



This meeting will be Recorded and published on the Council's website

AGENDA

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, on **Monday 22 October 2012 at 7.00pm**, and your attendance at such meeting is hereby requested to transact the following business.

To: Members of West Lindsey District Council

1. PRAYERS
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. COUNCIL MINUTES
To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 3 September 2012
PAPER A herewith
4. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Members may make any declarations of interest at this point but may also make them at any point during the meeting.
5. MATTERS ARISING
PAPER B herewith
6. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - i) Chairman of the Council
 - ii) Leader of the Council
 - iii) Head of Paid Service
7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
8. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9

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9. NOTICE OF MOTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.

1. Madame Chair,

Twelve years ago we were asked to create a vision for West Lindsey and within that lay a vision for Gainsborough town.

At that time we created a long term plan, which then seemed ambitious but has now been substantially realised and indeed surpassed. We now have a much improved riverside, a somewhat refurbished town square and Marshall's Yard.

The Marshall's Yard shopping complex has gone a long way to increase the number of visitors and shoppers to Gainsborough and has elevated West Lindsey.

However, the job is not yet finished and there remains work to do. In order to maximise visitor numbers there has to be a considerably more substantial reason for people to want to come here.

There are plans to regenerate the area on and around the old Guildhall but developers don't yet recognise that the town has moved on far enough to guarantee their returns and therefore progress has stalled and we are already seeing a fudging and a compromising of their plans and I believe that WLDC is being held in a ransomed grip.

We require more substance. The town centre needs to be diverse enough to attract a wider-ranging investment in its own right. Our town needs to be as attractive as it may be. We have several great assets including the riverside and the old hall together with the feature of Marshall's Yard and a number of interesting buildings. A small town can exploit such features and this can be seen in a number of towns, for example, Shrewsbury.

Unfortunately, the old town has suffered through the success of other developments but this does not need to be a problem if we can upgrade the old centre in order to help realise its own enormous potential.

Presently auditors are criticising WLDC for hoarding tax-payers money when this cash should be used to build a future for everyone. We have over 12 million pounds sitting in reserves and up to 19 million altogether. This money belongs to our residents and we have no right to sit on this cash; we have a duty to make the most of it.

I propose that a percentage of our assets are used to build a permanent water feature within the centre of the old town square. This would have the immediate effect of revitalising the old town and adding immense value to the businesses that are struggling there and would be a permanent legacy to this present council. It would have a knock on effect of increasing confidence in the struggling to develop Elswitha Quarter.

To sum up I am asking Council to support this major project in the Gainsborough Old Town Square which we can all be proud of, that will impress all – residents across the district, local businesses, visitors, shoppers and potential investors. Together, we

can genuinely help to make Gainsborough a place that people will increasingly choose to come to for their visitor and shopping experience.

I so move.

2.

Madame Chair,

We are all aware how hard Councillors work. We are contacted at all hours, day and night and our residents expect action and we councillors do our very best to resolve any issues that the public may have and as quickly as possible.

However, I believe that Councillors could and should be much better served by WLDC in their challenging role.

How often do we call the Council to be greeted by an answerphone or news that the officer concerned is on leave, sick or 'not at the desk right now'. This leaves us frustrated and unable to respond in turn to our particular residents and a recall has to be booked with no guarantee that the officer will be there at a later time. Leaving messages adds to the delays and unfortunately does not always lead to a call back. I know some Councillors have all but given up on trying to contact certain officers or dread the thought of having to do so.

To enable Councillors to best support the public it is essential that responses are as immediate as possible and to aid us in this challenge I feel that would benefit from the services of one dedicated and specialist officer. This role was somewhat unofficially fulfilled by Sue Harrison, but with her retirement that support disappeared.

Therefore, Madame Chairman, I propose that we put in place a purposely placed officer/clerk, who can work 100% of the time with and for Councillors, ensuring that messages are acted upon and feedback is as good as it can be. There are a number of such officer roles at the County Council but I am just asking for one to serve every councillor. There are a number of other Councillor services, which could be wrapped within this role, enabling an efficient interface between officers and members and ensuring cost effectiveness.

The cost of this role would be relatively modest and certainly well within our budgets but the added value to the public would be immense.

I so move.

10. RESULT OF THE NETTLEHAM WARD BY ELECTION – 5 SEPTEMBER 2012
PAPER C herewith

11. REVIEW OF THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS ON COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES
PAPER D herewith

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12. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES
PAPER E herewith

13. REVIEW OF GAMBLING POLICY (STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES)
PAPER F herewith

14. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION
PAPER G herewith

15. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS PUBLISHED SINCE
THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2012.

M Gill
Chief Executive
The Guildhall
Gainsborough
12 October 2012

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