

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 24 JULY 2018 AT 7.00PM IN THE TOWN HALL, STAMFORD

PRESENT Councillor M Sawyer, Chairman
Councillor B Griffin
Councillor M Exton
Councillor B Sandall
Councillor Mrs S J Sandall
Councillor J Dawson
Councillor T Story
Councillor Ms M Couch
Councillor Mrs S Sismore
Councillor B Turner
Councillor Mrs G Johnson
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor A Croft
Councillor A Swan
Councillor A Billington
Councillor S Carroll
Councillor D Dorson
Councillor Mrs M Pitt

ALSO PRESENT Deputy Town Clerk
Ian Yates, Strategic Director of SKDC
Councillor D Brailsford, LCC Stamford West
Councillor R Foulkes, LCC Stamford East
Rev Julia Dowding – Methodist Church
Councillor R Davies, LCC Highways, Transport & IT
Councillor Mrs Rachel Cooke, SKDC St Johns Ward Stamford
1 Member of public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mr T Browning from 2nd Royal Lincs and Royal Anglian Regiment requested the Town Council's approval for two new flag poles, without halliards, to be installed on either side of the Memorial, for the permanent display of two flags; one of the 2nd Royal Lincs and Royal Anglian Regiment and the other the Union Flag. There would be no cost to the Council as the initiative would be financed through the Royal Anglian Regiment funds. The Chairman Councillor M Sawyer advised that contact should be made with the British Legion to gain their approval before the Council could make any decision. Councillor Turner stated that the British Legion would be discussing the proposal at their next meeting in August. Until these discussions had taken place the Council will not make a decision.

Councillor M Sawyer restated the Procedure of Meetings, stating that there would be no discussion on draft notes and that Councillors will receive all draft Committee notes once approved by the Chairman of the relevant committee, giving time for any issues to be sent to the Town Clerk for inclusion and allowing the requisite five clear days before the scheduled issue of the Town Council agenda.

Councillor S Carroll questioned who authorised the change. Councillor Sawyer stated that he had determined to bring Council Procedure in line with the existing Standing Orders already agreed by Stamford Town Council.

Councillor B Sandall requested that it is recorded in the minutes that he is unhappy with this proposed change, as it does not make allowances for those who are not computer literate or Councillors who are not available prior to the meeting to discuss items within the agenda. Councillor Sandall stated he will be making a proposal that the Council reverts to the previous arrangement and he is quite prepared to propose to suspend Standing Orders at every meeting, so that discussions can take place. Councillor Sawyer declared this matter would be discussed after the outside bodies had given their reports.

Formal meeting commenced 7.15pm

175. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE(Agenda Point 1)

Councillor B C Sumner, Councillor Mrs B A Sumner, the Town Clerk, Councillor M Lee SKDC Leader, Reverend Andy Fyall had submitted their reasons for absence. The reasons were noted and accepted.

176. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (Agenda Point 2)

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

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

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

a. *Lincolnshire County Council (LCC)–*

Pedestrian Safety - Councillor D Brailsford reported that funding and approval from Lincolnshire Safety Partnership had been granted for two new school crossing patrols for St Gilberts School and Bluecoat School.

Complaint regarding Black Cones - There was concern raised over a request made by a Town Councillor that the County Council send the Area Officer to remove black funeral cones as they obstruct traffic flow. It was confirmed that LCC's policy is to allow these cones to be used and there was no intention of changing this policy for the foreseeable future.

Red Lion Square - A press release was sent to the Town Clerk by LCC stating no changes in Red Lion Square would occur this year as it is not a priority, but that all road surfacing options are being considered. Councillor M Sawyer inquired whether emergency repairs would be addressed. It was confirmed that such repairs are progressing and will continue.

Potholes - Councillor T Story stated that the Kings Road repair had been undertaken but to an unsatisfactory standard and pothole repairs around the area haven't been completed. The question was asked whether repairs are inspected. Councillor D Brailsford asked for photos to be sent and the matter would be investigated. He advised that side-roads are not a priority as 'A' roads take precedence.

Councillor R Davies stated that the recent weather has allowed LCC to catch up significantly on pothole repairs. Up until the 1st June 2018 there had been 21,000 reports of potholes from the preceding 12 months, compared with the usual 10,000 to 14,000 in previous years. With regard to the Kings Road pothole, this will be examined. Some 15% to 20% of works are inspected, with any issues followed up and completed at no extra cost. The 36 teams are tasked with completing emergency repairs which doesn't allow time for repairing minor defects, as that might delay emergency repairs being completed.

