

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on 19 March 2014 commencing at 8.10pm.

Present: Councillor Tom Regis (Chairman)

Councillor Owen Bierley
Councillor Nigel Bowler
Councillor Chris Darcel
Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor Mick Tinker

In Attendance:
John Rice Interim Commercial Director
Russell Stone Chief Finance Officer
Alan Robinson Head of Central Services
Nick Ethelstone Special Projects Officer
Dinah Lilley Governance and Civic Officer

Apologies: Councillor Burt Keimach
Councillor Ken Bridger
Councillor David Cotton
Councillor Ian Fleetwood
Councillor Reg Shore

Membership: Councillor Mick Tinker substituted for Councillor Bridger

79 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

80 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 paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

81 TRANSFER OF GAINSBOROUGH WATERSIDE ENTERPRISE CENTRE (PR.57 13/14)

The Interim Commercial Director set before Members proposals for the Gainsborough Waterside Enterprise Centre (formerly Lea Road School). The

building was currently owned by Lincolnshire County Council and had been empty for some time. Photographs and plans were shown setting the context of the site and its neighbours. There had been significant deterioration of the inside of the building whilst it had been empty due partly to vandalism to the roof, allowing water ingress, however the main structure of the building was still sound. Whilst the building was not listed it was in a conservation area and of interest to English Heritage.

Various options were available for the development of the property and site, however there were some liabilities and risks including Business Rates charges and the presence of asbestos. Proposals for development would be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee, and any proposal to demolish would have to be approved by the Secretary of State.

It was proposed that the County Council transfer the site to West Lindsey ownership for a nominal sum. The County Council were also looking to acquire a small strip of land adjacent a West Lindsey owned property in order to widen an access road. This transaction could be included within the negotiations for the site in question, so it was moved that the recommendation be amended to allow for delegation of authority to undertake the transfer.

Members were enthusiastic about the proposal and felt that it offered an opportunity to enhance the riverside.

The recommendation was moved, seconded and voted upon.

RESOLVED that officers complete the transfer of the former Lea Road School to West Lindsey District Council from Lincolnshire County Council and that the Interim Commercial Director be given delegated authority to negotiate a land swap up to a value of £10,000.

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

Chairman