

**STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL****MINUTES OF THE ASSETS & SERVICES MEETING  
HELD ON Tuesday, 10 September 2024 AT 6.00PM  
IN THE TOWN HALL, STAMFORD****PRESENT**

Cllr Jonathan Waples (Chair)                      Cllr David Scammell (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Habib Rahman                                      Cllr Jane Kingman (arrived 6.34pm)  
Cllr Jon Lott(arrived 6.12pm)                      Cllr Marion Pitt  
Cllr Amanda Wheeler (substituting for Cllr Ed Fancourt)  
Cllr Bret Allibone (substituting for Cllr Anna Wotherspoon)

**ABSENT:**    Cllr Kelham Cooke (Ex Officio)              Cllr Anna Wotherspoon              Cllr Ed Fancourt

**IN ATTENDANCE** Mrs Sarah Dorson (Town Clerk)

**ALSO PRESENT**    2 Member of public

**Public Representations****243.            Apologies for Absence**

The meeting was advised that apologies with valid reasons for absence had been received from Cllr Kelham Cooke, Cllr Anna Wotherspoon & Cllr Ed Fancourt

**Proposal 1** - Cllr Jonathan Waples proposed, seconded by Cllr David Scammell with all in favour, it was **RESOLVED:** That an apology with valid reasons for absence be accepted from Cllr Kelham Cooke, Cllr Anna Wotherspoon & Cllr Ed Fancourt

**244.            Declarations of Interest**

Nothing to report.

**245.            Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 09 July 2024, were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

**246.            Assets & Services Budget Report**

The Committee considered the summary and detailed report showing income and expenditure against budget to Saturday, 31 August 2024.

**Proposal 2-** Cllr Jonathan Waples proposed, seconded by Cllr Amanda Wheeler with all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** To suspend standing orders

**6.11pm** - Meeting suspended standing orders

**Public Session**

**Concerns from the Rugby Club:** The rugby club raised issues about delays in communication and meeting schedules, expressing frustration over perceived lack of response and clarity from the council.

**Committees Response:**

The Committee has consistently responded to the rugby club's inquiries. However, significant delays in communication were noted, particularly from January to March of the current year. Discussions with certain club members revealed that misinformation had been circulated within the club, contributing to confusion and misunderstandings.

**Lease Terms:** It was confirmed that a 40-year lease, rather than the initial 30-year offer, was agreed upon in June by the club. Adjustments were made from licensing to rights of use as requested by the club.

**Public Access:** The area in question is a public amenity, and as such, exclusive use by any one group is not possible. The lease agreement reflects this condition, ensuring that the public retains access to the area.

**Proposal 3** - Cllr Jonathan Waples proposed, seconded by Cllr David Scammell with all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** To reinstate the standing orders

6.26pm – Standing Orders reinstated

**247. Town Hall Update Report**

To approve IT Infrastructure upgrades - The committee reviewed the IT infrastructure upgrades needed for the town hall. The initial estimate of £38,000 was reduced to fit the £19,000 budget by focusing on essential improvements. This includes installing FTTP for faster internet, upgrading routers, and setting up a Wi-Fi mesh network, with costs totalling approximately £5,212 with the monthly cost for the FTTP. Additionally, remote hosting for the Town Hall heritage collection software will cost £2,500.

**Proposal 4** - Cllr Habib Rahman proposed, seconded by Cllr Amanda Wheeler with all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** To approve the IT infrastructure upgrades at a cost of £4233 plus vat one time cost and £110.94 plus vat monthly cost from Cloudy IT

**248. Recreation Ground Update Report**

- **To discuss request for private business venture of Padel Tennis.** - The committee discussed the proposal for padel courts, which would utilise space either on the Recreation Grounds or on Empingham Road. The proposal involves a joint partnership where the council would lease the land, and the partner would cover the costs of building and running the courts, with the council receiving a percentage of the profits. Concerns were raised about the suitability of the Recreation Ground for this project. There is interest in having the new Facilities Officer review the potential locations before making a final decision. The proposal includes offering free access to local schools during designated hours, which could benefit the community. The committee agreed to express interest in the proposal and to defer a final decision until the new Facilities Officer is in post to further evaluate the project and its location.