Councillor S Carroll enquired why LCC is not resurfacing instead of fixing potholes. The Council was informed that there is a £300 million backlog of road surface repairs with a

maximum of £40 to £50 million per annum allocated towards such repairs without cutting other budgets.

East Midlands Trains - Councillor R Davies stated that East Midlands Trains and the East Train Network is currently under review and the Council should have received the consultation request for the franchise arrangements, as it would be useful to obtain the Council's feedback.

7.27pm Councillor M Exton joined the meeting.

b. South Kesteven District Council –

Local Plan Consultation- Mr Yates informed the Council the consultation on the Local Plan policy closed yesterday and had received over 200 responses, which will now go through to the inspectors for any amendments.

Food Waste- Mr Yates reported that the food waste trial had an 85% participation rate with an average of 1.7kg of food waste per household per week collected. This goes to a anaerobic digestion plant. The black bag general waste is directed to an energy waste plant and other waste is directed to a recycling plant. The results from the trial will be analysed.

On Street enforcement- Mr Yates reported the introduction of dedicated officers to enforce 'enviro' crime such as littering.

Section 106 funds- Mr Yates apologised for the delay in the Town Council receiving the S.106 funds which is being processed.

Councillor S Carroll enquired regarding the waste process. Mr Yates outlined the waste process which is delivered to waste disposal companies who sort, package and then sell on the waste products to other companies as an energy source. Councillor J Dawson informed the Council that Hanson Cement burn recycling waste which they purchase.

Councillor D Dorson enquired to whether a localised recycling centre could be used, as this could increase employment in the area and reduce the carbon footprint transporting the waste on the road network. Mr Yates explained LCC strategically access the best location for the plants and LCC would be the best contact for further information.

Councillor B Turner enquired whether SKDC plans to have green waste collection at the Cattle Market on a Saturday morning. Mr Yates advised that at present there is no plan for a green waste service.

Councillor Mrs R Cooke introduced herself to the Council as the new District Councillor for St Georges Ward in Stamford.

c. **Lincolnshire Police** – Councillor M Sawyer confirmed that a report had been circulated via email and provided an update of activities undertaken by Lincolnshire Police.

d. **Stamford Ward Councillors** - Councillor D Dorson informed the Council of the clearance of the overgrown footpath on Sidney Farm Lane. This initiative had been undertaken by residents of Rutland Heights and both Councillor D Dorson & Councillor S Carroll had assisted with the project. It was felt that a letter of appreciation should be sent from the Council to the group for their hard work. Councillor M Sawyer stated that a letter of thanks would go from the Mayor's office.

e. **Town Councillors on Outside Bodies** – None

178. MINUTES (Agenda Point 3)

The notes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday, 26 June 2018 had been circulated.

The Deputy Town Clerk raised two amendments to the list of Councillors present at the meeting: the removal of Councillor A Hewitt from the list and the addition of Councillor M Pitt.

Proposal 1 - It was proposed by Councillor M Sawyer, seconded by Councillor Mrs S J Sandall and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 26 June 2018 be approved with the two amendments as a true and accurate record and be signed by the Chairman. There were 14 votes in Favour, 1 Against and 1 Abstention.

179. 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 will be circulated this coming Friday to members to keep them informed.
- c. **Other matters related to Council business:**
 - i. **Grass cutting-** The Council was updated upon the status of the grass cutting which is presently being undertaken throughout the town. Any areas where the risings were missed during the first cut will be addressed in due course.
 - ii. **Networking day-** The Council was informed of a Networking Day for Councillors and Clerks to be held on 27th September at the Bentley Hotel, Newark Road, South Hykeham organised by LALC. The morning session will commence at 9.30am for Councillors and the afternoon session dedicated for Clerks.
 - iii. **Tabled items-** The documents tabled were the Strategic Development Committee agenda together with supporting documents; the Statement of Accounts; Battle of Britain invitations and the Mayor's Civic attendance programme. It was noted that the agenda pack now included the relevant Committee name within the footnote of the appropriate Committee notes page, as requested.
 - iv. **Procedures** – The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed Councillors had all been emailed the alterations regarding the order of the agenda and the procedure of meetings in accordance with the Town Council's standing orders ratified in May 2018.

