

## **STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 25 MARCH 2025 AT 7pm AT STAMFORD TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT** Cllr Kelham Cooke (Chair / Town Mayor) Cllr Amanda Wheeler (Vice Chair)

Cllr Bret Allibone	Cllr Lisa Brewin	Cllr Luke Chilman	Cllr Peter Copley
Cllr Andrew Croft	Cllr Barry Devereux	Cllr Yvette Díaz- Muñoz	Cllr Jane Kingman
Cllr Julia Ohela	Cllr Marion Pitt	Cllr Habib Rahman	Cllr Rhea Rayside
Cllr Max Sawyer	Cllr Jonathan Waples	Cllr Joanna Winterbourne	

**ABSENT:** Cllr Ed Fancourt Cllr Breda-Rae Griffin Cllr Jon Lott  
Cllr Anna Wotherspoon

**IN ATTENDANCE** Sarah Dorson – Town Clerk

**ALSO PRESENT** Press  
1 members of public  
LCC Cllrs Cleaver & Davies

Prayers were led by Chair

### **Public Participation**

During public participation, a question was raised asking for an explanation of what devolution is.

### **To receive a report for information to Full Council**

**i. Lincolnshire County Councillors Report:**

There was one verbal and one written LCC Councillor report, a copy of the significant points is appended to these minutes at **APPENDIX A**.

**ii. South Kesteven District Councillors Report:**

There were three verbal SKDC Councillor reports, a copy of the significant points is appended to these minutes at **APPENDIX B**.

**iii. Police Report:**

There was one verbal report, a copy of the significant points is appended to these minutes at **APPENDIX C**.

**Formal meeting started 7.51pm**

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

**Proposal 1** - Apologies with valid reasons for absence were received and it was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllrs Fancourt, Wotherspoon, Lott

<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
<b>Seconder</b>	Cllr Amanda Wheeler	
<b>For</b>	17	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Chilman, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Devereux, Díaz- Muñoz, Kingman, Ohela, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wheeler, Winterbourne
<b>Against</b>	0	
<b>Abstained</b>	0	
<b>Motion</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	

Initialled by Chair

## 2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made during the meeting.

## 3. Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday, 25 February 2025

**Proposal 2** - The official minutes of the meeting of the Council were received and it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from Full Council meeting held on Tuesday, 25 February 2025

<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
<b>Seconder</b>	Cllr Rhea Rayside	
<b>For</b>	14	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Chilman, Cooke, Croft, Díaz- Muñoz, Kingman, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wheeler, Winterbourne
<b>Against</b>	0	
<b>Abstained</b>	3	Cllr Copley, Devereux, Ohela
<b>Motion</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	

## 4. To receive and note minutes of and/or to determine recommendations by committees

Discussions were held regarding the minutes of the previously held committee meetings with a regard to adopt the recommendations

**Proposal 5** – It was **RESOLVED** That the acts, proceedings and recommendations of the official minutes of the following Committee meetings be noted:

- Planning Committee - Monday, 03 March 2025
- Climate & Environment Committee - Tuesday, 04 March 2025
- Finance & Governance Committee - Monday, 10 March 2025
- Assets & Services Committee - Tuesday, 11 March 2025
- Extraordinary Assets & Services Committee - Monday, 17 March 2025
- Civic & Community Committee - Tuesday, 18 March 2025

<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
<b>Seconder</b>	Cllr Barry Devereux	
<b>For</b>	15	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Chilman, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Devereux, Kingman, Ohela, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Waples, Wheeler, Winterbourne
<b>Against</b>	0	
<b>Abstained</b>	2	Cllr Sawyer, Díaz- Muñoz,
<b>Motion</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	

## 5. Chair's Report

The Chair report was received and **NOTED**

The Chair provided an update on recent activities and events over the past month:

- **Upcoming Events:** The Chair highlighted the upcoming event, the "Fair Opening," scheduled for Monday afternoon, and expressed the hope to see as many attendees as possible.
- **Other Engagements:** The Chair briefly mentioned having participated in several other engagements but chose to keep the report brief.

Initialed by Chair

## 6. Clerk's Report including correspondence

Officer report was received and **NOTED**.

