

NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR PARISH OF STAMFORD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT-

*Members of the Public and Press are encouraged to attend in person.
However, for ease this meeting may be viewed remotely by clicking [HERE](#) to
join the meeting.*

**The Annual Assembly of the Town Meeting for STAMFORD will be held at
Stamford Town Hall, St. Mary's Hill on Monday 21 March 2022 at 7pm**

Local Government electors for the Town will be entitled to vote at the Meeting
which will be open to the public.

The business to be transacted at the Meeting will be as follows:-

1. Mayor's Welcome
2. Marc Jones – Lincolnshire's Police and Crime Commissioner
3. To confirm the minutes of the last Annual Meeting – 22 March 2021
4. Matters arising from those minutes and any other points raised by residents or members of public.
5. Presentation of Committee reports
6. Presentation of Annual Report 2022/2023 Business Plan

Signature
Councillor Gloria Johnson (Town Mayor)

Date: 03 March 2020

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY 22 MARCH 2021 AT 7 PM AT THE TOWN HALL

PRESENT **Chairman - Councillor Mrs Gloria Johnson, Deputy Town Mayor**

ALSO PRESENT **The Town Clerk**
 The Deputy Town Clerk
 36 Members of the Public

1. WELCOME

The Chairman, Councillor Gloria Johnson, was very pleased to see so many residents joining this virtual Annual Town Meeting. She appreciated that this remains a difficult and challenging year for all. She thanked the Council Administration team for their commitment and dedication in ensuring that Council business and services to Stamford residents were executed in an exemplary manner. It has been a year since the first lockdown, and we all look forward to slowly emerging from the present restrictions given the success of the vaccination programme.

Councillor Gloria Johnson reiterated that this was not a Town Council meeting, but one for residents to raise any questions, queries or concerns they may have relating to Stamford.

2. TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

It was proposed by Mr J Dawson, seconded by Miss B Griffin, that the minutes of the Town Meeting held on 16 March 2020 be agreed as a true record of the meeting. It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be signed by the Chairman.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

Unfortunately, in 2020, due to the Covid Pandemic, many events had to be cancelled, with projects having to be suspended. However, during the coming financial year 2021/2022 it is hoped that more can be achieved.

The Stamford Neighbourhood Plan is out for final public consultation and all Stamford residents are encouraged to engage with the process and visit the SKDC website using this link - <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=15295> Responses must be submitted no later than the 19th of April 2021.

In respect of the Town Council's Amenities facilities, during the 2020/2021 financial year the rolling-out of additional water troughs continued at Allotment sites; there was also further progress on the extension to the cemetery burial grounds. Regrettably, there has been increased expenditure incurred repairing the results of mindless vandalism at the Skatepark, which in turn impacts the Stamford taxpayer.

The Climate Action Working Group was established just before the commencement of the national lockdown. The group has met regularly virtually, and has a number of initiatives ranging from a water bottle refill station, the wildflower planting of verges, promoting improved cycle paths and pedestrian footpaths plus additional tree planting in Stamford.

Unfortunately, no events were possible during 2020 due to the national lockdown and Covid restrictions. However, Stamford Town Council agreed to keep the festive lights switched on 24/7 throughout the 2020 Christmas period to provide some relief from a potentially gloomy outlook. It is hoped that during 2021 events may again be scheduled, subject to Covid restrictions being entirely lifted.

The smooth operation of services was facilitated by investment by the Council in upgrading the Council's computerised administration systems. The Town Hall has accommodation Licenced for Civil Marriages & Civil Partnerships. This has provided a useful income stream to mitigate some Council expenditures. The Town Council continues to support LCC in its amenity grass-cutting and will continue to review annually whether this will continue, or be adapted, in the future.

The Budget and Precept calculations for 2021/2022 are attached. The Town Council has been prudent in its accounting and decided not to increase its Precept and will be submitting a request for £540,900.00. There are several projects earmarked which the Town Council will support during 2021/2022 which are itemised the attached Annual Report.

Councillor Johnson concluded the Annual Report by heralding the annual Proclamation relating to the Charter permitting two fun fairs to visit Stamford during the year.

4. ISSUES OF CONCERN RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Residents were invited to comment on any issues of concern or pose any questions to the Council. There were no matters raised.

The Chairman Councillor Gloria Johnson noted that Lincolnshire County Councillor David Brailsford was in attendance. Councillor Johnson thanked Councillor Brailsford for all his support and effort over his time in Office as he is standing down this year.

Chairman
(The meeting closed at 7.25p.m.)

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

March 2021

This Annual Report of Stamford Town Council covers the fiscal year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 inclusive.

