

## **STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.00PM IN THE TOWN HALL, STAMFORD**

**PRESENT** Councillor B Griffin, Chairman  
Councillor H Bisnauthsing  
Councillor M Exton  
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 S Carroll  
Councillor D Dorson  
Councillor Mrs M Pitt

**ALSO PRESENT** Town Clerk  
Deputy Town Clerk  
Councillor R Davies, LCC Portfolio Holder for Highways  
Councillor D Brailsford (LCC Councillor Stamford West)  
Councillor M Lee (Leader of South Kesteven District Council)  
1 Member of press  
Mr. W. Phelan, Principal of Stamford Endowed Schools  
Mr Stuart Dory, Director of Operations Stamford Endowed Schools  
Ms Hannah Hamilton, Support Staff Stamford Endowed Schools

#### **Formal meeting commenced 7.00pm**

**PRESENTATION BY STAMFORD ENDOWED SCHOOLS** – The school has just under 2000 students coming from across the country and overseas as Day or Boarding students. This generates approximately £860K income, which is used to maintain the school and is reinvested in the facility to keep it at the cutting edge of the educational field. It is important to recognise that the Town Council value the symbiotic relationship the Endowed School enjoys with the Town and Mr Phelan would like the Town Council's support on its future objectives and how best both organisations can work together. There are two key strategic objectives – bring the schools together and work with the local community a lot more. The school will continue to undertake a number of local activities engaging with local groups. It raised some £30K which was split between a number of Charities. The Rotary Disability Games were hosted by the School this year and this will be repeated next year. The Endowed School has supported local schools in setting up varied services and facilities for their students. 35% of the pupils at the Endowed Schools come from Stamford and the establishment considers itself a local school. It is appreciated that the Lincolnshire County Scholarship has been removed but this is now offered through Bursaries which enriches the school with a diverse range of pupils, which is important. It is also recognised that the other concern of Council is the issue of traffic and the increasing number of parents operating large 4x4 vehicles. It is appreciated that this may cause some irritation, however, these parents do provide income for the school which in turn provides local employment. It is the intention of the school that their students are Ambassadors for Stamford. It is hoped that we can expand our partnership throughout the town

to promote Stamford as a beacon and support life-long learning. The school needs continually to develop to be competitive and successful and to do this we would like to canvass the support of the Town Council. Following discussion, it was noted that the overseas students come from the Orient and Far East as well as from Europe. It is the intention of the school not to exceed the overseas percentage of students to more than 25%, as the school also accommodates children of parents in the Forces. It was observed that the recent development at the school has enhanced the facilities from which the pupils will benefit. Members appreciated the support that has been offered to military families and the British Legion, but there is a perception that this has diminished and so developing this element will be welcome.

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

Councillor B Sandall, Councillor B C Sumner, Councillor Mrs B A Sumner, Councillor Mrs A Billington and Councillor R Foulkes submitted their reasons for absence. The reasons were noted and accepted.

Apologies were also received from and Rev. Andy Fyall - Superintendent Minister, The Stamford Methodist Circuit. These were noted.

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

Councillor M Exton declared a Personal Interest in respect of any discussions related to planning as they are on SKDC's Development Management Committee. He also declared a Personal Interest in any discussion relating to Environment SK as he is a Committee member.

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

Councillor Mrs S Sandall declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in respect of payment item 9402 as it related to the family business.

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

The notes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday, 29 January 2019 had been circulated and the Pink Paper was tabled.

Councillor Turner observed that item 599 had been proposed by a Councillor who had been absent. Following discussion this clearly was an error and would be checked.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms M Couch, seconded by Councillor M Exton and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that these minutes are a true record of the meeting subject to the above amendment and be signed by the Chairman. There was one abstention.