- Update on meetings – Annual Town Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> April  
Annual Town Council Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> May
- Councillor Training – 23<sup>rd</sup> April
- Public meeting to update residents of South Kesteven on the latest proposals for Local Council Re-Organisation. - Thursday 27th March: 5.30 - 7pm at the Stamford Arts Centre

## 7. Ward Councillors Reports

### Ward Councillor Report by Councillor Wheeler

- **Hedge Planting and Grass Rooting Posts on the Meadows:**
  - Councillor Wheeler provided an update on the hedge planting and brass rubbing posts to be installed on the meadows. The event is scheduled for this Friday at 10:00 AM, with members of the Youth Council joining the activity.
  - A special thank you was given to Bret, Ed, Yvette, Cemetery Contractors, Officer John Burke, Rachel from East Mercia, Andrew from SKDC, and the community volunteers Neil & Nina for their support.
  - The event will include hedging planting and a celebration of brass rubbing posts, with everyone invited to join in.
- **Peter Stevenson's Farewell:**
  - Councillor Wheeler attended the farewell service for Reverend Peter Stevenson on Sunday, representing the Town Council.
- **Volunteer Recognition:**
  - Jack Bon Holly was recognised at the thank-you event, where he received a certificate of appreciation for his efforts. He has been working in Ukraine to provide humanitarian aid.

## 8. Outside Bodies Reports

### Outside Bodies Report by Councillor Allibone Citizens Advice Bureau

- **Grant Concerns:**
  - Councillor Allibone attended a meeting with the Citizens Advice Bureau last week. A key discussion point was the need for SKDC to increase their grant in line with inflation. Councillor Allibone noted that this issue is a growing concern, and there is ongoing pressure for this adjustment.
- **Impact of Government's Decision on PIP:**
  - The Bureau is deeply concerned about the government's decision on PIP (Personal Independence Payment). This decision is expected to have significant implications for their services, particularly as 55% of the people they assist are disabled or have long-term health conditions. The change in policy is feared to impact their ability to help these vulnerable groups.

Initialled by Chair

- **Challenges with Access to Benefits:**

- A further concern raised was the difficulty for individuals to access benefits, particularly as the government's changes to PIP are expected to make it harder for people to receive support.

## 9. Insurance

**Proposal 7** - It was **RESOLVED** to approve the renewal of the insurance policy at a total cost of £23,439.06

<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
<b>Seconder</b>	Cllr Joanna Winterbourne	
<b>For</b>	17	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Chilman, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Devereux, Díaz- Muñoz, Kingman, Ohela, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wheeler, Winterbourne
<b>Against</b>	0	
<b>Abstained</b>	0	
<b>Motion</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	

## 10. Aqua Sacs

**Proposal 8** - It was **RESOLVED** to defer the purchase of Aqua Sacs to the next C&E meeting with the knowledge that the price will be increased

<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Max Sawyer	
<b>Seconder</b>	Cllr Jonathan Waples	
<b>For</b>	7	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Díaz- Muñoz, Rahman, Sawyer, Wheeler, Winterbourne
<b>Against</b>	4	Cllrs Devereux, Kingman, Rayside, Waples,
<b>Abstained</b>	6	Cllrs Chilman, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Ohela, Pitt
<b>Motion</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	

## 11. Twinning Documents

**Proposal 9** - It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Twinning Documentation to proceed with the next steps of the Virtual Twinning with Gostomel Ukraine.

<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Amanda Wheeler	
<b>Seconder</b>	Cllr Yvette Díaz-Muñoz	
<b>For</b>	16	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Chilman, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Devereux, Díaz- Muñoz, Kingman, Ohela, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wheeler, Winterbourne
<b>Against</b>	0	
<b>Abstained</b>	1	Cllr Pitt,
<b>Motion</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	

## 12. To approve payments and receive financial reports Bank Balances

**Proposal 10** - It was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the bank balances as of Friday, 28 February 2025 (latest statement(s))

Account ending 0019 £ 16,206.37  
 Account ending 9485 £ 12,885.77  
 Investment Account 35LS £ 103,410.66

Account ending 3260 £ 312,814.57  
 Investment Account CCLA £250,000  
 Petty Cash £ 101.66

And It was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the Summary of Payments noted:

