

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Gainsborough, on Monday 16 November 2015, at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Angela Lawrence (Chairman)
Councillor Roger Patterson (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Gillian Bardsley	Councillor Giles McNeill
Councillor Sheila Bibb	Councillor John McNeill
Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor Pat Mewis
Councillor Matthew Boles	Councillor Jessie Milne
Councillor David Bond	Councillor Richard Oaks
Councillor Alexander Bridgwood	Councillor Malcolm Parish
Councillor Jackie Brockway	Councillor Judy Rainsforth
Councillor David Cotton	Councillor Di Rodgers
Councillor Stuart Curtis	Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor Michael Devine	Councillor Reg Shore
Councillor Adam Duguid	Councillor Thomas Smith
Councillor Steve England	Councillor Lewis Strange
Councillor Ian Fleetwood	Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor Paul Howitt - Cowan	Councillor Anne Welburn
	Councillor Trevor Young

In Attendance:

Manjeet Gill	Chief Executive
Ian Knowles	Director of Resources
Mark Sturgess	Chief Operating Officer
Alan Robinson	Strategic Lead for Democratic and Business Support and Monitoring Officer
Phil Hinch	Licensing Team Manager
Dinah Lilley	Governance and Civic Officer

Also in Attendance Deacon Stephen Boulter

Also Present 6 members of the public

Note The Leader of the Council welcomed back the Chairman, Councillor Angela Lawrence from her absence and proposed three cheers be given. Councillor Lawrence thanked the Leader, saying that it was good to be back, and also thanked the Vice Chairman and others who had assisted in representing the Council around the District at various events.

46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Chris Darcel

Councillor Stuart Kinch
Councillor Hugo Marfleet
Councillor Tom Regis
Councillor Angela White

Penny Sharp Commercial Director

47 COUNCIL MINUTES (PAPER A)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 7 September 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

48 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Giles McNeill declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in Paper D, the Review of the Gambling Policy, as being a lottery promoter.

Councillor David Cotton and Councillor Stuart Curtis both declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in Paper F, the Local Plan Consultation Response, as they were members of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee. Councillor Fleetwood likewise was the reserve member of said Committee and declared the same personal interest.

49 MATTERS ARISING (PAPER B)

It was noted that all items were showing as black as having been completed.

RESOLVED that the Matters Arising be noted.

50 ANNOUNCEMENTS

i) Chairman of the Council

The Chairman, Councillor Angela Lawrence noted that she had been able to attend a number of events and functions, and listed a few highlights, including Caistor Civic Service and also the Remembrance Sunday service in Caistor. It had also been an honour to be present at the Lincolnshire Fire Service Awards at the EPIC Centre.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Patterson noted that he had hosted the commemorative act at the Guildhall on 13th October to honour the West Lindsey men who died in the battle of Loos 100 years ago.

ii) Leader of the Council

Councillor Jeff Summers noted that it had been a particularly busy time with the Devolution submission and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan consultation underway.

The Local Plan consultation was shortly due to end, and whilst the turnout in Gainsborough had been disappointing other events in the district had been very well attended and prompted constructive debate.

Devolution was a new experience and showed a wider view for the future and what could be achieved. Several meetings had been attended with Leaders of the other authorities, building relationships.

The Leader also made note of the visit to the energy from waste plant at Lincoln which had been most interesting, and thanked Councillor Strange for his contribution to the organisation of the visit.

The recent Planning Peer Challenge had been welcomed and improvements were already being put into place.

iii) Head of Paid Service

In opening the Chief Executive, welcomed the Chairman back and wished her continued good health for the future. The Chief Executive agreed with the Leader that there was a lot happening at the moment. Devolution was facilitating a strengthening of partnership working, and a recent proposal to the Prosperous Communities Committee had agreed delegation to the Chief Executive and Leader to meet with the Chairman of the Humber LEP to explore membership. Significant work was ongoing with neighbouring authorities on the possible widening of the A15, of particular economic importance linking the port of Immingham with the Humber Bridge and Lincoln and passing through West Lindsey. This would strengthen existing businesses and future growth.

The Council was working with the County Council on the matter of the shortage of GPs in rural areas and MPs had been lobbied to put questions to the House of Commons and ask the Secretary of State to assist, following a debate.

The announcements from the Comprehensive Spending Review were expected on 25 November, setting out the budget for the next three years. It was anticipated that District Councils may be harder hit than unitary authorities which managed the social care and health agenda, so it was necessary to be prepared to lose up to 30% of funding, and possibly the New Homes Bonus. Clarity would emerge over the next few weeks, but the strategic changes made in recent years since 2010, such as working with the voluntary sector to lever in additional funding, stood the Council and the District in a good position. It was important to think and work differently to lessen the impact. This may mean commissioning more efficient delivery by the voluntary or other sectors. An announcement was due from DCLG on 11 December.

