

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2022 AT 7.00PM AT STAMFORD TOWN HALL

PRESENT Councillor Mrs G Johnson (Chairman / Mayor)
Councillor D Taylor (Vice-Chairman/ Deputy -Mayor)
Councillor H Bisnauthsing
Councillor B Sandall
Councillor Mrs S J Sandall
Councillor J Dawson
Councillor Mrs S Sismore
Councillor A Croft
Councillor S Carroll
Councillor D Dorson
Councillor Mrs M Pitt
Councillor Mrs A Wheeler
Councillor Mrs A Carter-Begbie
Councillor Mrs E Hooper
Councillor S Fenn
Councillor S Ford
Councillor S Doyle
Councillor Mrs J Winterbourne
Councillor Mrs L Brewin
Councillor Mrs A Schonhut

ALSO PRESENT Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk
Councillor Richard Cleaver, LCC Stamford West Division
Councillor Kelham Cooke, LCC Stamford East Division
3 Members of public
1 Member of Press

494. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda Point 1): None

Neil McIvor of Pride of Stamford Litter Pickers wished to thank Stamford Town Council for their appreciation in respect of the assistance and support he has offered the Council. He was delighted with the hedge trimmer presented by the Town Council, as it would assist him in continuing carrying out his passion for keeping Stamford presentable and tidy.

The Mayor Councillor Gloria Johnson thanked him for undertaking his tasks with a smile and always remaining cheerful.

A resident living adjacent to the former Britannia Hotel raised concern over the removal of the renowned Justice statue located in a prominent location upon the top of the building. He wished to be assured that it would be carefully stored and protected before being returned to its historic location. Residing close to the works, it appeared the developer had scant or little concern for the impact the scaffolding and road closure was imposing on residents. The absence of proper notification and consultation with residents had been nothing less than poor. His personal loss of privacy and light because of the scaffolding is considerable. Hence his concern over the care of this historic statue.

The Mayor Councillor Johnson recognised the issues and acknowledged the impact. Councillor Cooke, Leader of SKDC, assured that the statue would be returned to its original location once all the work had been completed. Both District and County Officers are aware of the situation and Councillor Cooke would be happy to coordinate a meeting on site with all parties.

A resident living on Bath Row raised concern over the increasing number of pigeons on the Meadows and in the area in general. She has installed several deterrents but more needs to be done to stop the public feeding the pigeons. It is well known that their faeces pose a health risk and causes respiratory infection. She requested that big signs are installed by SKDC advising the public not to feed the birds and to apply fines.

The Mayor, appreciated the situation and would take this matter up with SKDC. Councillor Cooke believed that the introduction of predatory birds in areas might assist but will consider what can be done.

Formal meeting commenced 7.15pm

495. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Point 2)

Councillor Miss B Griffin submitted her apologies, the reasons were noted.

Proposal 1 - Councillor Amanda Wheeler proposed, seconded by Councillor Dave Dorson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Council accepts the reasons for absence.

496. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (Agenda Point 3)

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

Councillor H Bisnauthsing declared a Personal Interest in respect of any discussion relating to Planning as he is an elected member of the SKDC Planning Committee.

Councillor J Dawson declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in respect of planning Application S21/2434 and S21/2476 as he owns the building.

Councillors B and S J Sandall declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in respect of payments 18891 and 18893 as they are related to entertainment provision for Spooktacular in which their daughter is involved.

497. MINUTES (Agenda Point 4)

The notes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday, 21 December 2021 had been circulated to all members of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor J Dawson seconded by Councillor D Dorson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of 21 December 2021 are an accurate reflection of the meeting and be signed by the Chairman. There was one Abstention.

498. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES / ORGANISATIONS (Agenda Point 5)

a. **Lincolnshire County Councillors:**

i. **Cllr. Kelham Cooke**, Stamford East LCC reported on the following items:

- *Business Grants* – Businesses are encouraged to apply to the fund.
- *St. Martins Park* – The demolition of structures is in progress. Once complete, contracts will be completed and SKDC will relinquish its ownership and interest in the site. It is considered that this development will be positive for Stamford and deliver profits. It was important that site was managed properly through the partnership of the District Council and Burghley Estates.
- *SKDC Council Tax* – Consultation is underway and there is approval for a £5.00 increase on a Band D property.
- *Tree Planting* – Locations have been identified where trees will be planted as part of the district's tree planting scheme.
- *Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme* – An 'in person' consultation is due to be scheduled at the Arts Centre, details will be publicised.