Voucher Nos.	Total Payments
756 - 845	£ 69,274.20

<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
<b>Seconder</b>	Cllr Barry Devereux	
<b>For</b>	16	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Chilman, Cooke, Croft, Devereux, Díaz-Muñoz, Kingman, Ohela, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wheeler, Winterbourne
<b>Against</b>	0	
<b>Abstained</b>	1	Cllr Copley
<b>Motion</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	

**13.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: -**

- i. Personnel matters

**Proposal 11** - It was **RESOLVED** to enter into a confidential session.

<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
<b>Seconder</b>	Cllr Jonathan Waples	
<b>For</b>	17	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Chilman, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Devereux, Díaz- Muñoz, Kingman, Ohela, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wheeler, Winterbourne
<b>Against</b>	0	
<b>Abstained</b>	0	
<b>Motion</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	

**8.18pm** – The meeting continued in Closed Session

Minutes arising from confidential item:

Confidential Officer report was received and **NOTED**.

**Proposal 12** - It was **RESOLVED** to grant delegated authority to the Town Clerk to manage the recruitment process for new employees following a staff vacancy.

<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
<b>Seconder</b>	Cllr Jonathan Waples	
<b>For</b>	17	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Chilman, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Devereux, Díaz- Muñoz, Kingman, Ohela, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wheeler, Winterbourne
<b>Against</b>	0	
<b>Abstained</b>	0	
<b>Motion</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	

**Proposal 13** - It was **RESOLVED** to approve the creation of a Bereavement Policy, providing 2 weeks of paid bereavement leave, along with the day of the funeral for immediate family members.

<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
<b>Seconder</b>	Cllr Jonathan Waples	
<b>For</b>	17	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Chilman, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Devereux, Díaz- Muñoz, Kingman, Ohela, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wheeler, Winterbourne
<b>Against</b>	0	
<b>Abstained</b>	0	
<b>Motion</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	

**Proposal 14** - It was **RESOLVED** to approve the requested change in contract hours.

<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
<b>Seconder</b>	Cllr Jonathan Waples	
<b>For</b>	17	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Chilman, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Devereux, Díaz- Muñoz, Kingman, Ohela, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wheeler, Winterbourne
<b>Against</b>	0	
<b>Abstained</b>	0	
<b>Motion</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	

**9.12pm** – Meeting resumed in Open Session.

## 14.Closure

The meeting was closed at 9.12pm. It was noted that the next meeting is the Town Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 29 April 2025 at 7.00pm

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

Signed on behalf of the Town Council as a true record of the meeting.

Signature

Date

Initialled by Chair

## Appendix A

### Lincolnshire County Council Councillor Report by Councillor Richard Davies Highways

- **Winter Maintenance:**
  - This winter has been milder than anticipated, with a significant reduction in the number of pothole reports, down by approximately 40%. This has led to a reduction in the backlog of day-to-day maintenance.
- **Drainage and Flooding:**
  - Following a very wet winter, there is an increased focus on drainage, with specific attention to gullies and drains. Stamford, along with other areas in South Lincolnshire, has been severely affected by flooding, prompting a significant push to maintain drainage systems and clear blockages.
  - The County Council currently oversees around 100,000 drainage assets and is increasing efforts to keep gullies clear and emptying them more regularly.
- **Public Transport Improvements:**
  - Significant improvements have been made to bus services, with frequency upgrades from a two-hour or four-hour service to hourly or even half-hourly services in some areas. This has resulted in high usage, with some routes seeing up to 70-80% passenger use, especially in interurban and suburban areas.
  - Councillor Davies highlighted the environmental benefits of increased public transport use, noting the positive impact on reducing private car usage.
- **General Highways Maintenance:**
  - The County Council continues to prioritize road maintenance, particularly around drainage and road schemes. The focus on maintaining roads, particularly after a milder winter, aims to ensure better day-to-day infrastructure management.

**Councillor Richard Cleaver**  
**Report to Stamford Town Council 25 March 2025**  
**Lincolnshire County Council & South Kesteven District Council**

This month I have attended the Health Scrutiny Committee and Full Council at LCC, and Cabinet and Full Council at SKDC

**Transport** – Work is proceeding on schedule to add the 146 spaces, and a new bus stop on Cattlemarket car park. The town hopper bus service is expected commence using the new stop at the end of May. This will mean that the Railway Station will have a convenient bus service for the first time in many years.