It was advised there will continue to be no discussion on these notes at the Town Council meeting other than regarding accuracy. This is unchanged and has always been the practice of the Town Council. Councillors were advised that in respect of committee notes, the relevant committee members present at the meeting should approve the accuracy of the notes. Once approved by the relevant committee, the Town Council can consider the items within the respective notes for ratification, which then become the official legal minutes. The Town Clerk will confirm any action points the Council has decided upon.

Councillor M Exton enquired as to whether the Council was paying for the grass cutting on the Jelson sites. Councillor Mrs S J Sandall informed the Council that each owner is issued with an invoice for their individual site(s) for which an agreement for grass cutting is in place.

Councillor M Exton also enquired why there were no floral displays in Red Lion Square and that he had been informed that the Town Clerk had moved them to another location. Councillor T Story informed the Council that they were now situated in Castle Dyke, as had been agreed by the Town Council, and now complements Stamford in Bloom displays.

Councillor B Turner queried why the Battle of Britain invitations were tabled in addressed envelopes as he considered this a waste of resources and Council funds.

Councillor B Sandall requested clarity on the alteration of the procedure in the method the council voted on draft notes at a meeting. The email circulated states there will be no discussions on draft notes except for accuracy. Councillor Sawyer stated that is in accordance with standing order 12b. Councillor Sawyer read out the relevant Standing Order and informed Councillors if they wished to discuss any item within the draft minutes, it must be added to the agenda of the next meeting. The Deputy Town Clerk informed the meeting that the Standing Order has been in place since a least 2013.

Councillor B Turner stated that the Standing Order only refers to the preceding Town Council meeting, not committee meetings, as not all members will receive their agenda in time to allow for the required 7 days notice. He viewed this change is stifling debate and the stifling the role of this Town Council.

Councillor M Couch proposed that the Standing Orders be re-addressed. Councillor B Sandall proposed the Council revert back to the previous procedure where the Council checks the minutes for accuracy, then considers the action points followed by a proposal by the chairman of the committee.

PROPOSAL 2 - It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall, seconded by Councillor S Carroll that the Council reverted to the previous procedure where the Council checks the minutes for accuracy, then considers the action points followed by a proposal by the chairman of the committee meeting. The proposal was not voted upon.

PROPOSAL 3 - It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by Councillor B Sandall and **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Order 12b for the duration of the meeting and refer the matter to the Scrutiny and Audit Committee for review, to be considered by the Council. There were 14 votes in Favour, 1 Against and 2 Abstentions.

Councillor B Griffin asked which officer to contact if she had any amendments to propose and who do Councillors engage in dialogue if they cannot raise questions in meetings. The Deputy Clerk stated that the officer taking minutes for the committee is the contact.

The Chairman Councillor M Sawyer considered that in his view the Town Council meetings did not adhere completely to Council Standing Orders and what he was trying to avoid was the wasting of time with unnecessary discussion. He considered that there was too much continual and tediously repetitive discontent and objections from the same small number of councillors at Council meetings. In an apparent act of total frustration, the Chairman Councillor M Sawyer resigned as Mayor and Town Councillor with immediate effect.

8.13pm Councillor M Sawyer left the Chamber

PROPOSAL 4 - It was proposed by Councillor M Exton, seconded by Councillor M Couch and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Councillor B Griffin, Deputy Mayor, took the chair for the remainder of this meeting only and took a ten-minute recess.

8.15pm – Meeting was suspended for a ten-minute recess.

8.25pm – Meeting resumed

180. EVENTS COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 6)

- a. Councillor Ms M Couch presented the notes of the meeting of Monday, 02 July 2018.

Councillor M Exton raised an amendment to the declarations of interest of Councillor D Dorson should read ‘any discussions relation to Item 4b as his wife is a member of the Festival Committee’.

Councillor M Couch raised an amendment to Item 115b regarding the Brass Band concerts should read 'Councillor Couch suggested that the number of concerts should be reduced from 4 to 2 and future funds could be directed towards the Events Committee budget to determine the future events on the bandstand in conjunction with the Amenities Committee'

- b. Matter for discussion: None
- c. **PROPOSAL 5** - It was proposed by Councillor Ms Couch, seconded by Councillor D Dorson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting held on Monday, 02 July 2018 with the actions and recommendations of the Events committee approved and be signed by the Chairman.

