

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 27 MARCH 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 B C Sumner
Councillor Mrs S J Sandall
Councillor J Dawson
Councillor B Griffin
Councillor Mrs B A Sumner
Councillor Ms M Couch
Councillor B Turner
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor A Hewett
Councillor A Croft
Councillor A Swan
Councillor A Billington
Councillor S Carroll
Councillor D Dorson

ALSO PRESENT Town Clerk
Councillor M Lee, SKDC Leader
Councillor N Robins, SKDC Cabinet Member for Retail & Visitor Economy
Ian Yates, Strategic Director of SKDC
Councillor R Foulkes, LCC Stamford East
The Very Rev. Mark Warrick - Dean of Stamford
Mr Andrew Norman – Head of Visitor Economy, InvestSK
6 members of public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident had accompanied her son to the Town Council meeting to apologise for his part in the damage caused to a bench on the Recreation Ground. It was noted that the damage had been carried out by a group of four youths. All youths involved will be making an admission to the Town Council regarding their involvement in this matter, but only one had taken the courage to make his apology in person to the full Council.

Councillor B Sandall, Chairman of Amenities appreciated his personal presence and apology in front of the full Town Council, which no doubt was a daunting experience. Unfortunately, vandalism costs the Town Council, and ultimately the residents of the town, a considerable amount of money each year. The Council is trying combat this problem, and acceptance of responsibility for having caused the damage was reassuring for the Council. Following discussion with the Student Support Advisor of the offender's school, it may be possible for all four youths to engage in a Community Activity on the Recreation Ground as means of contrition to the Town Council and the Town. The Town Council congratulated the parent who had also taken the responsible step in accompanying their child to admit his guilt. This demonstrates good parental support and pride in the family, which is both respected and appreciated as it often appears to be a rare commodity in many contemporary families.

679. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE(Agenda Point 1)

Councillor Mrs S Sismore and Councillor Mrs G Johnson submitted their reasons for absence. The reasons were noted and accepted.

Councillor D Brailsford, LCC Stamford West also submitted his apologies.

680. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (Agenda Point 2)

Councillors M Exton, Mr and Mrs B C Sumner declared a Personal Interest in respect of any discussions related to planning as they are on the SKDC Development Management Committee.

Councillors Mr and Mrs B Sandall declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in respect of transaction payments 5921 to 5924 as it related to their family business.

Councillor T Story declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in respect of transaction payment 5928 as it related to travel expenses.

Councillor D Dorson declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in respect of any discussions relating to staff as his wife is Deputy Town Clerk.

681. MINUTES (Agenda Point 3)

The notes of the Town Council meetings held on 26 and 27 February 2018 had been circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor J Dawson, seconded by Councillor B Turner and **RESOLVED** that these minutes are a true record of the extraordinary meeting held on Monday 26 February 2018 and be signed by the Chairman. There were two abstentions.

It was proposed by Councillor M Sawyer, seconded by Councillor D Taylor and **RESOLVED** that these minutes are a true record of the ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 27 February 2018 and be signed by the Chairman. There were two abstentions.

682. TOURISM PRESENTATION BY ANDREW NORMAN (InvestSK) (Agenda Point 4)

Mr Andrew Norman, Head of Visitor Economy for Invest SK, gave a presentation on how SKDC hopes to encourage visitors to the Market Towns to simulate growth within the District. Developing start-up businesses where skills are easily transferable is the area currently being examined. The current visitor statistics for the District indicate an average of a 2.3% increase in the visitor economy since 2009, which is reflected across Lincolnshire. However overall visitors were down across Lincolnshire by 0.7%. This is not surprising considering the unpredictable state of the country's economy due to BREXIT. The key is to focus on the positive points of the area and provide a warm welcome to visitors and exceed their expectations by looking after them. Stamford is very fortunate in its sought-after location, with easy access by rail and road to major cities. First impressions count, to ensure that the visitor experience is positive. There is a great SKDC team working towards developing the Visitor Economy publicising the tourist and retail facilities on offer. What is important also is the corporate market and the development of a brand for the district. There is already a five-star visitor experience in many areas within the district, and this needs to be publicised. A dedicated team is being brought together to market and deliver this strategy to enhance the local visitor economy.

The Mayor thanked Mr Norman for his very informative and interesting presentation.