The electronic departure information board is due to be installed at the bus station today (Tuesday). LCC Public on-street EV charging points, these are due to be installed in the week commencing 1 May on Station Rd and residents will shortly receive letters advising them of this. The installation of a rapid charging point on Bath Row has been rescheduled for August.

**Health** – No news yet on the outcome of the Stamford engagement exercise. There will be no meeting of the committee next month due to election purdah.

**“Devolution” and Local Government Reorganisation** – LCC, RCC, and SKDC and all counties and districts received a letter from the Minister for Local Government asking us to consult with each other and draw up plans to reorganize into Unitary Authorities with a population of c. 500,000. Initial plans were submitted on 21<sup>st</sup> March with full final plans due by the end of November.

This is a summary of what was submitted last Friday relating to Stamford and Rutland.

**Rutland**

Submitted by	Proposal
Rutland UA + all the district councils in Leicestershire	Rutland, Charnwood, Harborough, Melton, & N.W. Leicestershire with the other districts in a second unitary and the city of Leicester as a third unitary.
Leicester City Council	An extended Leicester City as one unitary and Rutland and the remainder of the Leicestershire districts as another
South Kesteven District Council & North Kesteven District Council	Rutland, South Kesteven, North Kesteven, and South Holland
Leicestershire County Council	<i>Does not include Rutland</i>
Lincolnshire County Council	<i>Does not include Rutland</i>

**South Kesteven**

Submitted by	Proposal
South Kesteven District Council & North Kesteven District Council	Rutland, South Kesteven, North Kesteven, and South Holland.
Lincolnshire County Council	Option One: Lincolnshire CC + all 7 of its districts Option Two: South Kesteven, North Kesteven, South Holland, Boston, & the City of Lincoln
Peterborough City Council	<i>No options submitted</i>
Boston Borough Council	<i>No options submitted</i>
South Holland, East Lindsey, & West Lindsey	Preferred option: South Kesteven, North Kesteven, East Lindsey, Boston, and South Holland.
West Lindsey (5 options submitted of which 2 are preferred)	Other preferred option: South Kesteven, East Lindsey, Boston, and South Holland.

Initialled by Chair



The election for the first Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire will take place on 1 May alongside the scheduled Lincolnshire County Council elections.

**Education** – HAF (Holiday Activity & Food) funding has been secured from central government for the new financial year. Booking is now open for Easter, and there's four to choose from in Stamford:

- One Touch Football at Bluecoat School Stamford
- Inspire+ at St Augustine's
- Acorn Childcare Centre at Malcolm Sargent Primary School, Stamford
- Wildcats Theatre School at Stamford Arts Centre

Secondary school places offered to Stamford children for September 2025 entry are detailed below:

**Offers made for Y7 Intake - Sept 2025 for Stamford residents (incl. surrounding Lincs villages)**

	Preference			Next Nearest Offer	Total
	1	2	3		
<b>Stamford Welland</b>	107	9	0	0	116
Schools elsewhere in Lincolnshire	26	0	0	9	35
Schools in Rutland	64	17	3	0	84
A school in Peterborough	9	0	0	0	9
	206	26	3	9	244
	84.4%	10.7%	1.2%	3.7%	

\*Stamford Welland also offered 36 places to non-Stamford residents to meet its target intake of 150.

### **Townhopper Service:**

- Councillor Cleaver mentioned that the Townhopper service is part of the policy for allocating bus service funds this year. Efforts are focused on improving urban and intra-town services, with the goal of increasing usage.
- The County is considering implementing a fare cap and reducing prices to encourage more passengers. This is currently being developed and will be discussed in an upcoming meeting.

### **• Potholes on Tinwell Road:**

- Councillor Cleaver acknowledged the ongoing issues with potholes on Tinwell Road, near the county boundary. He assured that the potholes would be fixed imminently, but due to the location, coordination with National Highways is required to ensure proper access for repairs.
- He mentioned positive discussions with National Highways, and a statement confirming repairs is expected soon.

### **• Car Parking Usage:**

- Councillor Cleaver shared positive news regarding car parking usage in Stamford. There has been a 5.7% increase in car parking usage compared to February of the previous year, indicating more people are using the town's parking facilities, which he described as "very good news."