- *Stamford Parking Review* – There is commitment from LCC’s Portfolio holder that a review will be undertaken for the entire area.
- *Mallard Farm* – It is noted the first round of consultation has been completed and the finding of the feedback is awaited. It is recognised that the size and scale of the project could create a negative impact on the local environment. It is expected that the extent of the development may be reduced. There are early indications that there are further Solar Farms being proposed in the West of the District.

Following discussion there was a request for a Stamford integrated Transport Master Plan to ensure developments provide connectivity for cycles and pedestrians around town. There was concern raised over some residents who need to make payments and who find it difficult to use the current online payment system. It was hoped that a method for residents to call in at the Arts Centre could be introduced to accept such remittances.

ii. **Cllr. Richard James Cleaver**, Stamford West LCC reported on the following items:

- *Funding* – LCC’s consultation in respect of its 3% Council Tax increase is due to end very shortly.
- *Health* – Patient numbers at Lakeside Stamford have fallen further since the last report. It was noted that all services provided at the Sheepmarket Practice are now being offered at St. Marys Practice. The CQC has agreed to be more proactive in respect of Practice lease agreements and implement better monitoring practices.
- *Highways* – Issues related to parking on New Cross Road and Conduit Road, together with the resurfacing of Red Lion Square were raised with the Portfolio Holder. A response is still awaited. There was a question regarding Residents Parking Permits being extended to include Wothorpe Road. It was considered that there is no issue on Casterton Road. It was noted that no residents are entitled to acquire permits for Rutland Terrace.
- *LCC Flagpole* – There was question as to how the installation of a new flagpole would benefit Stamford and it was considered that the money could be better spent in resolving the pothole situation in Stamford.

Proposal 2 – It was proposed by Councillor S Carroll, seconded by Councillor Mrs A Carter-Begbie and unanimously **RESOLVED** that a letter is sent to Councillor Martin Hill, LCC Leader requesting him to rethink this project.

- *Red Lion Square* – It was recognised by the Town Council that many Councillors voted for the Red Lion Square Highway to be resurfaced in tarmac. The proposal of the installing setts is deemed inappropriate considering the volume of HGV traffic. The Chairman Councillor Mrs G Johnson stated she had invited Councillor Martin Hill to a meeting to discuss this matter and a response is awaited. It is appreciated that setts are thought to be the appropriate aesthetic for the centre of this historic town, but they are not considered to be practical. Most of Stamford people wish tarmac, and their desire is not being considered. Maintenance and the quality of the product has been assured by LCC Highways time and again, but their failure to deliver on both has been costly to the taxpayer. This project does not appear to make economic sense, considering the financial position of the County Council. There was opinion that the setts have a natural speed reducing effect and Stamford being the first Conservation Town in England, LCC’s policy recommends setts as being in keeping with the historic architecture in the heart of Stamford. It is recognised that Stamford is a vibrant and working town, but practicalities need to be considered and compromises need to be made and tarmac may have to be the compromise required.

Proposal 3 – A vote was taken as to establish the view of Town Councillors as to whether the surfacing of the highway in Red Lion Square should be tarmac – There were fourteen votes in Favour, five votes Against and one Abstention.

- b. **South Kesteven District Councillors:** There have been concerns expressed by residents that unauthorised cars are parking all day in the Bus Station. This matter is being addressed by SKDC.
- c. **Stamford Ward Councillors:**
- i. *Bin fires* – Cllr Mrs Brewin stated there is a fear that the recent spate of bin fires may be deliberate. The Police issued an incident number but there was concern that the CCTV system is not monitored adequately.
 - ii. *Lakeside Practice* – It is very difficult to obtain face to face appointments and the system was alleged to be not fit for purpose. The question remains whether the PPG is effective in addressing patient concerns. It was reported that the last PPG meeting had been cancelled and it is noted that many patients are moving from Lakeside Stamford Practice to the Empingham Practice.
- d. **Town Councillor on Outside Bodies:**
- i. *Neighbourhood Plan* – Councillor Taylor reminded the Council that at present the Stamford Neighbourhood Plan is on hold due to the issues which have arisen in respect of SKDC and Rutland County Council's Local Plan. Discussions are on-going in respect of the Master Plan for northern development, which are of importance for the infrastructure for Stamford with a significant period to reach agreement. It has been suggested by the Planning Inspector that to avoid any further delay to the Stamford Neighbourhood Plan going forward to Referendum, the main policy which is not compliant is withdrawn as a Policy and the remainder can then be taken forward to Referendum.