This report details the work Stamford Town Council has undertaken during the above cited financial year. The objective of this document is to communicate important and relevant information to Stamford residents in respect of the Council's activities during this period. Stamford Town Council's mission on behalf of its electorate is to maximise the efficiency, productivity and the revenue-generating potential of all its assets. This will provide a balanced platform from which the Council can effectively discharge its community role and functions, in an economic and sustainable fashion, to all the communities it serves at optimal cost.

1. Introduction to the Council and Councillors

Stamford Town Council was formerly a Borough Council prior to local government reorganisation in 1974. Although called a Town Council, its responsibilities and powers are the same as any Parish Council, with certain civic duties that it is required to undertake within its parish boundary.

The Town Council comprises 21 Councillors, elected for a four-year term, who represent the five Wards within the town. These are St. George's Ward, All Saints' Ward North, All Saints Ward South, St. Mary's Ward and St. John's Ward. The Town Council meets monthly as a Full Council and also meets as smaller Committees to progress initiatives, resolve issues and to make recommendations to the full Town Council. Most regrettably, during the past year, two Stamford Town Mayors have died. These sad losses have resulted in two vacancies arising: both in St. George's Ward. With the Government's announcement that Elections may now proceed, a By-Election will be held on 6th May 2021.

The duties of the Town Council comprise and include the management of Stamford Cemetery; the Town Council allotments; the Recreation Ground facilities together with its public conveniences; the Town Meadows; floral displays and some memorial seating; Christmas Festival and festive street lighting; the War Memorial and a Town Centre Community Cleaner. The Town Council strives to work with neighbouring local authorities to promote Stamford and to protect essential services such as the hospital and general medical practices such as St. Mary's Health Centre. The Town Council has embarked upon the production of a Stamford Neighbourhood Plan which will enable the town's residents to assist shape the development of Stamford whilst protecting the town's special and distinctive historic character. Stamford's Neighbourhood Plan will now be subject to a final public consultation which commenced March 8th 2021 and which will last for a period of 6 weeks. It is hoped that many residents will engage and contribute their considered views towards this important, final consultation.

2. Local Authority Responsibilities

- a. *Lincolnshire County Council* includes adult and family services, highways management, street lighting, libraries, registration and celebratory services and flood measures amongst its responsibilities. County Elections are due in May 2021 and your vote is important to ensure Stamford services are both protected and delivered efficiently and cost effectively.
- b. *South Kesteven District Council* is responsible for activities such as waste collection, street cleaning, planning and environmental health, licences, social housing, litter bins, markets, residential parking permits and public toilets.

3. Town Council operations during Year 2020/2021

The Covid Pandemic which resulted in a national lockdown in March 2020, and which remains in place today has been a challenge for families, communities, and businesses throughout Stamford and its environs. Many scheduled projects have had to be placed in suspension. This document seeks to review the operations and procedures undertaken by the Town Council during the current year (2020/21) and to discuss future projects in the forthcoming financial year (2021/22). The Town Council discharges its statutory functions and responsibilities through its delegated committees. Budgetary expenditure is controlled principally by the

Finance Committee, with the Amenities and Events Committees allocated a budget to administer and manage their appointed areas of responsibility.

- i. Planning Committee:** The Town Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications, and its Planning Committee has responded to several hundred applications over the past year, submitting observations to SKDC within the designated timeframe.

Residents are always welcome to attend Planning Committee meetings and submit their comments, which the Committee will take into consideration when making their observations to South Kesteven Planning Authority.

There have been a few controversial applications during the present year including the developments on Kettering Road by Boon Homes, the Aldi Store on Uffington Road and the Traveller's plot on Haddon Road. The most recent consultations received are on the provision of development at St. Martins Park, with a high-quality mixed-use scheme along Barnack Road (former Cummins site).

The Stamford Neighbourhood Plan is out for final public consultation and all Stamford residents are encouraged to engage with the process and visit the SKDC website using this link - <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=15295> Responses must be submitted no later than the 19th of April 2021.