Initialled by Chair

# **Lincolnshire County Council Councillor Report by Councillor Cooke**

## **Lincolnshire County Council Councillor Report by Councillor Cooke Highways, Parking, and Local Initiatives**

- **Devolution and Reorganisation:**
  - Councillor Cooke shared that during the final full council meeting, discussions about devolution and local government reorganisation were held. While both Councillors Cooke and Davies supported Rutland's inclusion in the reorganisation, the full Council did not agree with this proposal. However, there was support for an option that would allow Rutland to be part of the South Lincolnshire authority in the future.
- **High Street Bollards:**
  - Councillor Cooke reiterated Councillor Davies' mention of the bollards on Stamford High Street. Further updates and developments on this project were expected.
- **Ryhall Road and Bus Stops:**
  - The refurbishment and rebuild of Ryhall Road were discussed, and Councillor Cooke requested that covered bus stops be installed along the road. This was due to concerns raised by residents about the inconvenience of waiting for buses in poor weather conditions.
  - National Gas is also planning to upgrade pipelines in the area, which is hoped to coincide with the ongoing road works. Further information on this will be shared once available.
- **Conduit Road and St Leonard's Street Traffic Concerns:**
  - Councillor Cooke noted ongoing concerns from residents of Conduit Road and St Leonard's Street, particularly related to traffic hazards following the school merger. Meetings with Stamford School have been scheduled to address these concerns.
  - Additionally, two new signs have been installed on St Mary's Street to restrict HGV access, which is expected to alleviate issues with large vehicles damaging buildings.
- **Tree Planting in Stamford:**
  - New street trees have been planted along Castor Road, and residents have expressed their satisfaction with the initiative. Councillor Cooke invited suggestions for further tree planting locations.
- **EV Charging Points:**
  - Two new electric vehicle (EV) charging points have been installed on Recreation Ground Road, with additional charging points planned for New Cross Road. Councillor Cooke highlighted that this initiative was made possible through external funding, which was a positive development for the community.

## **Appendix B**

### **South Kesteven District Council Councillor Report by Councillor Max Sawyer**

- **Parking Ticket Issues:**

- Councillor Sawyer raised concerns about the parking ticket machines, which have been difficult for users to operate. The machines do not accept coins and have issues with card payments and the app, making the system inconvenient for some users. He suggested improvements could be made to resolve these issues.

- **Waste Collection for Charity Shops:**

- A proposal was made to arrange for charity shops to have collections for unsold items. This would help reduce waste and better serve nearby residents. The idea was seen as a reasonable solution and is being followed up.

- **Tourism Working Group and Local Development:**

- Councillor Sawyer reported on a recent meeting with Jill Collins, Marius, and Peter Dinario regarding the potential for small shops to be built in a paved area near the first floor of a building owned by SKDC. Discussions are ongoing, with the goal of providing more retail options in the area.

- **Anti-Social Behaviour and Police Action:**

- Councillor Sawyer highlighted concerns about anti-social behaviour on the recreation ground and the cemetery, with reports of vehicles entering the cemetery late at night. The decision to keep the cemetery open in the evenings was made to allow police access, as they previously faced challenges entering due to restricted access.
- The police are aware of the issues at both locations and have asked residents to report any suspicious activity, especially if drug use is suspected.

## **Appendix C**

### **Police Report Delivered by Councillor Max Sawyer**

- **Vehicle Thefts and Electronic Device Use:**

- Councillor Sawyer reported an increase in vehicle thefts in the town, with criminals using electronic devices to bypass modern vehicle security systems. The police are aware of the situation and have issued warnings through social media to advise residents. CCTV has been helpful in identifying suspects in these crimes.

- **Theft of High-Value Items:**

- Other criminal activities include the theft of high-value items from Morrisons. Police believe this is part of a larger gang targeting stores in the area.

- **Graffiti in Town:**

- Graffiti has been spotted on buildings in the town, particularly near the old Wilko shop. Councillor Sawyer noted an increase in such activity, likely linked to ongoing scaffolding in the area.

- **High Street and Key Street Incident:**

- Councillor Sawyer reported noticing a group of individuals on High Street and Key Street engaging in suspicious behaviour, which he described as a traffic-related incident. He mentioned that he had observed the same individuals both on High Street and Key Street, and he had previously reported similar concerns.