

## WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 15 October 2013 at 7.00 pm.

**Present :** Councillor Malcolm Parish (Chairman – In the Chair)  
Councillor Gillian Bardsley (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor William Parry (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor David Dobbie  
Councillor Richard Doran  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Giles McNeill  
Councillor Lewis Strange  
Councillor Geoff Wiseman

**In Attendance :**  
Jeannette McGarry Interim Director  
Chris Allen Head of Public Protection  
Nick Ethelstone Special Projects Programme Manager  
Joanna Riddell Head of Localism  
Ady Selby Team Manager Operations  
Steve Leary Team Leader Admin and Recycling  
Gary Reeve Team Manager, Property, Assets and Strategic Growth  
Jo Walker Team Manager Projects and Growth  
Sue Leversedge Principal Accountant  
Katie Coughlan Governance and Civic Officer

**Also Present:** Councillor Jeff Summers

**Apologies :** Councillor Irmgard Parrott  
Councillor Trevor Young  
Councillor Lesley Rollings

**Membership :** Councillor Giles McNeill substituting for Councillor Irmgard Parrott

### 39 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all Members and Officers to the meeting, and wished Councillor McNeill a happy birthday.

#### **40 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

#### **41 MINUTES**

(a) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 3 September 2013

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 3 September 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

#### **42 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT THE CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 7 OCTOBER 2013 (PRCC.21 13/14)**

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 7 October 2013.

In responding to Members' queries regarding the planning workshops (black item ID 3 relates), Officers confirmed that Parish Councils had been invited as per the Committee's previous request and that the sessions being held on 14 November and 13 February were to be held at Market Rasen.

Officers offered a further update in respect of the one amber item, indicating that further requests had been made to the Directors of the Mr Big project both in September and October, but to-date no response had been received. Assurance was given that Officers would continue to progress this matter.

**RESOLVED** that progress on the Matters Arising Schedule, as set out in report PRCC.21 13/14 be received and noted.

#### **43 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made at this point.

#### **44 DUNHOLME NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (PRCC.22 13/14)**

Members gave consideration to a report which recommended the designation of the area for the Neighbourhood Plan of Dunholme.

**RESOLVED** that the Neighbourhood Plan Area of Dunholme be formally designated.

**45 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT (PRCC.23 13/14)**

Consideration was given to a report which sought to provide Members with an outline of the Sustainable Communities Act and provided examples of where the Act could be used.

Members welcomed the report and were keen that the Authority made use of this piece of legislation in any way it could assist local communities.

It was suggested that it would be useful to have a nominated reserve appointed to the working group, in order that if a Member was unable to attend meetings, business could still be progressed.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the process in relation to suggestions under the Sustainable Communities Act, as attached at Appendix 1 of report PRCC.23 13/14 be approved; and
- (b) that a working group be established to consider all proposals received and report back to the Prosperous Communities Committee prior to submission to the Local Government Association, and that the following Members be appointed to serve thereon: -

Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Gillian Bardsley  
Councillor Richard Doran  
Councillor Geoff Wiseman (nominated reserve)

**46 HEALTH AND WELL-BEING STRATEGY PROGRESS AND DELIVERY UPDATE (PRCC.24 13/14)**

Consideration was given to a report which sought to provide Members with an update of the Council's work relating to health and well-being.

Members thanked Officers for the informative report, the work they had undertaken to-date and the enthusiasm shown by the team to make a difference.

It was acknowledged that the health and well-being agenda was a large one and in responding to Members' questions regarding capacity to deliver against this, Officers advised a partnership approach was taken and the District Council's main role was to influence key agencies in order to achieve the best for the District's residents. This being said, Officers were very conscious that action had to be focused and resources aligned to the priorities set by the Council in order to achieve successes.

Regarding Theme 2 – Dementia, a Member of the Committee enquired as to whether the County Council had intentions to re-open the Cedars. Officers

undertook to establish the current position and advised Members outside of the meeting.

Members were also provided with details of a local event being held by the Alzheimer's Society.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted.

**Note:** Councillor David Dobbie declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a member of Gainsborough Lions.

#### **47 PROGRESS AND DELIVERY REPORT (PRCC.25 13/14)**

Members gave consideration to a report which sought to provide an update on progress on the delivery of the Corporate Plan priorities and an update on performance of service areas. The report is a key part of the Council's governance framework and provides a public statement on how the council is performing against its publicly stated priorities.

Officers in turn presented the information relating to their respective service areas / projects, highlighting the key achievements, those areas where progress had been delayed and any areas where savings had been achieved or surplus income generated.

Members asked a number of pertinent questions and these were responded to accordingly. As a whole, the Committee were of the view that progress made to date was good. However, there were concerns expressed regarding the agile working arrangements and the fact that the Guildhall space had not been let to date. In response, Members were provided with brief information regarding recent developments in respect of this matter.

In conclusion, Members passed comment on the format of the report and indicated that page numbering would be of assistance in the future along with further explanation and contextual information regarding the financial tables contained within the report.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be received and noted.

**Note:** Councillor David Dobbie declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a former Chairman of the Riverside Festival.

#### **48 GREEN STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE (PRCC.26 13/14)**

Consideration was given to a report which provided Members with an update on the Green Strategy programme and delivery arrangements. The report further sought Members' continued endorsement of key strategic objectives and asked that they note the progress in establishing the programme management approach

and integrated programme, overall progress since 2012, improved communications approach and the update on the recent progress.