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

a) *Councillor David Brailsford (Lincolnshire County Council, Stamford West)* – Reported that the Lincolnshire Precept had been set and would be increased by 4.9%. It was noted that this matter would probably be discussed at the forthcoming Parish Assembly Meeting on 18 March 2019. It was confirmed that LCC is examining the situation of the surface of the small section of highway abutting Red Lion Square. It is recognised that this a very controversial and divisive issue. As a result, Councillor Brailsford stated he wished to remain impartial and leave the final decision up to professional and experienced highway officers. It is understood that this matter has been discussed by the Town Council as a consultee and its decision has been conveyed to the County Council. Councillor Davies appreciated the position and the points of conflict in the Town, one being Red Lion Square. It is important that the County Council takes advice from

specialists in the field and also to listen to the propositions presented. It is suggested that a meeting could be convened with the Town Council, the Civic Society and the County Council to discuss the matter openly. The Deputy Mayor observed that this meeting will have to be held following the elections. It was observed by a number of Town Councillors that the Town Council had consulted with the Civic Society and had an Extra Ordinary meeting to discuss this matter. A Resolution was approved and communicated to the County Council, therefore the ball is clearly now in the court of the County Council. It was recognised that this is a very emotive and controversial subject and it is hoped that whatever the outcome it will be evidenced based. It is clear that the current surfacing of pavers has not stood the test of time. With an extensive number of HGV's using this small stretch of highway, the current sandstone used is not suitable.

Councillor Turner enquired whether a loading bay could be instituted near the Art Centre for delivery vehicles, to avoid them parking near residential dwellings. This suggestion was considered sensible and would be investigated. But it recognised that current Traffic Regulations Orders need to be reviewed and a Strategic Parking Review is being conducted for the whole of Lincolnshire.

Councillor Bisnauthsing wished to raise the matter of the issuing of parking tickets. It was understood that this was a personal matter and not a Council matter.

Councillor Dorson raised the matter of potholes along Sydney Farm Lane and has reported this through LCC's method but did not receive any response and there appears to be a conflict with LCC's Customer Services to the public and to himself in respect of this matter. Councillor Brailsford offered to investigate this matter.

Councillor Story observed that the potholes situation is not improving but also enquired as to the reason for altering the traffic lights at Ryhall Road to New College Stamford. This now creates extensive queues of traffic accessing Stamford.

**7.45pm** Councillor Bisnauthsing left the meeting.

Councillor Exton expressed concern that the bell-style bollard situated at St. Pauls is not preventing vehicles from turning left at the traffic lights and a more effective barrier should be installed. It was recognised and that this would be part of the TRO process being undertaken later during the year.

- b) *Councillor M Lee (Leader of South Kesteven District Council)* – Stated that SKDC, and himself as Ward Councillor for St. Mary, are totally opposed to the tarmacking of Red Lion Square Highway. He thanked those Town Councillors who attended the recent briefing session to engage with the local community on the District Council's objectives. Work continues to protect the heritage of Stamford by implementing Article 4 Directive. A number of local heritage initiatives such as the Heritage Orchard Group have received funding to support their activities. The Way Finding, the Evening Economy and renewed lighting in Stamford are all initiatives which are progressing. These are all areas that are encouraging physical growth and delivering the levels of skills within the town. The consultation on the new leisure centre for Stamford is due to be undertaken and it is hoped that all will engage in this process. The recent Arts and Culture event last weekend proved to be a huge success, and this will inform the District's Art and Culture Strategy. The Big Clean continues to ensure that there is a high level of cleanliness through the District. Environment SK was launched this week and will mean the grass cutting services have been brought in-house to ensure a high quality of services. The joint venture with developers involved in the Deliver SK programme is also being rolled out. The Business breakfast at Stamford College was a very positive event for engaging with several agencies. Shop Stamford campaign is being organised in March to support the local retailers as a whole in Stamford. SK Lottery is another initiative to which

membership should be encouraged as it will benefit the Town. There was a question raised as to SKDC's Budget and Reserves. Councillor Lee informed the Town Council if they wished to examine the details of the Reserves and the Budget it is available on the SKDC website and that Council Tax funds are being used for the benefit of the residents of this Town which includes housing, the economy and employment in the Town. There was a request over when the white plastic bollards in the Sheep Market will be removed. Councillor Lee said this is being investigated and the measure to replace the bollards will be fitting and appropriate for the Town. Councillor Exton advised that the District has invested funds to support several programmes relating to the Armed Forces Covenant. Retailers participating in this scheme will display a sign enabling Armed Forces personnel to obtain a discount. Councillor Lee confirmed that SKDC has purchased the Cummins site on Barnack Road to protect the development of that location to provide future employment together with suitable accommodation. Details associated with this project are commercially sensitive at this point but will be revealed in due course.