Proposal 4 – It was proposed by Councillor D Taylor, seconded by Councillor S Ford and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the Policy which is currently non-compliant is withdrawn and the Neighbourhood Plan is taken forward to Referendum. There were two Abstentions.

499. 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 subject.
- b. *Update and feedback on action points:*
- i. **Police Commissioner** – Confirmation had been received that the Police Commissioner would be attending the Town meeting on the 21st March. It is hoped that the Lincolnshire Police Inspector would accompany the Commissioner.
 - ii. **LCC Highways** – Following a meeting with Lincolnshire Highways Safety Partnership at the junction of Fitzwilliam Road and Little Casterton Road it was recognised that this is a hazard zone. It was suggested that the Town Council submit a TRO to Rutland County Council to extend the 30mph speed limit across the boundary. LCC is agreeable for a speed indicator unit be installed on one of its lamp posts. Details for the purchase of such a unit will be brought to the next Finance meeting.

Proposal 5 – It was proposed by Councillor S Ford, seconded by Councillor D Dorson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk pursues the submission of a TRO request to extend the 30mph speed limit across the Lincolnshire boundary into Rutland.

- iii. **Special Expense Areas** – It was reported that Red Lion Square toilets is another facility which is being considered for a potential transfer back to Stamford Town Council. Following a recent site visit the poor condition of this Listed Building was evident. It could be an additional facility which the Town Council might agree to have transferred at the same time as the Empingham and Uffington playing fields in 2023.

500. PLANNING COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 7)

- a. Councillor S Ford confirmed on behalf of the Committee that the notes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 04 January 2022 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
- b. Matter for discussion: Cllr Ford strongly suggested that all future housing developments should include energy saving devices, such as the installation of solar panels.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor S Ford seconded by Councillor D Dorson and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 04 January 2022 together with the above recommendations are approved by the Council. There was one abstention.

501. MUSEUM COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 8)

- a. Councillor S Ford confirmed on behalf of the Committee that the notes of the Museum Committee meeting held on Monday 10 January 2022 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
- b. Matter for discussion: Cllr Ford updated the Council on the progress made on the plans for developing the Accreditation Application and the Heritage Offer to Lincolnshire Cultural Services. It is suggested that a professional ‘Heritage Development Officer’ is engaged to progress the best options for establishing a museum in Stamford. Moving forward, the officer’s duties would include Curation, Management, Development, Programming and Community Outreach. Following discussion, it was noted that some members expressed concern over appointing a full-time Museum Officer at this early stage. With this in mind, it has been considered to appoint a temporary Museum Development Consultant for a period of eight weeks, who could help to resolve urgent issues such as venue, collection and storage matters. The individual could outline feasibilities and set up a public consultation with the people of Stamford and ascertain what is expected from their museum. A Museum Development Consultant has been identified and this can be explored further in Closed Session.

Proposal 6 – It was proposed by Councillor S Ford, seconded by Councillor H Bisnauthsing and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Town Council approves the appointment of a Museum Development Consultant for a period of eight weeks.

- c. It was proposed by Councillor S Ford seconded by Councillor Mrs A Wheeler and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Museum Committee meeting held on Monday 10 January 2022 together with the above recommendation is approved by the Council.

502. AMENITIES COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 9)

- a. Councillor D Dorson confirmed on behalf of the Committee that the notes of the Amenities meeting held on Tuesday, 11 January 2022 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
- b. Matter for discussion:
 - i. *Play Equipment* – It was reported that the repairs and checking of the play equipment are due to be complete within the next couple of weeks.
 - ii. *Public Conveniences* – The defective electrical panels will be inspected beginning of March.
 - iii. *Grit Bins* – These have been delivered to the Recreation Ground.
 - iv. *Bandstand Garden* – This area needs urgent attention in view of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It was noted that quotes are being obtained to address this area. It was reported that assistance from Mencap will be limited and subject to

their availability. The Town Clerk observed that any work on the garden would need to be synchronised with the Bandstand refurbishment. Following discussion, it was viewed that the Town Council should project manage both the refurbishment of the Bandstand and the garden planting.