Success had been achieved in the Gainsborough Housing Zone. Work had been ongoing with the Council's Commercial Director and building a relationship with the Housing and Communities Agency.

The Chief Executive noted that whilst the Devolution agenda was keeping her very busy, there was now a strong management team in place to enable her to focus on this important matter. The Strategic Leads were now in post and dealing with matters such as customer focussed services.

Finally, note was made of attendance at the graduation ceremony at Lincoln Cathedral, and the Chief Executive was looking forward to the opening at Riseholme in the coming week. The upcoming pantomime at the Trinity Art Centre was something to which everyone was invited to attend.

51 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

52 QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9

There were no questions pursuant to Council Procedure rule 9.

53 MOTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10

Councillor Cotton raised a point of order that the name of the mover was not set out in the agenda and questioned whether the motion was valid. The Monitoring Officer suggested that the meeting progress with the rest of the business whilst the Constitution and legislation be checked.

54 DEVOLUTION UPDATE (PAPER C)

The Chief Executive presented an update on the Devolution agenda, reminding Members that in July Council had approved that the Leader and Chief Executive, work with Greater Lincolnshire Councils and other partners to develop and submit proposals for a devolution deal for the Greater Lincolnshire area.

The submission to Government on 4 September, had been favourably received and Greater Lincolnshire was invited to develop the submission further. This had resulted in meetings with Ministers and Civil Servants.

The report outlined the work to date and sought approval to develop this work. In particular to form a Joint Committee to formally develop proposals and give government confidence about the leadership unity to take forward delivery of ambitions expressed. West Lindsey District Council had allocated resources of £100,000 to this work and it was anticipated at this stage that this would be adequate

in resourcing any governance review, subject to further scoping and agreement by Chief Executives across the ten Councils of the precise detail of this work.

The Chief Executive was the nominated lead for Housing. Powers were being considered and the government required detailed costed proposals for delivery as to what Lincolnshire could provide. Manchester was one Council which had set up a Housing Investment Fund, government may look to leadership of an accountable person, by way of a Mayor.

Statute required a governance review and there was the possibility of the requirement of a Mayor. There would be a consultation process and reports back to future Council meetings. The Chief Executive then suggested that a couple of workshops take place in the New Year to bring Councillors up to date on progress and more details on the content.

Discussion ensued on the report and Members commended the work done to date on the project, and the Leader acknowledged that whilst the future structure was not yet known there were many good brains around the table and progress was positive.

It was moved and seconded that the additional recommendation be included to arrange workshops in the New Year. On being voted upon this was agreed.

RESOLVED that an additional recommendation be included to arrange Member workshops on the Devolution agenda.

Discussion continued with the matter being raised that in Appendix B of the report which set out the lead Councillors for the Devolution themes, one Leader had been designated as the lead for both Finance and Governance. Concerns were expressed that these were two particularly big themes for one person. Concern was also expressed about conflict and appropriateness of two themes being led by one person.

RESOLVED that an additional recommendation be included to agree that 'The Council expresses its concern over the appointment of Baroness Redfern to the post of political spokesman for both the finance and governance positions and requests that the joint authority considers if this is appropriate.'

The Chief Executive would discuss with the Leader how we propose this to the existing partnership.

The recommendations set out in the report, along with the two additional recommendations were then moved en bloc, these were seconded.

On being voted upon it was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) the Greater Lincolnshire devolution expression of interest, submitted to Government on 4 September 2015, is developed into a fit for purpose devolution deal document via continued formal engagement with Government;

- b) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to continue devolution discussions and negotiations with Government;
- c) the commencement of a formal governance review, as described in the report, no sooner than January 2016 and subject to prior confirmation from Government that the Greater Lincolnshire submission to be negotiated to detailed Deal stage;
- d) subject to the outcome of any statutory governance review, to submit to the principle of establishing a combined authority for the Greater Lincolnshire geography as the most effective and efficient means of securing strategic economic (and related) growth;
- e) the principles set out in Appendix C of the report shall underpin and inform the establishment of any formal governance arrangements between the ten Councils;
- f) the formation, in any event, of a joint committee under the relevant provisions of the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000, to exercise the functions and responsibilities referred to in this report and operating as the Greater Lincolnshire Leadership Board;
- g) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to develop and finalise the governance and constitutional arrangements to support the discharge of the Leadership Board's responsibilities, in consultation with the Leader;
- h) to make available such reasonable resources as may be necessary, to support the establishment of the joint committee, the conduct of the governance review and the implementation of the outcomes;
- i) two workshop sessions be arranged to Members in the New Year to inform on progress with the Devolution agenda; and
- j) the Council expresses its concern over the appointment of Baroness Redfern to the post of political spokesman for both the finance and governance positions and requests that the joint authority considers if this is appropriate. This proposal to be put to the joint committee by the Leader.

