

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough, on Monday, 12 September 2011, at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor William Parry (In the Chair)
Councillor Jessie Milne (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Gillian Bardsley	Councillor Malcolm Parish
Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor Irmgard Parrott
Councillor Nigel Bowler	Councillor Roger Patterson
Councillor Ken Bridger	Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor Jackie Brockway	Councillor Ray Sellars
Councillor David Cotton	Councillor Reg Shore
Councillor Chris Darcel	Councillor Mel Starkey
Councillor Stuart Curtis	Councillor Lewis Strange
Councillor David Dobbie	Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor Richy Doran	Councillor Mick Tinker
Councillor Ian Fleetwood	Councillor Anne Welburn
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan	Councillor Geoff Wiseman
Councillor Burt Keimach	Councillor Trevor Young
Councillor Angela Lawrence	Councillor Chris Underwood-Frost

Also Present: Five Members of the public

Apologies: Councillor Alan Caine
Councillor Malcolm Leaning
Councillor Judy Rainsforth
Councillor Sue Rawlins
Councillor Tom Regis
Councillor Di Rodgers

In Attendance: Chief Executive
Director of Strategy and Regeneration and Monitoring Officer
Director of Neighbourhoods and Health
Chief Finance Officer
Jo Lavis – Co-ordinator of Living Lincolnshire
Alan Freeman – Head of Planning LCC
Democratic Services Team Leader

Also in Attendance: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Resources
Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services Manager
Licensing and Support Team Leader
Business Improvement Officer
The Reverend Gillian Barrow
Rose Dobbs – Standards Committee

40 PRAYERS

The meeting commenced with prayers by the Reverend Gillian Barrow.

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given for Councillor Alan Caine, Councillor Malcolm Leaning, Councillor Judy Rainsforth, Councillor Sue Rawlins, Councillor Tom Regis and Councillor Di Rodgers

42 COUNCIL MINUTES (Paper A)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 18 July 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

43 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cotton declared a personal interest in Paper D, Civil Parking Enforcement, as he was in receipt of disability concessions.

Councillor Underwood-Frost declared a personal interest in Paper D, Civil Parking Enforcement, as he was in receipt of disability concessions, and that he was a member of the Police Authority.

44 MATTERS ARISING (Paper B)

RESOLVED that the Matters Arising Schedule be noted.

45 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman

The Chairman of the Council highlighted two of his recent engagements as being particularly enjoyable, namely three graduation ceremonies for the students of the University of Lincoln in the cathedral, and the Annual Battle of Britain Commemorative Service at Newark Parish Church.

The Chairman expressed thanks on behalf of the Council to Chris Dowse of Sutton Estates for the tour that had been provided to several Councillors to demonstrate farming methods and wildlife conservation.

A minute's silence was then held on behalf of the Red Arrows pilot tragically killed at an airshow on 20 August, and also for County Councillor Barry Singleton whose work on the Waddingham Flood Relief Scheme will be appreciated by many residents.

Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council noted the Corporate Plan document which was an agenda item for the meeting – this was work in progress and was an exciting step into the future, which could be viewed with both dread and hope. The Plan demonstrates a new model West Lindsey District Council, and embodies aspects of Localism, returning taxpayers money to the people of the District to have a say in how it is spent.

The Leader expressed his thanks to Alan Freeman for coming to present the LCC Renewable Energy Statement, and pointed out that Planning Policy relating to wind farms needs to be based on scientific evidence and the involvement of residents.

The Leader then invited Councillor Strange to address the meeting following the Rural Conference he recently attended in Bath. Councillor Strange wished to point out that it was important that villages and parishes have Local Plans, particularly with reference to forthcoming changes in the Planning laws whereby developers may be able to secure substantial approvals in rural areas. Rural settlements had to be protected against development which they did not want.

46 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No public questions had been received.

47 QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9

No questions had been received pursuant to Procedure Rule 9.

48 PRESENTATION BY J LAVIS – SAVE OUR RURAL VILLAGES CAMPAIGN

The Director of Strategy and Regeneration introduced Jo Lavis Co-ordinator of Living Lincolnshire to give a presentation on the 'Save Our Villages' campaign, this would be a 'taster' for the seminars planned for Members on 22 September, and which would form the basis for the Prosperous Communities Committee policy development panel's work.

Ms Lavis described how she felt that the campaign could really make a difference, and had three main commitments, which were set out within the presentation:- a comprehensive assessment of housing need in each rural ward; a rural housing action plan; and that the rural housing crisis be addressed.

The framework for the campaign was set out in both the National and Local contexts and showed the different levels of partnership working. Statistics

demonstrated the background to the campaign and the challenges for the future were described, with the principal aim for people who lived and worked in rural communities to have homes they could afford. Ms Lavis then emphasised that Councillors had a key role to play and that all would be welcome at the seminars.

