

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 06 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 10.00AM IN THE TOWN HALL, STAMFORD

PRESENT Councillor Breda – Rae Griffin (ex officio)
Councillor Andy Croft (Chairman)
Councillor Bill Turner (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing
Councillor Mrs S Sismore

Also in attendance: Civic Officer
Andrew Norman - InvestSK
Mary Davies - Tourist Information Centre
Lea Rickard – Library
Jill Collinge – Blue Badge Guide
Ann Ellis – Stamford in Bloom
Alice Yogasundran – Stamford in Bloom
David Wallington – Browne’s Hospital
Chris Hunt - Town Hall Guide
Penny Rowley - Tour Guide
Christine Bearne - Tour Guide
Kate Riley – All Saints’ Church

TOURISM WORKING GROUP

Apologies for absence were received from John Davies - Tour Guide

a. Library

Lea Rickard informed the members that the Library launch into Spring with a Harry Potter Day which would be held on Saturday 9th February 2019 together with an ‘Arts Around the Town’ on Friday 22nd March 2019.

b. Tourist Information

Mary Davies reported that the information on the car parking machines directing visitors to make payments at outlets in the town centre is still incorrect. The Chairman will investigate again.

c. Blue Badge Guide

Jill Collinge stated that bookings for coach tours to Stamford had been good, Majestic coach tours had seen an increase in the number of senior citizen groups and walking tours were not always appropriate. She explained that an incentive for the coach drivers – would be useful, even something as small as a free coffee and cake for the driver can drive large numbers to a particular outlet.

d. Tour Guides

Penny Rowley informed the members that tours of the Town Hall would commence on Friday 22nd February 2019, she is looking for a further guide to join the group. The Malcolm Sargent Room is still undergoing a revamp and there was discussion how this room may or may not be used within the public tours.

e. Heritage Open Day

Chris Hunt reported that the Town Council had submitted their application to the Heritage Committee, upon circulating a copy of Discover South Kesteven he thought that the hotel listings for Stamford was very poor. Andrew Norman (InvestSK) retorted

that the listing was for hoteliers who subscribed and for a further payment a larger ad/editorial was available. Chris Hunt also expressed his concerns that no forward action had been taken by the District Council to promote vehicle electric charging points within the town. The Chairman would investigate if any local garages or businesses are planning to put in charging points in the future – and report back.

f. All Saints' Church

Kate Riley reminded councillors of All Saint's Church is celebrating Stamford's Charters with The Charter Service on Sunday 10th February 2019. She informed the meeting that St Johns cards for good causes initiative had raised over 1 million pounds over the last 20 years.

g. Browne's Hospital

David Wallington informed the committee that he had produced an article for Stamford Living and Stamford Town Council regarding his role at Browne's hospital. He was currently working on the Arts Council Accreditation for the Town Council with the Town Clerk.

h. InvestSK

Andrew Norman informed the members that the brown signs initiative for the North South/South North had been rejected, this would be resubmitted, possibly including the electric charging icon. Three new visitor information points had been established across the district including Market Deeping Library, Wyndham Park and Downtown in Grantham. Electric charging points were indeed a discussion point for Stamford but no further information is available at this stage. InvestSK is now active on all platforms of social media, the Explorer's Road project is being developed and the Sheep Market project to install heritage bollards is being explored. Andrew explained the process for community funding, where several grants were available and also business grants for empty shops were available too. The Discover South Kesteven newsletter is being produced digitally at 6 weekly intervals.

i. Stamford in Bloom

Ann Ellis reported that she thought bicycle park and planting would be a really good use of the Sheep Market area, other activities include Snow drop planting on the Recreation ground on March 2nd & 3rd and a photo competition is being held between 1st - 30th June 2019. It was noted that the prize money for the Photographic Competition of £375.00 is being supported by the Town Council. Finally, the apple juice sales raised over £500!

11.12am – the formal meeting commenced.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

631. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Mike Exton and Councillor Tony Story had submitted apologies; these were noted and accepted.

632. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

633. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 09 January 2019 were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

634. UPDATE ON ACTION POINTS

The Committee considered the feedback on the following action points in hand:

- a. *Defibrillators* – It was reported that the defibrillator is being installed at the new dental surgery in Broad Street. It was noted at the Town Council meeting of 28th January 2019 that one of these units scheduled for installation in the High Street should be reassigned to the Town Hall. It was considered by the Town Council that due to the increased activity at the Town Hall it would be better served at this location. **Action:** Town Clerk

635. WEBSITE, ADVERTISING & NEWSLETTER

The Civic Officer informed the Committee that the next Newsletter would be distributed mid-February, he also thanked the various organisations at the meeting for their much-appreciated articles.

636. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A letter from the Chairman regarding the train services had been sent to Mr John Monahan, the Chairman will be contacting Councillor Matthew Lee, Leader of South Kesteven District Council for further guidance on this matter.

637. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

The members discussed, at length the future of the Stamford Festival as an event and the role of The Festival Committee. It was understood that the Events Committee had also discussed this subject over a year ago and to clarify matters, had no plans to be involved.

638. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

Electric charging points in Stamford

639. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:– Wednesday, 06 March 2019 at 10am

Chairman
(The meeting closed at 11.41am.)