

**WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the Challenge and Improvement Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on 11 September 2012 commencing at 6.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Alan Caine (Chairman)  
Councillor Paul-Howitt-Cowan (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor David Dobbie  
Councillor Richy Doran  
Councillor Angela Lawrence  
Councillor Malcolm Leaning  
Councillor Irmgard Parrott  
Councillor Roger Patterson  
Councillor William Parry  
Councillor Mick Tinker

**Also Present:** Councillor Geoff Wiseman

**In Attendance:**

Alex Reeks	Assistant Chief Executive
Alan Robinson	Head of Central Services
Patrick Hodgson	Team Manager Community Action
Nicola Calver	Governance and Civic Officer
Dinah Lilley	Governance and Civic Officer

**21 MINUTES**

Meeting of the Challenge and Improvement Committee held on 26 June 2012.

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Challenge and Improvement Committee held on 26 June 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**22 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**23 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE (CAI.12 12/13)**

Updates were given on those items set out in the Matters Arising Schedule.

The Team Manager Community Action informed members that dog fouling and litter were to be incorporated into a wider review of antisocial behaviour

which would consider the key issues including available resources and partnership working. The Project Plan deadline was now to be 1 October.

**Note** Councillor Patterson arrived at this point of the meeting.

The Chairman gave an update on Village Hall wifi and a list was circulated setting out which village halls in the district were now wifi enabled. Members made comments on specific venues regarding accessibility. With reference to those not yet enabled it was noted that ward members should be promoting the facility to Parish Councils and meetings in their areas. The Assistant Chief Executive agreed to write to all responsible parties to ensure that connections were not switched off and made inaccessible.

The Vice Chairman updated the meeting on the work of the Tourism focus group which had recently met. A database was being compiled of all the heritage groups in the District and a summit was to be arranged at RAF Scampton to co-ordinate work on tourism. Significant anniversaries in the near future included WWI, Sweyne Forkbeard / King Canute, and the Dambusters' raid.

**RESOLVED** that the Matters Arising Schedule be noted.

#### **24 WEST LINDSEY HONOURS (CAI.13 12/13)**

The Governance and Civic Officer introduced the West Lindsey Honours report which had previously been considered by the Challenge and Improvement Committee and subsequently referred to Council for approval. The Council meeting on 2 July referred the report back to Challenge and Improvement Committee for further consideration and amendments.

All Members' views had been sought on proposed changes and the amended report was now presented for the Committee to recommend to Council.

The requested changes were summarised:-

- assurance was given on confidentiality of nominations;
- the word 'severe' be removed from the mention of disrepute;
- the Panel to manage the numbers of awards and no specific limit be set;
- the Panel to be politically neutral;
- no change to the provision of expenses;
- Freedom of Entry was more clearly explained.

During the consultation a further proposal had been submitted that Town and Parish Councillors not be excluded from the criteria for Honorary Freemen, and it was then further proposed that the requirement of four years since conclusion of service be removed for Honorary Aldermen.

**Note** Councillor Tinker arrived at this point of the meeting.

It was moved and seconded that the proposed amendments above be included in the report for submission to Council, and upon being voted upon the **AMENDMENTS WERE AGREED**.

Members also asked about the possibility of Community awards but it was confirmed that this was a separate matter which was due to be considered by the Prosperous Communities Committee.

The recommendations in the report with the agreed amendments were then voted upon.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) the amended roles, limitations, criteria and processes for conferring Honorary titles be referred to Council for ratification; and
- b) the amended composition of an Honours Panel to be recommended to Council for ratification.

## **25 REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS (CAI.14 12/13)**

The Team Manager Community Action attended the meeting to give an update on the arrangements for the Community Safety Partnership. District priorities were being collated by the County Partnership, but it was acknowledged that following the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner in November changes to the partnership arrangements may be required.

Cllr Caine enquired about the proposed Antisocial Behaviour powers being rebranded, and the Team Manager Community Action stated that he would circulate the White Paper summary to Members. It was proposed to reduce a range of powers down to six and these were:-

- Community Trigger Pilot - a complaints system
- Crime Prevention Injunction – ASBO replacement
- Criminal Behaviour Order – following convictions
- Community Protection Notices – neighbourhood and environmental issues
- Community Protection Orders – including dog control orders
- Community Protection Closures – for nuisance premises

It was hoped that the legislation would go through Parliament by November 2013. The council's Chief Executive is aware and will initiate high level discussion with the police and partners to encourage engagement and close working.

Discussion ensued on specific problems and what fell within the remit of the police and what was the council's responsibility. Council staff were being trained to enable identification of 'triggers'.

Developments following the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner were awaited.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## **26 CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME (CAI.15 12/13)**

The Head of Central Services showed Members a timeline showing progress made, and planned, for the implementation of the Customer Experience Strategy. Councillors Welburn and Howitt-Cowan were part of a working group on this matter and were due to take part in working within Customer Services the following day.

Initiatives such as: Website Review Content; Website Self Serve; Community Hubs and Customer Care training were all set out with predicted completion dates. Members were requested to feed ideas into the working group through its members.

Members commented on the outstanding level of service that had been provided recently during an emergency incident in Fillingham. It was agreed that a letter of congratulations be written to those officers involved.

**RESOLVED** that the projects be noted and that Members be requested to feed comments into Councillors Welburn and Howitt-Cowan for discussion in the Customer Experience working group meetings.

## **27 FORWARD PLAN (CAI.16 12/13)**

The Governance and Civic Officer updated the Committee on the Forward Plan which set out forthcoming items for consideration by all Committees of the Council.

**RESOLVED** that the Forward Plan be noted.

## **28 WORK PLAN (CAI.17 12/13)**

Members discussed the Work Plan which set out the programme of work for the Challenge and Improvement Committee in the coming months.

**RESOLVED** that the Work Plan be noted.

The meeting concluded at 7.54 pm

Chairman