Ms Lavis was then thanked for her presentation.

49 PRESENTATION BY A FREEMAN – LCC RENEWABLE ENERGY STATEMENT

Councillor Strange introduced Alan Freeman, Head of Planning at Lincolnshire County Council, to give a presentation on the LCC Position Statement on Wind Turbines.

Mr Freeman set out why the County Council had adopted a statement, based on the National Policy PPS22, in which it specified that it was inappropriate for local authorities to identify specific locations or create buffer zones around international or national designations.

The presentation described the Draft National Planning Policy Framework – July 2011 and the matters of concern listed within the Lincolnshire statement.

Members asked questions on different aspects of the statement. In particular the aspect of decibels, and clarification was sought on how loud 35db felt, and how this was measured in terms of habitable buildings. Mr Freeman stated that since modern turbines now had slip gearing the problem of noise pollution was greatly reduced.

Some Members pointed out that even a low level of noise plus the visual impact would be detrimental to the very quiet rural parts of Lincolnshire and the view of big skies that could be enjoyed. The merits of solar panels as an alternative to wind turbines were also discussed.

It was noted that the Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit was in the process of producing a policy, but that there were wide variations of landscape and rural/urban differences across the County and it would be difficult for one policy to encompass all diverse aspects.

A Renewable Energy Task and Finish Group was working towards a West Lindsey statement and a report was anticipated by the end of the year.

It was suggested that there were entrepreneurial opportunities for villages to be sustainable settlements and there was the potential to create an exciting vision for Lincolnshire.

Mr Freeman was thanked for his presentation.

50 CORPORATE PLAN 2011/15 (Paper C)

The Chief Executive introduced the report on the Corporate Plan which summarised the document that had been sent to all Members, and for which a summary leaflet was distributed at the meeting.

The framework for the Plan had been approved in March and contained six themes. The Council's Committees were shaping the priorities, officer workshops were being held and a seminar had been attended by Councillors the previous week.

Priorities were identified within the Plan, and complex issues considered. The role of West Lindsey District Council in helping communities to help themselves was set out and the Plan was to be publicly available and shared with residents of the District.

Members complemented the Corporate Plan, agreeing that it set out clear direction and ambitions, with a determination to overcome the current financial situation. The Plan was an ambitious document needing exemplary management and complete buy-in across the District. The document informed the new model West Lindsey District Council for the future and would be as flexible as required.

RESOLVED that the Corporate Plan and its communication be approved.

Note Councillor Fleetwood left the meeting at this point.

51 CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT (Paper D)

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Health introduced the report which provided an update on progress with Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) and sought approval for a number of amended resolutions in light of changes to the previously agreed format of CPE in Lincolnshire.

Members expressed their disappointment that two other authorities had withdrawn from the scheme necessitating amendments to the policy, but generally agreed that there was little alternative to approving the amendments.

Note Councillor Sellars declared a personal interest at this point as being a Member of Lincolnshire County Council and also a member of the Police Authority.

There was some discussion regarding the different kinds of parking problems experienced in towns compared with rural settlements, and at different times of the day.

The Memorandum of Understanding was being drafted along with a draft Parking Policy and these would be presented to Members in due course.

RESOLVED that:

- a) Civil Parking Enforcement be undertaken for District Council owned/operated car parks within the administrative boundary of West Lindsey District Council, where Lincolnshire County Council will be responsible for on street Civil Parking Enforcement within Lincolnshire;
- b) Lincolnshire County Council's application to the Department for Transport for Civil Parking Enforcement powers on behalf of this Authority be authorised;
- c) the previous decision to join: 'The Joint Committee of England and Wales for the civil enforcement of Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London' in accordance with the requirements of the Traffic Penalty Tribunal' be reiterated.
- d) the setting of the level of differential penalty charge at Band 2 as stated in STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS 2007 No.3487, Road Traffic, England (The Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (Guidelines on Levels of Charges) (England) Order 2007 use the band 2 PCN level, discounted by 50% for payment within 14 days, and incremented by 50% for payment after the issue of a Charge Certificate) be authorised.
- e) the Public Protection Services Manager in consultation with the Member representative be given delegated authority regarding future decisions relating to Civil Parking Enforcement.

RESOLVED that Councillor Malcolm Parish be the nominated Member to sit on the Joint Committee, and that Councillor Jeff Summers be the nominated substitute.

52 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS PUBLISHED SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING ON 18 JULY 2011

RESOLVED that the minutes of Committee meetings published since the last Council meeting on 18 July 2011 be received.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm.

Chairman