

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 28 MARCH 2023 AT 7.00PM AT STAMFORD TOWN HALL

PRESENT Councillor A Croft (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor B Sandall
Councillor Mrs S J Sandall
Councillor J Dawson
Councillor Miss B Griffin
Councillor Mrs S Sismore
Councillor Mrs G Johnson
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

ALSO PRESENT Town Clerk
Rev. P Stevenson
Councillor S Carroll – on-line
0 Members of public
1 Member of Press

641. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda Point 1): None

Formal meeting commenced 7.25pm

642. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Point 2)

Councillor H Bisnauthsing submitted his apologies, the reasons were noted.

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

Councillor S Carroll attended on-line.

643. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (Agenda Point 3) – None made.

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.

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

Councillor Mrs A Wheeler declared a Personal Interest in respect of any discussion relating to the Friends of Stamford Station as she is member of the group.

644. MINUTES (Agenda Point 4)

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday, 28 February 2023 including the Pink Paper had been circulated to all members of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor J Dawson seconded by Councillor Mrs A Wheeler and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of 28 February 2023 are an accurate reflection of the meeting and be signed by the Chairman. There were three Abstentions.

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

a. **Lincolnshire County Councillors –**

Councillor Richard Cleaver, LCC Stamford West Division, had submitted a report which had been circulated to all members of the Council.

b. **Stamford Ward Councillors:**

- i. *Councillor J Dawson* – Confirmed that a meeting had finally been scheduled with the Winnifred Charity.
- ii. *Councillor Mrs A Wheeler* – Advised that the Bus Station parking issue remains outstanding, and she will be pursuing this matter. She also wished to thank the Showman's Guild for granting an allocation of free tickets to the Ukrainian children during the Mid-Lent-Fair in Stamford.
- iii. *Police Newsletter* – It was noted that all Councillors had been circulated with the recent report issued by Amanda Schonhut in respect of the topics taken forward with the Lincolnshire Police.
- iv. *Councillor Mrs M Pitt* – Expressed disappointment that the Lakeside PPG seems to be continually clashing with the Town Council meeting despite the Council representative's request to adjust the date or time. The Chairman Councillor Croft suggested that a formal letter is submitted from the Council expressing their dissatisfaction as this situation especially as Council representation is important to this health group.
- v. *Councillor Mrs Carter-Begbie* requested that the Council goes into closed session at the end of the meeting to enable her to raise a sensitive matter.

646. 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. **Election 04 May** – Nomination papers are to be handed in, in person, to the Election Office at Grantham by the 4th April. Councillors intending to stand should be aware Purdah commences on the 20th March and continues up until the election. It was important that any nominees inform their electorate of the new requirement of an approved photo ID if they wished to vote.
- ii. **Asset Transfers** – It was confirmed that this matter is progressing well; however, there are a couple of points of clarification awaited by the Town Council's solicitor in respect of details relating to ground maintenance. All being well, this should be resolved by the end of March or beginning of April. Confirmation is still awaited in respect of the residual fund against the SKDC Special Expense Allocation (SEA), to be assigned to the Town Council on completion of the transfers. Following discussion, it was noted that any SEA that is eventually transferred will be ring-fenced specifically for the assets being transferred.
- iii. **Policies and meeting schedule** – These are being prepared for the new Council's approval. The Town Clerk stated that it was hoped that any candidate wishing to stand for Town Council must be committed to attending the required Statutory meetings. It must be understood that a Town Councillor is not a voluntary post but one of an elected

member to a Local Authority which carries clear statutory duties. It was disappointing to note that only four out of 21 members of the present Council had a 100% record of attending scheduled meetings. Apologies for absence are important and must be submitted to the Town Clerk, with the Councillor offering a valid reason. It is the responsibility of the absent Councillor to identify a substitute Councillor for the meeting. It is important for Councillors to note that the once approved, the schedule of meetings are set by the Council and the public notified. The legalities of Council procedures are important and training for all Councillors has been arranged with LALC, which may be attended on-line. Councillors were encouraged to advise whether they had any adjustments to existing policies they wish considered for them to be prepared for approval when the new Council is elected.

- iv. **Planning Committee Meeting** – Due to the Coronation celebrations, the last Planning Committee meeting will need to be rescheduled from 02 May to 24 April 2023. This was noted.

647. EVENTS COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 7)

- a. Councillor Mrs J Winterbourne confirmed on behalf of the Committee that the notes of the Events Committee meeting held on Monday 01 March 2023 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
- b. Matters for discussion: The poster advertising the Coronation celebration on the Recreation Ground on Monday 08 May 2023 was circulated.

