

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2023 AT 7.00PM AT STAMFORD TOWN HALL

PRESENT Councillor A Croft (Deputy Chair / Deputy Mayor)
Councillor B Sandall
Councillor Mrs S J Sandall
Councillor Miss B Griffin
Councillor Mrs S Sismore
Councillor Mrs G Johnson
Councillor Mrs M Pitt
Councillor Mrs A Wheeler
Councillor Mrs A Carter-Begbie
Councillor Mrs E Hooper
Councillor S Fenn
Councillor S Ford
Councillor Mrs J Winterbourne
Councillor Mrs L Brewin
Councillor Mrs A Schonhut

ALSO PRESENT -Town Clerk
Rev. Peter Stevenson
Councillor Richard Cleaver- LCC Stamford West Division & SKDC Councillor
2 Members of public
1 Member of press

491. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda Point 1):

Rev. Stevenson wished to invite all members of the Council to the Civic Breakfast morning in the Town Hall Court Room on 19th May 2023. Several stakeholders will be present offering their hopes and vision for the Town with an opportunity to network.

Councillor A Croft informed the meeting that the anticipated presentation by the Endowed School unfortunately has had to be postponed.

Formal meeting commenced 7.05pm

492. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Point 2)

Councillor H Bisnauthsing, Councillor J Dawson, Councillor S Carroll, Councillor D Dorson and Councillor S Doyle submitted their apologies, the reasons were noted.

Proposal 1 - Councillor Mrs A Wheeler proposed, seconded by Councillor S Ford and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Council accepts the reasons for absence.

493. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (Agenda Point 3)

Councillor Mrs G Johnson declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of any discussion relating to personnel as her daughter-in-law is an Administration Officer.

494. MINUTES (Agenda Point 4)

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday, 20 December 2022 had been circulated to all members of the Council prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs G Johnson, seconded by Councillor Mrs M Pitt and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of 20 December 2022 are an accurate reflection of the meeting and be signed by the Chairman. There were two Abstentions.

495. 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 subject.
- b. *Update and feedback on action points:*
 - i. *Resignation*- It was noted that Councillor David Taylor had offered his immediate resignation on the 16th January 2023 as Mayor and Town Councillor for personal reasons. Unfortunately, due to the proximity of the elections, under LGA 1972 Sec. 89, this Casual Vacancy cannot be advertised.
 - ii. *Election 2023* – It was noted that the elections have been called on 4th May 2023 and all Council will retire on 8th May 2023, with all newly elected Councillors having to sign their declaration of Office by 9th May 2023. The Annual Town Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 11th May 2023.
 - iii. *Qtr. 3 Financial Report* – This has been circulated to all Councillors and is available for viewing on Sharepoint. Paper copies are available on request.
 - iv. *Police Newsletter* – This had been circulated to all members of the Council.
 - v. *LGA Model Code of Conduct* – All Councillors are invited to the Meeting sessions held in the Town Hall Court Room in respect of the Local Government Association's model Code of Conduct, being presented by the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer of South Kesteven District Council. It is hoped that as many Councillors as possible will attend the event.
 - vi. *Royal British Legion* – It was reported that the Legion's Poppy collection had raised a record £47K in 2022, of which Stamford Town Hall's contribution was £163-46.
 - vii. *Holocaust Exhibition* – Councillors were encouraged to visit the excellent exhibition in the Court Room produced by the local schools.
 - viii. *Defibrillators* – It was reported that a request had been received from a local family to donate a defibrillator to the Town in memory of a late relative. On investigation, there are locations in West Street and Ryhall Road where provision could be considered. The Council welcomed this generous offer and would be pleased to take this matter forward. It was suggested that a plaque is also mounted in recognition of this donation.

Proposal 2 – It was proposed by Councillor Mrs A Wheeler, seconded by Councillor Miss B Griffin and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the offer of a defibrillator is accepted, and the Town Clerk investigates locations along West Street or Ryhall Road.

496. PLANNING COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 6)

- a. Councillor Mrs E Hooper confirmed on behalf of the Committee that the notes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 03 January 2023 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
- b. Matter for discussion:
 - i. *Mallard Pass Solar Farm* – It was noted that this matter will be heard by the Planning Inspectorate and individuals are encouraged to submit their submissions. The deadline is 2nd March. The Council's Planning Committee will be submitting the Council's response in respect of this application.
 - ii. *Quarry Farm* – A very interesting and informative video has been forwarded to the Council. The Council's initial response has been submitted and any further comments will be added and forwarded accordingly.

- c. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs E Hooper seconded by Councillor Mrs A Schonhut and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 03 January 2023 together with the recommendations are approved by the Council.

497. AMENITIES COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 7)

- a. Councillor Mrs E Hooper confirmed on behalf of the Committee the notes, of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 10 January 2023 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
- b. Matter for discussion: None.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs E Hooper seconded by Councillor Mrs A Carter-Begbie and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 10 January 2023 are approved by the Council.

498. CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP (Agenda Point 8)

- a. Councillor Mrs A Wheeler confirmed on behalf of the Working Group the notes of the Climate Working Group meeting held on Wednesday 11 January 2023 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
- b. Matter for discussion:
 - i. *Public Climate Action Meeting* – A poster was circulated in respect of this event scheduled on Wednesday 15th March 2023 at the Town Hall commencing at 6.30pm. Key Speaker will be John Grant. All members of the Council are encouraged to attend.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs A Wheeler seconded by Councillor Mrs L Brewin and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Climate Action Working Group meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 are approved by the Council.

