, and in line with the Town Council's Civic Protocol, the Mayor-Elect was informally elected. It was recognised that the formal election would be made in May at the Annual Town Council Meeting on 17 May 2018.

**Proposal 5** – It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall, seconded by Councillor Taylor that Councillor Sawyer is informally elected as Mayor-Elect. This was agreed.

**619. EVENTS COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 7)**

- a. Councillor Ms Couch presented the notes of the meeting of 05 February 2018.
- b. Matter for discussion: None
- c. It was proposed by Councillor A Croft, seconded by Councillor Miss Griffin that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting and unanimously **RESOLVED** and signed by the Chairman.

**620. PLANNING COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 8)**

- a. Councillor Miss B Griffin presented the notes of the meeting of 06 February 2018.
- b. Matter for discussion: None
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Miss Griffin, seconded by Councillor S Carroll that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting and be **RESOLVED** and signed by the Chairman. This was agreed by majority vote with two abstentions.

**621. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 9)**

- a. Councillor M Sawyer presented the notes of the meeting of 07 February 2018.
- b. Matter for discussion:
  - i. *Publications* - The final proof of the Town Hall pamphlet and the Souvenir Guide, which would be printed in-house, were circulated. It was noted that the Souvenir Guide would be sold for a £1 per copy and all proceeds would accrue to the renovation of the Town Hall.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Sawyer, seconded by Councillor Swan that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting and be **RESOLVED** and signed by the Chairman. In

addition the production of the Town Hall pamphlet and Souvenir Guide were approved. There was one abstention.

**622. AMENITIES COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 10)**

- a. Councillor B Sandall presented the notes of the meeting of 13 February 2018.
- b. Matter for discussion:
  - i. *The Shack extension* – It was reported that work on the extension is due to commence week of 21 March 2018.
  - ii. *The Security fencing* – It was reported that the fencing is scheduled to be installed towards the end of April.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall, seconded by Councillor Dawson that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting and be **RESOLVED** and signed by the Chairman. This was unanimously agreed.

**623. SCRUTINY & AUDIT COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 11)**

- a. Councillor Turner presented the notes of the meeting of 14 February 2018.
- b. Matter for discussion:
  - i. *Policies* - The Social Media Policy and Information & Communication Technology Policy had been revised for approval.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Turner, seconded by Councillor Swan that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting and be **RESOLVED** and signed by the Chairman, together with the approval of the Social Media and Information & Communication Technology Policy. This was unanimously agreed.

**624. FINANCE COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 12)**

- a. Councillor Mrs S J Sandall presented the notes of the meeting of 20 February 2018.
- b. Matter for discussion:
  - i. *Neighbourhood Plan* – It was suggested that there was need for another Town Councillor to overview the finances of the Neighbourhood Plan and support Councillor Taylor as Treasurer in post. Councillor Carroll expressed an interest in being appointed on the Neighbourhood Plan Group. Following discussion it was recognised a consultant was required to draft the Stamford Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that the policies within the Plan are robust. It was appreciated that no progress can be made on the Neighbourhood Plan until the briefing on the SKDC Local Plan. In respect of the additional funding request to support the Neighbourhood Plan, it was reported that following examination of the Town Council budget it was not possible to allocate the further £25K towards the project. Debate ensued and it was appreciated that the engagement of a planning consultant is important and sufficient funds could be identified for this appointment only. Additional grant funding will need to be secured for printing and publishing the document. This was noted.

**Proposal 6** - It was proposed by Councillor Mrs S Sandall, seconded by Councillor B Sandall and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Councillor Bisnauthsing is appointed to oversee the finances of the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Proposal 7** – It was proposed by Councillor Carroll, seconded by Councillor B Sandall that Councillor Carroll joins the Neighbourhood Plan Group. This proposal fell with 4 votes in favour and 10 votes against.

- c. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs S J Sandall, seconded by Councillor Dawson that the notes including the Pink Paper are a true reflection of the meeting and be **RESOLVED** and signed by the Chairman. This was unanimously agreed.

**9.05pm** – The Chairman Councillor T Story proposed that the meeting continued in order to complete the last few items on the agenda. This was unanimously agreed.

**625. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT(Agenda Point 13)**

Schedule no. 10 (transactions 5618. to 5753) had been circulated for consideration.

**Proposal 8** – It was proposed by Councillor Mrs S J Sandall, seconded by Councillor M Sawyer and unanimously **RESOLVED** that schedule No. 10 is agreed and approved for payment.

**626. QUESTIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSION(Agenda Point 12)**

- a. Councillor David Dorson informed the Town Council that he had changed his political allegiance from the Green Party to the Independent Councillor.
- b. Councillor Bisnauthsing questioned the published remit of the Skells Trust in the latest Newsletter, together with the Town Clerk having sole access to the Town Council's business details. Councillor Dawson informed the Council that he had been given a copy of the business details, securely stored, in case of an emergency. The Chairman Councillor Story recommended that Councillor Bisnauthsing contacted the Town Clerk if he required clarification on any matters relating to the Skells Trust.

Chairman  
(The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.)