55 REVIEW OF GAMBLING ACT 2005 POLICY (PAPER D)

The Chairman of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee outlined the report and recommended it for Council approval.

The review of the Gambling Policy was a 'business as usual' process for the licensing team, and in essence the team had to follow a statutory process in carrying out any 'review' of policy.

Therefore the licensing authority was legally obliged to:

- Prepare
- Consult
- Determine, and
- Publish its Statement of Principles (Policy) every three years or sooner if necessary

This was a mandatory requirement as set out in Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005.

A review of the policy had taken place and the persons and bodies consulted was kept deliberately wide in order for a comprehensive consultation exercise to be undertaken with anyone who may be affected or otherwise may have an interest in the policy.

The consultation generated four responses being received which in turn resulted in one minor change to the draft policy.

The 'trained' Members of the Licensing & Regulatory Committee considered the review of the policy at their meeting held on 22 September 2015 in detail and resolved that the amended draft policy be approved and **RECOMMENDED to Council** for formal adoption.

Only Council could formally adopt this Policy, it is not a decision that could be delegated to a Committee or Sub-Committee. Once approved by Council, the Licensing Authority must then publish the policy, along with a Statutory Notice regarding the implementation date, also.

The recommendations in the report were then moved, seconded and voted upon without discussion.

RESOLVED that Council accepts the recommendation from the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and approves and adopts the amended draft policy referred to as 'The Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles)'. The revised document to be published in accordance with the relevant regulations and become effective from January 2016

56 REVIEW OF LICENSING ACT 2003 POLICY (PAPER E)

The Chairman of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee outlined the report and recommended it for Council approval.

The review of the Licensing Policy was a 'business as usual' process for the licensing team, and the team had to follow a statutory process in carrying out any 'review' of policy.

Therefore the licensing authority is legally obliged to:

- Prepare
- Consult
- Determine, and
- Publish its Statement of Principles (Policy) every five years or sooner if necessary

This was a mandatory requirement as set out in Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003.

A review of the Licensing policy had taken place and the persons and bodies consulted was kept deliberately wide in order for a comprehensive consultation exercise to be

undertaken with anyone who may be affected or otherwise may have an interest in the policy.

The consultation generated four responses being received which in turn resulted in one minor change to the draft policy.

The ‘trained’ Members of the Licensing & Regulatory Committee considered the review of the policy at their meeting held on 22 September 2015 in detail, and resolved that the amended draft policy be approved, (*subject to the removal of the second paragraph on page 16 which has now taken place*) and **RECOMMENDED to Council** for formal adoption.

Only Council could formally adopt this Policy, it was not a decision that could be delegated to a Committee or Sub-Committee. Once approved by Council, the Licensing Authority must then publish the policy, along with a Statutory Notice regarding the implementation date. Following adoption by Council the policy would remain in force for a five year period unless there was a need to instigate a review earlier.

The recommendations in the report were then moved, seconded and voted upon without discussion.

RESOLVED that Council accept the recommendation from the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and approves and adopts the amended draft policy referred to as “The Statement of Licensing Policy” attached at Appendix 3.

Note The excellent work of the Licensing Team Manager and his officers was commended.

57 LOCAL PLAN - FORMAL CONSULTATION RESPONSE (PAPER F)

The Chief Operating Officer introduced the report to the meeting, noting that Members would be familiar with the process of the Local Plan, in that it had been in preparation since 2014. One consultation stage had been responded to, and the report before Council for consideration on the strategic response West Lindsey District Council should make to the “Further Draft” of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

In accordance with the approach agreed at Prosperous Communities Committee and in accordance with the request by the Chief Operating Officer set out in a letter dated 14 October 2015 asking for comments on this draft of the Local Plan by 3 November 2015 the report contained the strategic response of this Council. Detailed and individual responses by individual members should be sent directly to the Local Plans Team. Any detailed responses received by the Chair of Prosperous Communities Committee by the 3 November were included in a schedule of responses attached as an appendix to the report.