683. REPORTS ON OUTSIDE BODIES / ORGANISATIONS (Agenda Point 5)

- a. *Lincolnshire Police* – Councillor Sawyer confirmed that the latest report from Lincolnshire Police had been circulated to the members of the Council by e-mail and was noted.
- b. *Lincolnshire County Council* – Councillor Foulkes informed the Council that Government had agreed to allocate £3.5m towards road maintenance. It is recognised that the recent very cold and wet spell of weather has impacted on large areas of road surfacing. Members were reminded to use the Lincolnshire website to report any potholes repairs.
- c. *South Kesteven District Council* – Councillor Lee advised that the new budget is to be implemented which will be investing in developing the work being undertaken by InvestSK in the economy. In addition, there are internal structure changes at senior levels to improve efficiencies and deliver the District Council's strategy programme to meet residents' expectations. It is recognised that the problems with potholes is countrywide and we should all continue to identify these serious issues to the County Council Highways, which is under considerable pressure to resolve these issues. Questions were raised in respect of the allocation of £1K to each District Councillor. It was confirmed that these funds were for Councillors to use in their wards for the benefit of the community. Councillor Lee also confirmed that discussions at District meetings were all documented and in the public domain. The Mayor requested that some coordination is considered when scheduling District briefing meetings, as the recent session clashed with the Stamford Annual Town meeting which only one District Councillor attended. It was hoped that all District Councillors who represent the Town introduce themselves to the Town Council as a matter of course.
Councillor Robins informed the meeting that the District anticipated appointing a Town Centre Manager shortly to support the work of developing the strategy to increase the growth of the economy of the district.
- d. *Town Councillors on Outside Bodies* –
 - i. **Rutland County Council** - There had been a request that there should be, if possible, representation from Rutland County Council at the Town Council meetings, especially with the SKDC Local Plan coming on line shortly. The Town Clerk was instructed to contact Rutland Council to ascertain whether this could be arranged. Councillor Exton also offered to pursue this matter.

PROPOSAL 1 – It was proposed by Councillor D Dorson, seconded by Councillor Ms M Couch that an appropriate representative from Rutland County Council is invited to attend Town Council meetings this was unanimously **RESOLVED**. **Action:** Town Clerk

- ii. **St. George's Church of England Primary School** – There had been a request as to whether any Councillor would be interested in joining the active governing body of the school. Councillor Mrs B A Sumner expressed an interest and discussion ensued.

PROPOSAL 2 – It was proposed by Councillor A Croft, seconded by Councillor Mrs S J Sandall that Councillor Mrs B A Sumner is appointed Councillor to be put forward to the Chair of Governors for consideration this was **RESOLVED** with 2 Abstentions. **Action:** Town Clerk

- iii. **Citizens Advice** – It was reported that this valuable service is struggling for support and a request was made for the Town Council to write to the County Council to canvas for its assistance.

PROPOSAL 3 – It was proposed by Councillor B Turner, seconded by Councillor A Hewett that the Town Clerk writes to the County Council to request its assistance to support the Citizens Advice Bureau, this was unanimously **RESOLVED**. **Action:** Town Clerk

684. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT (Agenda Point 6)

- 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. **Damaged Bench on the Recreation Ground** – The Town Clerk advised that in reference to the apology made at the beginning of the meeting, the other three offenders involved in this activity would be visiting the Town Hall in person to apologise and would be writing to the Amenities Committee. This was noted.
 - ii. **Schedule of meetings & Committees:** Councillors will be circulated with the draft Town Council schedule of meetings and Committee Terms of Reference which will be ratified at the May meeting. All Councillors were asked to submit their committee preferences for consideration. Members were reminded of the new schedule will include the new meeting day format of Committees.
 - iii. **Street Pastors** – A presentation will be made at the next Town Council meeting to promote their need for more volunteer assistance.
 - iv. **SKDC Local Plan** – Members were reminded that the next Town Council meeting would be preceded by a presentation by SKDC Officers and this meeting would be a closed session commencing at 5.45pm on Tuesday 24th April 2018.
 - v. **Zurich Insurance** – It was reported that the renewal premium in the Finance notes needs to be increased from £5,631.35 to £5,694.84. This will now include the insurance cover for the 5 defibrillators in the town centre, the Red Lion Square street furniture and the volunteers involved in the Stamford in Bloom project. This was noted.

685. EVENTS COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 7)

- a. Councillor Ms M Couch presented the notes of the meeting of Monday, 05 March 2018.
- b. Matter for discussion:
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Ms Couch, seconded by Councillor Miss B Griffin that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting and unanimously **RESOLVED** and signed by the Chairman.

686. PLANNING COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 8)

- a. Councillor Miss B Griffin presented the notes of the meeting of Tuesday, 06 March 2018.
- b. Matter for discussion:
- 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 three abstentions.

687. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 9)

- a. Councillor M Sawyer presented the notes of the meeting of Wednesday, 07 March 2018.
- b. Matter for discussion:
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Sawyer, seconded by Councillor A Swan 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 one abstention.

688. AMENITIES COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 9)

- a. Councillor B Sandall presented the notes of the meeting of Tuesday, 13 March 2018.
- b. Matter for discussion:
- c. It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall, seconded by Councillor Ms M Couch that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting and be **RESOLVED** and signed by the Chairman. This was unanimously agreed.

689. FINANCE COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 10)

- a. Councillor Mrs S J Sandall presented the notes of the meeting of Tuesday, 20 March 2018.
- b. Matter for discussion:
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs S J Sandall, seconded by Councillor J Dawson that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting and be **RESOLVED** and signed by the Chairman. This was unanimously agreed.

690. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT(Agenda Point 11)

Schedule no. 11 (transactions 5754. to 5948) had been circulated for consideration.

Proposal 4 – It was proposed by Councillor J Dawson, seconded by Councillor D Taylor that schedule No. 11 is agreed and approved for payment, this was **RESOLVED**. This was agreed by majority vote with three abstentions.

691. QUESTIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSION(Agenda Point 12)

- None raised

Chairman
(The meeting closed at 8.30p.m.)