Whilst Members were supportive of green technology and recognised the need for such energy solutions in the future, they emphasised that this should not be to the detriment of any of our local communities. Officers confirmed the Council's renewable energy statement contained a fail-safe statement to this effect.

There was a general debate about the range of green technologies and developments now available and Members felt it critical that better use be made of the planning system to ensure new technologies were included in all new developments.

In response to Members' questions, Officers confirmed the launch of the collective switching scheme was imminent as tenders were currently being evaluated.

**RESOLVED** that the Green Programme's key strategic objectives to support the realisation of our Green vision, set out in paragraph 5.1 of report PRCC.26 13/14 be endorsed.

#### **49 CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (PRCC.27 13/14)**

Consideration was given to a report which sought Members' comments on the draft list of infrastructure to be funded by CIL.

Officers confirmed that no major comments had been received around the draft charging schedule during the consultation and therefore it could be considered that local developers did not have any great concerns.

Members cited a number of key projects they felt should be incorporated onto the 123 List namely, the Trent Bridge, an upgrade of the Belt Road, and an extended cycle route around Gainsborough.

Previous projects which had been cited by Members at their last meeting were the Market Rasen Pool and Gainsborough's Old Railway system.

**RESOLVED** that Members comments expressed throughout the course of the debate be submitted as a formal consultation response

#### **50 FORMER GUILDHALL SITE AND OTHER COUNCIL OWNED LAND IN GAINSBOROUGH TOWN CENTRE (PRCC.28 13/14)**

Members gave consideration to a report which sought to appraise them on the current position with regard to the development of the former Guildhall site and associated land. The report further sought approval for the next steps, including the establishment of a cross party steering group.

A Member expressed his concern and disappointment that in his view the steering group had not been established democratically and was not truly representative of the Council. As an independent member, he advised he had not been consulted and was of the view that he was continually not informed of developments and wished that this be placed on record.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) to take the project forward (as outlined in report PRCC.28 13/14) a member steering group, be established; and
- (b) in taking the project forward, it be based on all the land owned by the Council in Gainsborough town centre in order to meet the needs of the town.

#### **51 GAINSBOROUGH REGAINED – REFRESHING THE MASTERPLAN (PRCC.29 13/14)**

Consideration was given to report which informed Members about the proposals to refresh the Gainsborough Masterplan and which sought approval to undertake a stakeholder engagement event.

Members noted those stakeholders it was proposed be invited and suggested that local faith groups be incorporated thereto.

**RESOLVED** that the proposals for a stakeholder engagement workshop to help shape and inform the refresh of the Gainsborough Masterplan be approved.

#### **52 WORK PLAN (PRCC.30 13/14)**

The Governance and Civic Officer presented the Committee work plan. Members noted that Officers would be meeting in the coming days to review the plan and more evenly align work, wherever possible, for forthcoming meetings.

**RESOLVED** that the Work Plan as set out in report PRCC.30 13/14 be received and noted.

#### **53 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

#### **54 CAR PARKING FEES (PRCC.31 13/14)**

Members gave consideration to a report which set out the financial implications of having granted free parking periods in Gainsborough to support the economy of the town and specific events run by local groups or businesses. The report further recommended that two specific events be supported through the provision of free parking and that charges for car parking across the whole of the District be reviewed to inform the 2015/16 budget setting process.

In the ensuing debate Members expressed disappointment that the free parking periods had not necessarily hit the targeted audience or realised the benefits they had hoped to achieve.

Members felt a more creative solution around increasing car park usage and supporting local businesses was required and were therefore very supportive of the proposal to completely review the car parking charging schedule. A number of suggestions for further investigation were made during the course of the debate.

With regard to the two requests for further free parking, Members were happy to grant free parking on the 26 October to support the Halloween events, as this would fall on a Saturday and there was a view therefore that this would benefit the intended target. However, with the second event being held on a Friday, Members were of the view that the free parking would be taken advantage of by office staff and local businesses, as had previously been the case and thus would not achieve the intentions set out in the original request.

It was proposed that free parking be offered after 4pm to overcome this, however this was felt perhaps to be too late in the day and again would not achieve the intentions set out in the original request. It was therefore suggested that free parking commence from 12 noon and it was hoped these arrangements would negate the issues raised by Members whilst still meeting the intentions of the request.

On that basis it was

**RESOLVED** that: -

- (a) car parking charges in Gainsborough car parks be suspended for the whole day on Saturday 26 October 2013 and from 12 noon on Friday 15 November 2013 in order to support events taking place in the town; and
- (b) a review of charging for Council owned car parks in the District be undertaken in the next financial year to inform the 2015/16 budget setting process.

**55 GREEN WASTE CHARGES (PRCC.32 13/14)**

Following its deferral on 3 September 2013, further consideration was given to a report in which Members had previously been asked to consider the introduction of a charge for the provision of green waste collections. The revised report provide Members with the additional information they had previously requested about possible savings and income proposals in the Waste Services Department and proposed a decision on options for generating income in the future.

**RESOLVED** that: -

- (a) consideration for green waste charging in the 2014/15 financial year be deferred and the options for developing income earning opportunities, particularly in respect of Trade Waste and Weed killing be agreed; and
- (b) a further report be brought to the appropriate Committee before the end of October 2014 outlining the progress made with developing the income opportunities set out in report PRCC.32 13/14

The meeting concluded at 9.24 pm.

Chairman