- c) *Stamford Ward Councillors* – Councillor Taylor informed the Council regarding an issue in St. Johns Ward and Rutland Heights relating to an amenities space owned by the District Council. Unfortunately, the play equipment on the site has fallen in to disrepair and has been removed. Councillors Taylor, Dawson, Sandall and Dorson are engaging with residents to tap grant-funds which will procure new equipment.
- d) *Town Councillors on Outside Bodies* – None.

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

- a) *Correspondence* – A schedule of correspondence would be e-mailed to all members to keep them informed. 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. *Mid Lent Fair Invitations* – Members had been circulated with an invitation and Councillors are encouraged to respond to enable appropriate catering arrangements to be made.
  - ii. *Forthcoming Committee meetings* – Paperwork has been tabled and attention was drawn to the early commencement of the Amenities Committee meeting at 6pm
  - iii. *Matron of Stamford Hospital* – It was reported that Sue Brooks, Matron of Stamford Hospital, is due to retire and following discussion it was considered that the Town Council may consider recognising her service to the Town.

**Proposal 1** – It was proposed by Councillor Story, seconded by Councillor Ms Couch and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Deputy Mayor should arrange for a shield to be presented and a small reception to be held in the Parlour be organised. **Action:** Civic Officer.

- iv. *Food Hygiene and Handling* – The Town Clerk confirmed that all staff will be undertaking the relevant training which should be completed by the end of this week.
- v. *Civil Ceremonies* – Three bookings have already been received which is very encouraging.
- vi. *Conservation of the Historic Panel in the Court Room* – Conservation of the panel is progressing well, and it is understood that this conservation work has excited many academics at Lincoln University.

- vii. *Explorer's Road Project* – An initiative that is being developed to attract Visitors to the Town from Germany. A recent familiarisation tour involving German Tourism Agents had recently been organised and they had visited the Town Hall. Two tours are offered which include the Town Hall and Browne's Hospital. A request had been submitted for the Town Hall to be the hub, for receiving the bookings. The tours aim to retain the visitor as long as possible within the Town for the benefit of retailers. The Town Clerk asked whether the Town Council supported this initiative of the Town Hall being the main booking hub?

**Proposal 2** – It was proposed by Councillor J Dawson and seconded by Councillor Mrs S Sandall and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the Town Council supports the Explorer's Road Project and the use the Town Hall as the main booking hub. One Abstention.

- viii. *Breakfast Club* – It was reported that a number of Councillors were interested in setting up a Breakfast Club to support veterans who felt isolated and vulnerable. Following discussion, Councillor B Turner stated that on consulting a few members of the Royal British Legion it was considered that a luncheon club would be preferable. Councillor Dorson believed that this was an important support mechanism with which the Town Council could become involved. The view was to delay any decision until fuller discussions had been held with the Royal British Legion.
- ix. *Surfacing of the footpaths* – The Town Clerk reported that there had been a number of accidents reported to the Town Council which have been forwarded to the County Council Highway Customer Services. In addition, complaints have been received from residents in Conduit Road regarding vehicles speeding, collisions with pedestrians and very near misses with children. Following discussion, it was agreed that a number of areas in Stamford needed similar attention. It was believed that this item would be aired at the forthcoming Town Meeting on 18 March.
- x. *Complaint* – The Town Clerk reported that the complaint submitted for investigation to the Monitoring Officer regarding the Code of Conduct, the finding is that there was no complaint to be upheld.

**665. EVENTS COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 6)**

- a. Councillor Ms M Couch presented the notes of Monday, 04 February 2019 meeting.
- b. *Matters for discussion*: None.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Ms M Couch, seconded by Councillor D Dorson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting held on Monday, 04 February 2019 and the actions with recommendations of the Events Committee be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**666. PLANNING COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 7)**

- a. Councillor S Carroll presented the notes of the meeting of Tuesday, 05 February 2019
- b. *Matter for discussion*:
- i. *S18/2128* - Councillor Taylor reported as the Ward Councillor he had been asked to call-in this application relating to Exeter Gardens. He consulted with the neighbours and communicated with the Planning Officer suggesting that contact should be made with the architect of the applicant to address the issues and concerns. The designs were amended to the satisfaction of the neighbour. This illustrates that not all applications need to be called-in and Town Council Planning Committee could undertake similar action to achieve positive outcomes rather than making it a default position of requesting the application goes to the Development Committee. The

Deputy Mayor confirmed in addition to the Ward Councillors being intermediaries they are allowed a longer period to speak should the application be presented at the Development Control meetings.