Proposal 7 – It was proposed by Councillor Mrs S Sismore, seconded by Councillor A Croft and unanimously **RESOLVED** the Town Clerk project manages the refurbishment of the Bandstand and the garden planting around the Bandstand in time for the Platinum Jubilee.

- v. *All Programmed Events documentation* – These are available for viewing by Councillors on SharePoint.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor D Dorson, seconded by Councillor John Dawson and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11 January 2022, together with the above recommendations, are approved by the Council. There was one Abstention.

503. CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP (Agenda Point 10)

- a. Councillor Mrs A Wheeler confirmed on behalf of the Working Group that the notes of the Working Group meeting held on Wednesday 12 January 2022 are a true and accurate reflection.
- b. Matter for discussion: Councillor Wheeler reported that the Group wished the Town Council to reaffirm its commitment to Climate Emergency and create a Climate Plan for Stamford. This would involve consulting the residents of Stamford to identify what their priorities are in respect of this emergency. It was also considered that all the Policies of the Town Council should be reviewed to check the carbon impact of the Council's activities, and to work with the Principal Authorities to prepare the Risk Assessments for Stamford.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs A Wheeler, seconded by Councillor D Dorson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Climate Action Working Group meeting held on Wednesday 08 December 2021 and the actions above are approved by the Council.

504. FINANCE COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 11)

- a. Councillor Susan Sandall confirmed on behalf of the Committee that the notes of the Finance meeting held on Tuesday, 18 January 2022 are a true and accurate reflection.
- b. Matter for discussion:
 - i. *Petty Cash* - Councillor Mrs S Sandall raised the matter of topping up the petty cash float. It was suggested that in order to avoid the issuing of cheques, the Council's Debit Card is used to withdraw cash. This would save time and bank charges.

Proposal 8 – It was proposed by Mrs S J Sandall, seconded by J Dawson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Council approves the Town Clerk using the Debit Card for authorised cash withdrawals to top-up the Petty Cash.

- ii. *Vandalism* - Councillor Mrs S J Sandall informed the Council that the new refurbished seats in Red Lion Square have all been returned. HMP Peterborough has done an excellent job in revarnishing and repairing the seats. However, one of the benches has been vandalised and a section of the vanished hardwood has been cut out of a seat. Disappointingly, nothing had been captured on CCTV.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs S J Sandall, seconded by Councillor J Dawson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 January 2022 together with the above proposal is approved by the Council.

505. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (Agenda Point 12)

The Council had been circulated with Schedule No 10 for consideration.

Proposal 9 – It was proposed by Councillor J Dawson, seconded by Councillor Mrs M Pitt and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that Schedule No. 10 is approved for payment. There were two Abstentions.

506. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Point 13) – Tuesday 22 February 2022 at 7pm.**507. TO RESOLVE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION**

The Chairman Councillor Mrs G confirmed that the Council had resolved to go into Closed Session to discuss the two Pink Papers circulated to all Councillors. In accordance with Sec.1(2) of the Public Bodies Act 1960 (Admissions to Meetings Act 1960) that as publicity would be prejudicial by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted relating to Personnel the public and media will be excluded from this part of the meeting. At the end of the Closed Session any resolutions taken will be made public.

It was confirmed that all Pink Papers had been circulated electronically and in paper form to members of the Council with the Agenda Pack on the 25 January 2022.

Councillor D Dorson and the Deputy Town Clerk left the meeting.

21.00 pm Meeting continues in Closed Session

21.35 pm Meeting resumed in Open Session

During the discussion in Closed Session, the Council drafted the Platinum Jubilee celebration programme subject to the consultation with staff:

Thursday 02 June – Central day of events on the Recreation Ground

Friday 03 June – Service of Thanksgiving for HM. Service at All Saints Church

Sunday 05 June – Encourage the Stamford community to organise street parties

Confirmed that interviews were being held in respect of the Amenities Operative vacancy and that the consultation process is in progress regarding the reduction of hours related to the Amenities Operative role.

The Town Hall will re-open fully from 31st January 2022 and staff will be encouraged to return to work from the Town Hall.

Museum Development Consultant will be appointed for a short period to advise on the Heritage offer to produce a feasibility study on the development of the Stamford Museum.

Chairman
(The meeting closed at 21.35 p.m.)