499. EVENTS COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 9)

- a. Councillor A Croft confirmed on behalf of the Committee the notes of the Events Committee meeting held on Monday 16 January 2023 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
- b. Matter for discussion:
 - i. *Coronation Celebrations* – Councillor Croft informed the meeting that arrangements were in the formative stages. It was noted that the Council is supporting, and working with, the Civic Society, together with looking at the possibility of having a joint event on the Sunday 7th May 2023 with another organisation. This is yet to be confirmed. Councillor Mrs J Winterbourne is organising several community groups and schools in making bunting for the event. Councillor Mrs G Johnson advised that funding streams are available for up to £2K to support Coronation celebrations organised by local groups only. All Councillors are encouraged to assist and support this final event of the current Council.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor A Croft seconded by Councillor Mrs J Winterbourne and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Event Committee meeting held on Monday 16 January 2023 are approved by the Council.

500. FINANCE COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 10)

- a. Councillor Mrs M Pitt confirmed on behalf of the Committee the notes, including the Pink Paper of the Finance Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 January 2023 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
- b. Matter for discussion:

- i. *Heritage & Cultural Officer* - Councillor Mrs Pitt advised the post for Heritage and Cultural Officer has been filled and the candidate will be commencing on 27 February 2023.
 - ii. *Appraisal Reviews* – Councillor Pitt observed that with the resignation of Cllr David Taylor the appraisal forms had now been completed and signed by her, as suggested by the Finance and Personnel Committee. Review meetings will be conducted with all staff on Wednesday 8th February to ascertain progress.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs M Pitt seconded by Councillor Mrs E Hooper and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes including the Pink Paper of the Finance Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 January 2023 are approved by the Council.

501. Reports from Outside Bodies (Agenda Point 11)

a. Lincolnshire County Councillors

Cllr. Richard Cleaver, LCC Stamford West Division – Reported on the following items:

- *Planning* – The 200 affordable houses scheme under construction on the old Blackstone’s site is yet to be confirmed. The Stamford North SKDC’s draft Supplementary Planning Document has now been delayed until June 2023.
- *Health* - The Minor Injuries Unit at Stamford Hospital may be lost, as the NHS model of urgent treatment no longer includes these services. The Care Quality Commission report on Lakeside remains outstanding. Councillor Cleaver also intends to meet with the Lincolnshire Health Integrated Board to obtain a steer on the development of health services for Stamford.
- *Roads and Transport* – Speed Watch Group conducted 24 speed check sessions and details of 229 speeding vehicles have been passed on to the Road Safety Partnership (RSP). RSP will assess Sutherland Way in respect of traffic issues following residents’ concerns. A new Stamford Traffic Strategy will commence April 2023, details of which will be available in due course. Councillors stated that following a furore when LCC overruled the use of tarmac in place of block paving in the heart of this Conservation Town, LCC Highways had nevertheless permitted the removal of stone paving and its replacement with tarmac in the heart of the Town. Where is the consistency?

b. South Kesteven District Councillors:

- Several Town Councillors expressed their concerns in respect of the management of the Art Centre.
- Cllr B Sandall asked whether the Town Clerk could pose the question to Cllr Kelham Cooke requesting confirmation as to how much of the benefit gained from SKDC’s sale of the Art School would be invested in Stamford, as this was a Stamford asset which had been acquired at no cost to the District Council as part of the 1974 Local Government reorganisation?

c. Stamford Ward Councillors

- *Closure of local bank* – Councillors expressed unease over the closure of several local bank branches, making it progressively more difficult for customers. Councillor Mrs Carter-Begbie encouraged individuals to sign the current on-line petition to prevent this decline in service.

d. Town Councillor on Outside Bodies

- *Police* - Councillor Mrs A Schonhut reported that discussions are ongoing with the Police in respect of recent mindless vandalism and damage to retail units. This matter is being pursued as is the vehicle damage to the HSBC building on High Street allegedly caused by an HGV. The introduction of the one-point liaison contact is working well and had received positive feedback. The Council’s concern has been made over the lack of visible policing in the Town. Councillor Schonhut encouraged Councillors to direct their concerns to her to take forward. There was fear over the operation of Stamford Police

station, as there are individuals based at the local station and yet the public is being directed to Lincoln for service and attention. There was also dismay expressed over the attitude of the Community Support Officers present in the High Street when vehicles access the High Street during prohibited times. Councillor Cleaver informed the Council that this matter is being tackled with the introduction of bollards at all entry points to the High Street. It is hoped that with the agreement of the local council this matter can be resolved. Councillor Schonhut informed that she has a meeting scheduled with the Police and hopes to have some positive feedback from that next meeting.

502. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (Agenda Point 12)

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

Proposal 3 – It was proposed by Councillor Mrs M Pitt, seconded by Councillor S Ford and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Schedule No. 10 is approved for payment.

503. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Point 13) – Tuesday 28 February 2023 at 7pm.

Chairman
(The meeting closed at 20.10 p.m.)