Proposal 2 – It was proposed by Councillor A Croft, seconded Councillor Mrs L Brewin and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Town Council approved the poster and agreed the Events Committee obtains best value for printing the required number and size.

- c. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs J Winterbourne seconded by Councillor Mrs L Brewin and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on Monday 01 March 2023 together with the above recommendation is approved by the Council.

648. PLANNING COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 8)

- a. Councillor Mrs E Hooper confirmed on behalf of the Committee that the notes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 07 March 2023 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
- b. Matter for discussion: Councillor B Sandall confirmed that the issues which were raised in respect of the access gate from Blackstone's Club on to Masterton Road had been resolved. This was noted.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs E Hooper seconded by Councillor S Ford and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 08 February 2023 together with the above recommendations are approved by the Council. There was one abstention.

649. CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP (Agenda Point 9)

- a. Councillor Mrs A Wheeler confirmed on behalf of the Working Group that the notes of the Climate Action Working Group meeting held on Wednesday 08 March 2023 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
- b. Matter for discussion: It was reported that the Town Council's Climate Action Meeting scheduled on 15th March 2023 was well attended, with members of the Youth Council also present. Thanks were offered to all involved for making the event a success.

- c. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs A Wheeler seconded by Councillor L Brewin and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Climate Action Working Group meeting held on Wednesday 08 March 2023 are approved by the Council.

650. MUSEUM COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 10)

- a. Councillor S Ford confirmed on behalf of the Committee that the minutes of the Museum Committee meeting held on Monday 13 March 2023 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
- b. Matter for discussion: It was noted that the artefacts from the Discover Stamford display in the library had been removed by Lincolnshire Council and placed in the Collection Store. Greenwich Leisure had proposed repurposing the space for the library.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor S Ford seconded by Councillor Mrs A Wheeler and unanimously **RESOLVED** the minutes of the Museum Committee meeting held on Monday 13 March 2023 are approved by the Council.

651. AMENITIES COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 11)

- a. Councillor D Dorson confirmed on behalf of the Committee that the notes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2023 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
- b. Matter for discussion: Councillor Dorson referred the Council to the small amendments to the regulations associated with the Cemetery opening times. This change allows vehicle access until 4pm and no vehicles should be in the cemetery outside of opening hours, but pedestrian access will continue. It should be noted that the locking and unlocking of the gates are undertaken by the Contractor as a goodwill gesture and not part of the contract, because of the number of Amenities Operatives being reduced. An addition small adjustment is to note that bereavement services do not operate on Bank Holidays. It was reported that groups of youths congregate in the Cemetery for alleged illicit purposes and these incidents should be reported to the Police.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor D Dorson seconded by Councillor Mrs E Hooper and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2023 are approved by the Council.

652. FINANCE COMMITTEE (Agenda Point 12)

- a. Councillor Mrs M Pitt confirmed on behalf of the Committee that the notes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2023 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
- b. Matter for discussion: Councillor Mrs Pitt reported the transfer of the assets from SKDC is progressing and in the hands of the legal teams which are expediting matters as quickly as possible.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs M Pitt seconded by Councillor S Ford and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2023 are approved by the Council.

653. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (Agenda Point 13)

The Council had been circulated with Schedule No. 12 for consideration.

Proposal 3 – It was proposed by Councillor Mrs M Pitt, seconded by Councillor Mrs G Johnson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Schedule No. 12 is approved for payment.

654. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Point 10) – Tuesday 25 April 2023 at 7pm.

655. TO RESOLVE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

The Deputy Chairman Councillor A Croft confirmed that following a request by Councillor Carter-Begbie the Council go into Closed Session to discuss a sensitive matter upon which she wished to have a frank discussion.

Proposal 4 – It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Carter-Begbie, seconded by Councillor Mrs G Johnson and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Sec.1(2) of the Public Bodies Act 1960 (Admissions to Meetings Act 1960) the Council goes into Closed Session to allow frank discussion in respect of a sensitive matter.

The public and media would be excluded from this part of the meeting. At the end of the Closed Session any resolutions taken will be made public.

19.45 pm Meeting continued in Closed Session

20.10 pm Meeting resumed in Open Session

During the discussion in Closed Session, the Council resolved that in future any complaints in respect of Code of Conduct breaches should be directed to the Monitoring Officer. It was further noted that all funds raised by David Taylor for his Charities had been investigated and all funds collected had been receipted and verified. A written record had been received from RAFA. It was resolved that it would be investigated whether unused funds from the Mayor's allowance Cost Centre could off-set the imbalance identified, to ensure equal donations are made to the 2022 nominated Mayor's Charities.

Chairman

(The meeting closed at 20.10 p.m.)