

## WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 25 March 2014 at 7.00pm.

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

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor David Dobbie  
Councillor Richard Doran  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Irmgard Parrott  
Councillor Lewis Strange  
Councillor Geoff Wiseman  
Councillor Trevor Young

**In Attendance :**  
Mark Sturgess Chief Operating Officer  
Jo Riddell Head of Localism  
Chris Allen Head of Public Protection  
Sue Fysh Head of Development and Neighbourhoods  
Ady Selby Team Manager – Operational Services  
Michelle Howard Team Manager – Home Choices  
Sue Leversedge Accountant  
Katie Coughlan Governance and Civic Officer

**Also in Attendance:** Mr David Hickman – Lincolnshire County Council

**Apologies :** None Received

**Membership :** Councillor Owen Bierley substituting for the late  
Councillor William Parry

## 89 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed all present to the last meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee for the 2013/14 Civic Year.

## **90 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

## **91 MINUTES**

(a) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 4 February 2014

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 4 February 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **92 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT THE CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 17 MARCH 2014 (PRCC.54 13/14)**

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 17 March 2014.

In reference to the Black Action entitled “Gainsborough Manufacturing Business Relocation Fund”, it was noted that the responsible Officer was now Jo Walker and Officers undertook to ensure the relevant Councillor was contacted.

With reference to the Green Action entitled “Fire Safety Vulnerable Adults”, Councillor Wiseman took the opportunity to update the Committee on progress made since the last meeting regarding securing funding for wardens and indicated his satisfaction with progress so far.

In responding to a Member’s comments regarding their disappointment at the information contained within the Black Action entitled “Policy for Small Scale Agriculture Wind Turbines”, Officers stressed that any Policy developed outside of the Local Plan process would carry no weight in determining planning applications, furthermore, Government Policy at present did encourage such developments as part of the renewable energy agenda. The new local plan process would take this matter into account and a comprehensive policy approach will be developed.

**RESOLVED** that progress on the Matters Arising Schedule, as set out in report PRCC.54 13/14 be received and noted.

## **93 MEMBERS’ DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Trevor Young declared a pecuniary interest in report PRCC.57 13/14 (Request for Free Parking), as a market trader / town centre business owner and indicated that he would withdraw from the meeting during consideration and determination of this item.

**94 PRESENTATION ITEM: - JOINT LINCOLNSHIRE FLOOD RISK AND DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2012-2025 – ANNUAL PROGRESS AND UPDATE REPORT**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Hickman to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation on the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy 2012-2025 - annual progress and update report.

During the presentation Members were provided with information on:-

- The purpose of the Joint Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy and benefits of the single vision and approach;
- Details of the Common Works Programme for 2014 – 15 which was now in its final draft;
- Details of the Joint Asset Register which was now completed and was in line with and a requirement of legislation
- The new innovative and nationally highly regarded approach being adopted across Lincolnshire in terms of delegating LLFA enforcement and consenting powers to Internal Drainage Boards outside Internal Drainage Districts, ensuring maximum coverage.
- Sustainability, biodiversity and amenity along with SUDs which would become an integral consideration in all planning applications.
- The Mast Tool (Mapping All Sources Tool) pilot, explaining how it would work and what it would show.
- The work being undertaken with the Greater Lincolnshire Economic Partnership
- Projects on the ground in West Lindsey

In response to Members' requests Officers undertook to provide Members with a copy of the presentation slides.

**95 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL PLAN (PRCC.55 13/14)**

Consideration was given to a report which provided Committee the opportunity to review the revised Local Development Scheme. The document had been approved by the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee, as the responsible local planning authority on 3 March 2014, and came into effect on the 12 March 2014. It provided a timetable for the production of the Local Plan over the period 2014 -2016.

Members welcomed the greater involvement and engagement of Parish Councils in the revised process and were of the view that this would assist in ensuring the correct message was delivered at the grass roots level, which had not always been the case and had been a cause for serious concerns previously.

Officers declined the verbal invite to attend the Town Council's AGM to further discuss the programme simply because the launch was not until June 2014 and

therefore Officers would not be in a position to provide any further information at that point.