- ii. *Holme Farm Development* – Councillor Carroll informed the Council of the large development on the boarder with Rutland, which should have a response from this Council. Councillor Taylor stated that this had been recently reported in the Mercury. It is the known as the Stamford Northern Development of which the Town Council is aware as it has been reported within the Neighbourhood Plan presentations. This location is proposed to cater for 2000 houses and will be master-planned to ensure that the proper infrastructure in put in place so there is coherent construction. There are discussions on-going to ensure that the contribution of the Community Infrastructure Levy is made towards Stamford. It is important that the Neighbourhood Plan is supported to ensure that it influences developments within and around Stamford.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor S Carroll, seconded by Councillor Mrs M Pitt and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting held on Tuesday, 05 February 2019 and actions with recommendations of the Planning Committee be approved and signed by the Chairman. There was one abstention.

**667. AMENITIES COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 8)**

- a. Councillor Mrs G Johnson presented the notes and the Pink Paper of Tuesday, 05 February 2019 meeting.

The Chairman proposed in pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting would continue in closed session during consideration of the next item which relates to commercial sensitivity of the ground maintenance tenders.

It was resolved to exclude the public and press.

The meeting proceeded in Closed Session 8.45pm

The meeting resumed in Open Session 8.55pm

- b. *Matter for discussion:*
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs G Johnson, seconded by Councillor Ms M Couch and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting held on Tuesday, 05 February 2019 and actions with recommendations of the Amenities Committee be approved and signed by the Chairman. There was one Abstention

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

- a. Councillor Croft presented the notes of Wednesday 06 February 2019 meeting.
- b. *Matter for discussion:*
- c. It was proposed by Councillor A Croft, seconded by Councillor B Turner and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting held on Wednesday 06 February 2019 and actions with recommendations of the Strategic Committee be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**669. FINANCE COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 10)**

- a. Councillor Mrs S J Sandall presented the notes of the meeting of Tuesday 12 February 2019 together with the Pink Paper.

The Chairman proposed in pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting would continue in closed session during consideration of the next item which relates to commercial sensitivity of the ground maintenance tenders and the appointment of the Amenity Operative.

It was resolved to exclude the public and press.

The meeting proceeded in Closed Session 8.55pm

The meeting resumed in Open Session 9.05pm

Following the closed session discussion, it was agreed that the Specified Tender for ground maintenance work is awarded to – MKS Groundcare and SMV Contract Services.

- b. Matter for discussion:

- i. *Museum Store* - Councillor Mrs S J Sandall stated that the Town Council's survey of the Museum Store building has been undertaken and report received. A meeting is scheduled with Councillor Dawson, Councillor Mrs Sandall and the Town Clerk to examine the report in detail. As the Town Council is aware, the element of Discover Stamford is out for consultation and it is suggested that with the Council's permission the Museum Store and the Discover Stamford element is treated as one unit.

- ii. *Poster Collection Album* – Councillor Mrs S J Sandall circulated information in respect of the restoration of one of the albums. As the cost is quite substantial it was considered that this decision should be taken by the whole Council. Following discussion, it was considered that this could be a submission for funding to the Skells Trust. The Town Clerk reported that the Skells Trustees had agreed that all submissions by the Town Council would be suspended until the Conflict of Interest issue was resolved.

- c. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs S J Sandall, seconded by Councillor J Dawson and agreed by majority vote and **RESOLVED** that the notes together with the Pink Paper of the meeting of Tuesday 12 February 2019 are a true reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chairman. It was further agreed to support the suggestion to include the Discover Stamford element should the Town Council wish to pursue with the Museum Store, and to the restoration of the Poster Collection Album. There was one abstention.

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

- a. Councillor B Turner presented the notes of Wednesday 13 February 2019 meeting.

- b. *Matter for discussion:*

- c. It was proposed by Councillor B Turner, seconded by Councillor Mrs S Sismore and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the notes are a true reflection of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 February 2019 and actions with recommendations of the Scrutiny & Audit Committee be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**671. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (Agenda Point 12)**

Schedule no. 11 (transactions 9389 to 9450) had been circulated for consideration.

**Proposal 4** - It was proposed by Councillor J Dawson, seconded by Councillor Mrs S Sismore and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that schedule No. 11 is agreed and approved for payment.

**672. QUESTIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSION (Agenda Point 12) - None**

Chairman  
(The meeting closed at 9.15pm)