There was government pressure to adopt Local Plans and intervention would take place if progress was not made. Adoption of the Plan was hoped for by the end of

2016 or early 2017. The Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Committee was the report author and West Lindsey District Council was a consultee. Agreement was therefore required on the West Lindsey response to the consultation.

Comments from Members received by the Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee by 3 November 2015 and the responses were set out in the appendix to the report.

Councillor Bierley proposed that additional inclusion in the submission be:

- In Caistor all the sports grounds, including Millfields Park, should be designated as important open space; and
- The allotments and the Sports Ground in Keelby should be shown as important open space.

The additional inclusions were seconded and voted upon and it was therefore **RESOLVED** that the CLJSPC be informed that the wording in the submission be amended to read:

- In Caistor all the sports grounds, including Millfields Park, should be designated as important open space; and
- The allotments and the Sports Ground in Keelby should be shown as important open space

The Leader of the Council commended the Plan document as being well presented and easy to read. Like the National Planning Policy Framework there was a presumption in favour of development but reasons for refusals where appropriate.

Clarification was sought on paragraph 5.10 of the report which referred to the growth of Scotter. The Chief Operating Officer verified that the proposals in the Plan itself set out the correct growth limits for Scotter, with two allocations. The Chief Executive suggested that the minutes of this meeting record the member's view that the account of the workshop in relation to Scotter set out in the agenda item were inaccurate in that local people did not see a strong demand for growth in the village.

Councillor Shore then referred to smaller villages which were dying through lack of revitalisation by new development. Small villages such as Upton and Kexby were being allowed to grow by 3 dwellings or 0.1 hectares for employment purposes, which was an improvement over the existing local plan, however he felt that this was not enough to maintain their vitality. Whilst there was some agreement with the argument it was felt that more substantial development in such small hamlets would be unsustainable.

Councillor Shore then proposed that those villages not included for development in the Local Plan, be included for an appropriate level of development to keep them alive particularly for young people. The proposal was seconded but on being voted upon the **MOTION WAS LOST**.

Councillor G. McNeill suggested that wording could be included to allow for housing development where appropriate, however the Chairman of the Planning Committee noted that Policy LP55 set out an exceptions policy which would cover such

development in the open countryside. Councillor G. McNeill therefore withdrew his proposal.

Councillor Welburn then proposed that a further amendment be included regarding an addition of a green wedge, specifically between Greetwell and North Greetwell and from the A158 and Fiskerton Road to prevent urban sprawl. This proposal was seconded and voted upon.

RESOLVED that the CLJSPC be informed that it be included in the Local Plan submission that a green wedge be designated between Greetwell and North Greetwell to prevent urban sprawl.

Further brief debate took place on both drainage and cycle paths. The Chief Operating Officer clarified that drainage was an issue that was dealt with at the time of applications being submitted and that cycle paths were to be discussed through the Motion to Council set out in the agenda.

The recommendations in the report, and the additional comments previously agreed, were then moved en bloc and seconded. On being voted upon it was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) the council recognises that the Further Draft of the Local Plan is a progressive document that supports development in the District and will help in ensuring that the necessary development takes place in the right places.
- b) the Council welcomes the publication of the “Further Draft” of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan in that it:
 - a. Provides a statutory spatial planning framework for the regeneration, growth and development of Gainsborough in accordance with the corporate aspirations this Council has for the town.
 - b. It assists with the use of major infrastructure assets present in the District (such as the A15) to further jobs growth and economic prosperity within the District
 - c. It enables the growth and development of our market towns
 - d. It gives (through the provision of a five year housing land supply) appropriate protection to those areas within the District where further housing growth would damage the identity of communities and put a further strain on existing infrastructure
 - e. It gives support to communities who desire to see their areas grow by providing a framework within which Neighbourhood Plans can be prepared.
 - f. It enables some of the smallest settlements in the District to grow at a scale appropriate to their needs.
- c) within the schedule of detailed or individual changes put forward by members, set out in the appendix, those supported be forwarded to

the Local Plans Team for consideration, with the addition of the following additional amendments:

- In Caistor all the sports grounds, including Millfields Park, should be designated as important open space; and
- The allotments and the Sports Ground in Keelby should be shown as important open space
- a green wedge be designated between Greetwell and North Greetwell to prevent urban sprawl.

58 MOTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10

The Monitoring Officer verified that the Constitution and legislation were silent on the setting out in the agenda the name of the proposer of a motion, and assured Members that the motion had been submitted to the Chief Executive by Councillor Jeff Summers by email in accordance with procedures.

Madam Chairman.

We now have a reinvigorated staff structure capable of delivering the council's Corporate Plan and priorities.

We have recently been awarded funding to develop two Local Development Orders in locations in Gainsborough Town.

