



**Guildhall  
Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough  
Lincolnshire, DN21 2NA  
Tel: 01427 676676 Fax: 01427 675170**

**This meeting will be webcast and published on the Council's website**

**AGENDA**

Prayers will be conducted prior to the start of the meeting.  
Members are welcome to attend.

**Notice** is hereby given that a meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, on **Monday 25 January 2016 at 7pm**, and your attendance at such meeting is hereby requested to transact the following business.

**To: Members of West Lindsey District Council**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. COUNCIL MINUTES  
To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 16 November 2015.  
**PAPER A herewith**
3. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST  
Members may make any declarations of interest at this point but may also make them at any point during the meeting.
4. MATTERS ARISING  
**PAPER B herewith**
5. ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - i) Chairman of the Council
  - ii) Leader of the Council
  - iii) Head of Paid Service
6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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7. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9

8. MOTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10

**Madam Chairman**

I believe that all members of the council will consider it fundamental to the operation of the council that decisions once legally made should be supported by members and officers. At LCC all decisions once made are supported by the officer, even if a lively debate has taken place at committee or other meeting.

I have concerns that this practice might not be being followed in the planning service at WLDC. It appears that if officers disagree with a decision made by councillors at a Planning Committee which was contrary to their advice then they do not have to support such a decision.

The rationale for this stance is understandable in that planning is not a “political” committee and that officers have to give their professional opinion in planning matters as part of their role. In my experience this has been interpreted as not supporting members in putting the best case together to defend appeals.

Members have a duty to represent the views of their residents and these can often be contrary to the views of the professional planning officers. Members have a right to take decisions contrary to the recommendation of officers in order to support the views of their residents.

Decisions on planning matters can also be finely balanced where it is possible to argue coherently both for or against the proposal and that is where the political, with a small p, judgement of councillors on the Planning Committee is crucial to delivering what the communities of the district want.

I would like to see officers fully supporting the decisions taken by the Planning Committee, even when they are contrary to the advice they gave. This should include giving full support to members at planning appeals so that the best possible case can be presented to the inspector.

I therefore propose:

1. The roles of officers and members are clarified, so officers clearly understand their role in supporting decisions made by the Planning Committee when the committee makes a decision contrary to their advice, and that members clearly understand the role of officers in giving advice on planning applications.
2. Training should be offered to officers around operating in a political environment
3. The Planning Committee be asked, as part of the improvement work being implemented in the service, to review the protocol governing the roles of officers and members at appeals where members refuse planning permission contrary to officer recommendations.

I so move.

Councillor Reg Shore

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9. HOUSING ENFORCEMENT POLICY UPDATE  
**PAPER C HEREWITH**
  
10. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT  
**PAPER D HEREWITH**
  
11. COLLECTION FUND SURPLUS AND COUNCIL TAX BASE  
**PAPER E HEREWITH**
  
12. COUNTY COUNCIL BOUNDARY REVIEW  
**PAPER F HEREWITH**
  
13. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES  
**PAPER G HEREWITH**
  
13. CHANGE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP  
**PAPER H HEREWITH**
  
14. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS PUBLISHED SINCE  
THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 16 NOVEMBER 2015.

M Gill  
Chief Executive  
The Guildhall  
Gainsborough

15 January 2016

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