181. PLANNING COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 7)

- a. Councillor B Griffin presented the notes of the meeting of Tuesday, 03 July 2018
Councillor Turner raised an issue with the applications not being attached to the emailed copy and was advised this would be investigated.
- b. Matter for discussion: None
- c. **PROPOSAL 6** - It was proposed by Councillor B Griffin, seconded by Councillor D Dorson and **RESOLVED** that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting held on Tuesday, 03 July 2018 with the actions and recommendations of the Planning Committee approved and be signed by the Chairman. There was one abstention.

182. AMENITIES COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 8)

- a. Councillor B Sandall presented the notes of the meeting of Tuesday, 03 July 2018
- b. Matter for discussion: None
- c. **PROPOSAL 7** - It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall, seconded by Councillor M Couch and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting held on Tuesday, 03 July 2018 with the actions and recommendations of the Amenities Committee approved and be signed by the Chairman.

183. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 9)

- a. Councillor A Croft presented the notes of the meeting of Wednesday, 04 July 2018
- b. Matter for discussion: None
- c. **PROPOSAL 8** - It was proposed by Councillor D Dorson, seconded by Councillor M Couch and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the notes be deferred to the next meeting as there was only one committee member present who had attended the SSDC meeting therefore the notes could not be confirmed.

184. FINANCE COMMITTEE(Agenda Point 10)

- a. Councillor Mrs S J Sandall presented the notes of the meeting of Tuesday, 10 July 2018
- b. Matter for discussion:
 - i. **Museum Store** - Councillor Mrs S J Sandall informed the Council that a meeting had taken place at the Museum Store to survey the area. The store is well organised, and items are boxed up and stored on archive shelving the same style as the Town Council will be installing in the Town Hall Archives. However, the museum items stored will not all fit in the Town Hall Archives as the architect advised that the flooring and the structure of the top floor will not be suitable for a majority of the artefacts.

Councillor T Story stated he didn't think the Town Council should pay for any repairs to the building and the items should be located in the Basement as well as the Attic. Councillor Mrs S J Sandall reaffirmed the architect's advice and stated that discussions are still taking place regarding the terms of the building lease.

- ii. **Jelson Plot-** Councillor Mrs S J Sandall advised the Council that the Council had been offered one of the Jelson plots as a gift. It was advised that this would be discussed at the next finance meeting to ascertain the condition of the land to enable the Council to be fully informed before a decision taken.
- iii. **Complaint A-S10072018C** – The Deputy Town Clerk informed the Council that a complaint had been received against a Councillor in reference to the Code of Conduct. Neither the Councillor nor the complainants have been named, as per GDPR regulations, and the Council's complaint procedure is being followed. The Town Clerk has been in touch with the Monitoring Officer who suggested that as a first step, the Council is to decide how it wishes to proceed with the investigation. The two options are either an internal panel or an independent, external examiner at potential minimum cost of £3,000. It is recommended that the panel comprises the Deputy Mayor, the Vice-Chairman of S&A and Councillor Billington, the latter having a legal background.

PROPOSAL 9 -It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall, seconded by Councillor T Story and **RESOLVED** that a panel comprising the Deputy Mayor, the Vice-Chairman of Scrutiny & Audit and Councillor Mrs A Billington is instituted.

- c. **PROPOSAL 10** - It was proposed by Councillor Mrs S J Sandall, seconded by Councillor G Johnson and **RESOLVED** that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting held on Tuesday, 03 July 2018 with the actions and recommendations of the Finance, Personnel & Assets Committee approved and be signed by the Chairman. There was one abstention.

185. TO CONSIDER THE TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER (TRO), PROHIBITION OF WAITING - STAMFORD – HIGH STREET ST. MARTINS(Agenda Point 11)

It was noted that the consultation for the TRO prohibiting waiting on High Street St Martins is now open. Any comments should be submitted by 24th August 2018. It was noted that the Town Council is in support of the proposed amendment.

186. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT(Agenda Point 12)

Schedule no. 4 (transactions 6948 to 7097) had been circulated for consideration.

PROPOSAL 11 - It was proposed by Councillor Mrs S J Sandall, seconded by Councillor Mrs S Sismore and **RESOLVED** that schedule No. 4 is agreed and approved for payment. There was one abstention.

187. QUESTIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSION(Agenda Point 13)

None.

Councillor M Exton wished it minuted that he had never known such a shambles as tonight's meeting as, in his personal view, all issues could have been dealt with by the Scrutiny and Audit Committee.

Chairman
(The meeting closed at 8.43pm)