I Quote "Local Development Orders are made by local planning authorities and give a grant of planning permission to specific types of development within a defined area. They streamline the planning process by removing the need for developers to make a planning application to a local planning authority. They create certainty and save time and money for those involved in the planning process" unquote.

So here we have a process which will help developers move more quickly when the time is right. We need to be prepared.

The town of Gainsborough suffers with higher than the national average unemployment rate, above average levels of obesity and a very strong screen culture among our young generation. (i.e.), computers, phones and tablets.

We also, like many towns and cities have a range of fast food /retail outlets offering a range of food containing a nutritional analysis very capable of increasing the levels of adipose tissue often detrimental to one's health. Evidenced by my own eyes we also have an education curriculum which doesn't appreciate the benefits or need to have sporting activities as once was the case.

What Gainsborough does have is a population set to grow significantly over the next twenty years. Two Sustainable Urban Extensions and an area within the Town which could take up to around 800 houses.

From Morton, the River Trent frontage almost reaches Lea. We have a natural ridge which runs from Foxby Hill to Thonock Golf Club. This ridge affords beautiful views over the town and Trent Valley across Nottinghamshire. The town is almost surrounded by woodland in particular Whites Wood, Castle Hill Wood and the Belt Woodland.

Chairman.

The “Further Draft of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan” supports through a number of its policies the provision of additional cycling and walking routes within and around Gainsborough.

For example LP20 supports the provision of a green infrastructure network to be achieved through enhancing, creating and managing a multi-functional green space within and around settlements that are well connected to each other and the wider countryside and expects development to contribute to their provision, the Gainsborough Sustainable Urban Extension policies (LP38 and LP39) seek to provide green corridors with the intention of linking them to surrounding countryside and the Gainsborough Riverside Policy (LP40) seeks to ensure that in the longer term an uninterrupted and attractive pedestrian and cycle corridor connecting Gainsborough with the settlements of Lea and Morton is created.

However, It is my opinion that in view of the emerging Central Lincolnshire Local Plan a framework for the implementation of my vision for a network of interconnected metal pathways, wide enough to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair routes around the town is also emerging.

In order to deliver on the proposals set out in the emerging Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and to ensure that we don't miss opportunities to deliver a circular and interconnected foot and cycle path around the town. I propose, through the LDOs, Housing Zone and the Master Planning work which is underway, an early report be submitted to the Prosperous Communities Committee setting out a strategy for how this network can be delivered.

I so move.

The Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee responded to the motion.

The motion supports the delivery of proposals within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. I agree that the most appropriate council committee under the constitution to deal with the matters set out in the motion is the Prosperous Communities Committee as that deals with the formulation and implementation of planning policy. I therefore second the motion and agree that a report be brought to Prosperous Communities Committee setting out a strategy for how it can be delivered.

RESOLVED that the content of the motion be put into a report for submission to the Prosperous Communities Committee for consideration.

59 CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT (PAPER G)

The Strategic Lead for Democratic and Business Support and Monitoring Officer presented the report which was simply a tidying up exercise to improve administrative efficiency in agenda preparation in the event of motions being received for Council meetings. This was echoed by the Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee.

RESOLVED that the Constitution be amended to state that Motions to Council must be received seven clear working days prior to the meeting (excluding the day of the meeting).

60 OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS (PAPER H)

The Strategic Lead for Democratic and Business Support and Monitoring Officer presented the report which was self explanatory in the ACIS had requested that reserve Members be appointed as further West Lindsey representatives in the event that the designated representatives were not able to attend meetings.

RESOLVED that

- a) Councillor Gill Bardsley be appointed to the position of the Council's reserve representative on ACIS for Gainsborough, and in the event that Cllr Bibb is unable to attend a meeting she contact Cllr Bardsley to attend in her stead; and
- b) Councillor Stuart Kinch be appointed to the position of the Council's reserve representative on ACIS for rural areas, and in the event that Cllr Milne is unable to attend a meeting she contact Cllr Kinch to attend in her stead.

61 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER (PAPER I)

The Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee introduced the report which proposed that appointment of a further independent member of the Governance and Audit Committee be confirmed.

An appropriate advertisement , shortlisting and interview process had been undertaken.

RESOLVED that the person named below be appointed to serve as an Independent Member on the Governance and Audit Committee with immediate effect until Annual Council in May 2019.

- **Mr Andrew Morris**

62 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS PUBLISHED SINCE THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2015.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Committee meetings published since the Council meeting on 7 September 2015 be received.

The meeting concluded at 9.05 pm.

Chairman