- ii. Events Committee:** Unfortunately, no events were possible during 2020 due to the national lockdown and Covid restrictions. However, Stamford Town Council agreed to have the festive lights switched on 24/7 throughout the last Christmas period to provide some relief to a potentially gloomy outlook. It is hoped that during 2021 events may again be scheduled, subject to Covid restrictions being entirely lifted.
- iii. Amenities Committee** – Manages the Town Council's Cemetery, Meadows, Recreation Ground and Allotments. There is an ever-increasing demand for allotments and the Committee is increasing the number of plots available, especially starter plots. Regular inspections and the vigilance of committee members seek to ensure that all tenants comply with the Town Council's policies and adhere to their agreements for the benefit of the community as a whole. This financial year (2020/21), the rolling-out of additional water troughs continued at Allotment sites; also further progress in the extension of the cemetery burial grounds. Regrettably, there has been increased expenditure incurred repairing the results of mindless vandalism at the Skatepark, which in turn impacts the Stamford taxpayer.
- iv. Climate Action Working Group** - This Working Group was established just before the commencement of the national lockdown. However, the group has met, virtually, regularly and is pursuing a number of initiatives from a water bottle refill station, wildflower planting of verges, promoting improved cycle paths and pedestrian footpaths plus additional tree planting in Stamford.
- v. Finance Committee** - The Finance Committee successfully manages the Council's budget and assets. During the national lockdown the Administration team continued to function and administer Council business working from home. The smooth operation of services was facilitated by investment by the Council in upgrading the Council's computerised administration systems. The Town Hall has accommodation Licenced for Civil Marriages & Civil Partnerships. This has provided a useful income stream to mitigate some Council expenditures. The Town Council continues to support LCC in its amenity grass-cutting and will continue annually to review whether this will continue, or be adapted, in the future.

During the forthcoming financial year (2021/22), the schedule of the restoration of the Historical Panel in the Court Room will continue, supporting the Council's objective to maintain and restore the Town Hall to its historic former splendour; developing its application for Museum Accreditation status endeavouring to achieve the transfer from Lincolnshire County Council of the 'Discover Stamford' display and the Museum Store holding the Stamford Collection. Stamford Town Council's aim is to enable the Collection to be more accessible to the public at large. The Council aims at lowering its carbon footprint by reducing its energy usage with the installation of LED bulbs throughout the Town Hall, investigating the potential of installing solar panels on the Town Hall roof and has recently switched to a utility supplier which provides 100% renewable electricity from solar, wind and hydro sources and with a gas supply which is 100% carbon neutral.

Through its grant scheme the Council continues to support a number of local charities and organisations and projects or events that support the residents of Stamford.

Current earmarked Projects 2021/22

Town Hall and Administration

- **Supporting the ‘Stamford in Bloom’ projects.**
- **Accreditation of Museum Status and to achieve the transfer of the ‘Discover Stamford’ display and the Museum Store holding the Stamford Collection.**
- **Quarterly Newsletters**
- **Solar Panels for Town Hall**
- **Restoration of the Historical Panel in the Court Room.**

Town Amenities

- **Progress work on the extension of the burial ground at the Cemetery**
- **Repair the stone perimeter wall at Stamford Cemetery**
- **Stamford Millstream improvement project**
- **Green Flag Award for the Recreation Ground**

2021/22 Budget and Precept

The Budget and Precept calculations of the Town Council are attached. The Town Council has been prudent in its accounting and decided not to increase its Precept and will be submitting a request for £540,900.00.

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL
BUDGET 2022 TO 2023

	2020-21	2021-22	2021-22	2022-23
	Actual	Budget	Forecast	Budget
A Total Cash Brought Forward	191,354.37	279,795.02	274,094.86	368,158.86
B Precept	537,949.39	540,900.00	540,900.00	546,048.17
C Income				
Administration	11,391.51	0.00	1850.00	1,050.00
Town Hall	7,455.49	1,000.00	1,450.00	1,100.00
Strategic Development				
Amenities	79,124.34	38,358.00	59,522.00	38,750.00
Events	0.00	4,250.00	4,700.00	4,000.00
Other Income	8,793.25	11,000.00	10570.00	10,700.00
D Grants & Donations Received	11,609.90	10,069.00	10069.00	10,069.00
TOTAL INCOME	118,374.49	64,677.00	88,161.00	65,669.00
A + B + C + D Total Cash (Precept, Income and Grants)	847,678.25	885,372.02	903,155.86	979,876.03
E Expenditure				
Adminstration	240,643.02	254,513.00	262,275.00	301,845.00
Town Hall	34,751.74	76,150.00	41,962.00	51,700.00
Members Allowances & Civic Ceremonies	107,527.08	13,950.00	8,150.00	11,950.00
Strategic Development				
Amenities	105,549.89	164,097.00	149,225.00	166,771.00
Events	40,433.28	52,287.00	49,437.00	47,250.00
Other Expenditure	41,412.35	34,580.00	13,948.00	22,201.17
F Community Grants	3,266.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	573,583.36	605,577.00	534,997.00	611,717.17
G Allocated Projects (Funds Earmarked)	460,539.26	332,031.00	332,031.00	332,031.00
Balance Carried Forward	274,094.89	279,795.02	368,158.86	368,158.86