**RESOLVED** that having been reviewed the revised Local Development Scheme for Central Lincolnshire be noted.

## **96 SAFEGUARDING POLICY REFRESH 2014 AND SECTION 11 ASSESSMENT (PRCC.56 13/14)**

Members received a report which enabled them to consider the combined Safeguarding Children and Young People, Adults at Risk and Domestic Abuse Policy and Procedure for approval.

The report further sought to raise Members' awareness of the work programme in place to raise awareness of and embed the principles of safeguarding across the authority.

Finally the report sought to make Members aware of the planned Safeguarding Audit (Section 11 Assessment) due to take place in 2014.

The Committee placed on record their thanks to the Team Manager – Home Choices and her team for the work they undertake on behalf of the Council, in difficult circumstances at times.

Members also commented on how invaluable the recently held training session was but expressed their disappointment at the turn out levels, considering the importance of the subject.

In responding to Members' questions, Officers outlined the different roles played by the District and County Councils' in day-to-day case work and how this ensured there was no duplication of efforts.

Members were unanimously in agreement that partnership working and full and open communication between all agencies was critical to an area of work such as safeguarding. Comment was passed as to how in national serious case reviews, communications was always flagged up as a failing. Members indicated they would like to see examples of cases which had gone through the system and where real outcomes had been achieved included in a future committee report.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the combined Safeguarding Children and Young People, Adults at Risk and Domestic Abuse Policy be approved;
- (b) the work programme in place to raise awareness of and embed the principles of safeguarding across the authority be supported;
- (c) awareness of the planned Section 11 Assessment be maintained and noted; and

- (d) Officers explore the implications of seeking Disclosure and Barring Checks for all Members and report back to a future meeting of the relevant Committee.

**Note:** Councillor Trevor Young withdrew from the Chamber at this point and did not return to the meeting.

## **97 REQUEST FOR FREE PARKING (PRCC.57 13/14)**

Consideration was given to a report which sought Members response to a request for free parking to support the “Love Your Local Market” fortnight in May 2014. The report set out the potential benefits of granting the request, a suggestion to maximise the benefit for the intended beneficiaries of free parking and estimates of the financial cost to the Council in terms of lost parking revenue.

In responding to Members’ questions, Officers explained the rationale for a 10.00am start.

As an aside Members commented on the increased income generated during the Riverside Festival period and the potential impact the Festival falling could have on the town.

**RESOLVED** that having considered the request for free parking during Love Your Local Market fortnight, it be **RECOMMENDED** to the Policy and Resources Committee that the request be granted and that free parking commence from 10.00am on the days when the concession will apply (namely 14, 17, 20 and 24 May 2014).

**Note:** Councillor David Dobbie declared a non-pecuniary interest in the above item of business as a former Chairman of the Riverside Festival.

Councillor Gillian Bardsley declared a non-pecuniary interest in the above item of business as the Council’s representative on the Town Centre Partnership.

## **98 WORK PLAN (PRCC.58 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.58 13/14 be received and noted.

## **99 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 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

## **100 RECYCLING MATERIAL AND CREDIT PAYMENTS (PRCC.5213/14)**

Consideration was given to a report which sought to inform Members of recent developments with regard to the control of recycling material and the payment of recycling credits.

In presenting the report, the Head of Public Protection outlined at length and in detail the background to the current arrangement, advising Members of the level of potential lost income under such.

Members were then provided with details of a proposed way forward and all financial risks associated thereto.

In the ensuing debate Members were of the view that they owed it to the District's residents to explore alternatives. West Lindsey was the best performing recycling authority across Lincolnshire and thus this should be reflected in the payments they received and was not currently the case.

However, all were mindful of the need to ensure the working relationship with the County Council was not damaged in any way.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the actions taken by Officers to-date be supported; and
- (b) Officers continue to work with Lincolnshire County Council, the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership and other stakeholders to find an equitable solution to the disposal of recyclate when current arrangements end in March 2015.

**Note:** Councillor Lewis Strange declared a non-pecuniary interest in the above item of business as the former portfolio holder for waste at Lincolnshire County Council.

**101            CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

This being the last meeting of the Civic Year, the Chairman concluded by thanking all Members and Officers for their contribution throughout, what he considered, had been both a successful and enjoyable year.

The meeting concluded at 8.36 pm.

Chairman