**Proposal 5**- Cllr Amanda Wheeler proposed, seconded by Cllr Bret Allibone with majority in favour, it was **RESOLVED** To express interest in the concept of padel tennis and defer a final decision until the new Facilities and Allotment Officer is appointed to review its feasibility.

- **Weatherproof Table Tennis Table** - The council was contacted by SKDC regarding UKSPF funding for weatherproof table tennis tables to be installed around the district. They inquired if the council would be interested in having one placed at the Recreation Ground. The committee agreed that this is a valuable opportunity and expressed strong support for installing a table tennis table at the Recreation Ground.

**Proposal 6** - Cllr Jonathan Waples proposed, seconded by Cllr Amanda Wheeler with all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** To accept the offer of a free weatherproof table tennis table from SKDC, contingent upon their successful funding bid with the UKSPF.

- **To investigate Graffiti Board at the Skatepark** - The committee discussed installing a graffiti board at the skate park, where a section of the fence would be periodically whitewashed to allow artistic expression and reduce unauthorised graffiti. The committee

supported the idea, with considerations for maintenance and prompt removal of offensive content. Further investigation, including cost estimates, will be conducted before making a final decision.

**Proposal 7** - Cllr Amanda Wheeler proposed, seconded by Cllr Habib Rahman with majority in favour, it was **RESOLVED** To investigate the potential installation of a graffiti board at the skatepark. This investigation will assess the feasibility, costs, and benefits of providing a designated area for graffiti, aiming to enhance the skatepark's appeal and engagement with the community.

**249. Uffington Road & Empingham Road Playing Fields Update Report**

- **To approve the additional requirements for the Ground Maintenance** - The committee discussed the necessity of additional cutting and maintenance since the existing grounds maintenance contract only covers from October to March. To ensure uninterrupted maintenance of the playing fields through March 2025, an additional cost of £17,500 plus VAT was proposed. The current contract, which includes ten cuts and additional fees for extra services, was reviewed. The contractor's proposal for the remainder of the season was found to be more cost-effective than the original contract terms. Concerns were raised about accuracy in the contract creation by the officer, but the additional expenditure was deemed necessary for maintaining the sports fields. The council approved the additional cost of £17,500 plus VAT to cover maintenance needs until the end of March 2025.

**Proposal 8** - Cllr Amanda Wheeler proposed, seconded by Cllr Bret Allibone with all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** To approve an additional cost of £17,500 plus VAT for maintaining the playing fields through to the end of March 2025 by the current contractor S Harrison & Co.

**250. Open Spaces & Grass Verges Update Report**

Nothing to report

**251. To resolve to move into closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed in relation to the following matters: -**

- Leases
- Allotments leases

**Proposal 9** - Cllr Jonathan Waples proposed, seconded by Cllr Bret Allibone with all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** The Council move into closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

The meeting continued in the absence of press and public. Not for publication by virtue of Section 100(a) para. 4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the items being of a confidential nature)

**6.50pm** – The meeting continued in Closed Session

Minutes arising from confidential item:

**Proposal 10** - Cllr Jonathan Waples proposed, seconded by Cllr Bret Allibone with all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** To arrange a meeting with the club to address and resolve any outstanding issues related to the lease agreement. This meeting will aim to clarify any concerns, facilitate a constructive discussion, and finalise the signing of the lease to ensure both parties are in agreement and able to move forward.

**Proposal 11** - Cllr Jonathan Waples proposed, seconded by Cllr Bret Allibone with all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** To maintain the current allotment rental pricing for the 2025 season, ensuring that the fees remain unchanged from the previous year.

**Proposal 12** - Cllr David Scammell proposed, seconded by Cllr Amanda Wheeler with 5 against and 3 for. To grant an exemption to the allotment tenant from adhering to specific allotment rules **MOTION FELL**

**Proposal 13** - Cllr Jonathan Waples proposed, seconded by Cllr Habib Rahman with the majority in favour, it was **RESOLVED** To engage with the allotment tenant regarding their non-compliance with the allotment rules and collaborate with them to achieve full compliance, ensuring adherence to the established guidelines.

**7.23pm** – Meeting resumed in Open Session.

**252. Closure**

The date of the next meeting scheduled – Tuesday, 12 November 2024 at 6.30pm

**The meeting closed at 7.23pm**