

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough, on Monday 8 September 2014, at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Malcolm Parish (In the Chair)

Councillor Gillian Bardsley	Councillor Burt Keimach
Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor Angela Lawrence
Councillor Nigel Bowler	Councillor Malcolm Leaning
Councillor Ken Bridger	Councillor Pat Mewis
Councillor Jackie Brockway	Councillor Giles McNeill
Councillor Alan Caine	Councillor Jessie Milne
The Revd Councillor David Cotton	Councillor Di Rodgers
Councillor Stuart Curtis	Councillor Reg Shore
Councillor Chris Darcel	Councillor Lewis Strange
Councillor Chris Day	Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor David Dobbie	Councillor Anne Welburn
Councillor Richard Doran	Councillor Geoff Wiseman
Councillor Ian Fleetwood	Councillor Trevor Young

Apologies: Councillor Sue Rawlins (vice chairman) (on Civic business)
Councillor Mark Binns
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Irmgard Parrott
Councillor Roger Patterson
Councillor Judy Rainsforth
Councillor Tom Regis
Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor Mick Tinker

In Attendance:

Manjeet Gill	Chief Executive
Ian Knowles	Director of Resources
Mark Sturgess	Chief Operating Officer
Penny Sharp	Commercial Director
Russell Stone	Head of Finance
Dinah Lilley	Governance and Civic Officer

Also Present: 7 members of the public

35 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Council Chairman referred to discussion that had taken place at the meeting on 28 July regarding the use of microphones and apologised to Councillor Wiseman for comments that had been made.

36 COUNCIL MINUTES 28 JULY 2014 (Paper A)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 28 July 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

37 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors McNeill, Brockway and Caine declared non-pecuniary interests in that they knew the person who had registered to speak in Public Participation, and Councillor Milne declared that the individual had also contacted Sir Edward Leigh MP via herself.

Councillors Cotton, Curtis, Fleetwood and Summers declared that they were the West Lindsey Members of the Joint Planning Unit, in relation to the Public Participation.

Councillor Doran declared a non-pecuniary interest in the question to be submitted by Councillors Wiseman and Rodgers as he was planning to attend the ACIS AGM.

38 MATTERS ARISING (Paper C)

RESOLVED that the Matters Arising be noted.

39 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman of the Council

The Chairman noted that his list of engagements had been circulated around Councillors and highlighted two events which had been notable. On 26 July 2014 he had attended 'Leaving Home' the BBC's World War One At Home Concert at the Arboretum, Monks Road, Lincoln, and thoroughly recommended this for everyone to see. On 3 August 2014 the Chairman had attended the Royal British Legion's Church Service to commemorate the Centenary of World War One at All Saints Parish Church in Gainsborough.

The Chairman noted that he was happy to provide further details on any event if anyone wished more information.

Leader of the Council

The Council Leader noted that many Members had been away during August on annual holidays. The Deputy Leader had been keeping Members informed with feedback from the Leaders' Panel and regular news bulletins.

Head of Paid Service

As an update on business development and economic regeneration the Chief Executive informed Members that she was scheduled to attend a meeting with other Councils to look at LEPs, and more information would follow. She had also recently met with business owners on MOD sites. Hemswell was now seen as an asset, and there was the potential for LEP funding to assist. Support was being sought for masterplans and the County Council had prioritised Hemswell as a key area for business growth.

Discussion had also been held with group leaders on the Council's future budget. In comparison with other Councils West Lindsey was in a good financial position, but there were still savings to be found in future years. The Chief Executive proposed that Member workshops be held on a commercial approach to budget management.

40 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Gordon Allen had attended, with a mandate from the residents of Saxilby, to participate in this part of the meeting.

“The NPPF is creating an overwhelming increase in applications for large housing developments on ‘greenfield’ land in rural settlements surrounding Lincoln.

Residents perceive the emerging CLJSPU Local Plan, annotating such sites in the CLSHLAA document will, in the words of Edward Leigh MP, ‘have a significant detrimental effect on the character of and quality of life in these communities.’

Accordingly, we urge the Council to break free from the shackles of this unjustified and undemocratic alliance to regain independence as a Forward Planning Unit to provide a District Local Plan. Moreover, our plea has the full support of our MP.”

The Leader of the Council responded by thanking Mr Allen for his question.

“The Government has reduced the barriers to building new houses in recent years against a backdrop of housing completion in general falling to a post-war low. The Government is encouraging house building as a way of boosting economic growth, ensuring housing are affordable, to make it easier for young people to get on the housing ladder and to help meet the housing needs of older people. This is reflected in the National Planning Policy Framework. We have a responsibility as a local planning authority to produce a local plan to help shape housing developments in the District. Due to the interconnectedness between the economies and housing markets of West Lindsey, City of Lincoln and North Kesteven we chose in 2009 to prepare a joint local plan covering the three Districts. This joint local plan is the best way of ensuring we have full and up to date local plan coverage within a reasonable length of time and at reasonable cost.

At a meeting of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on 1 September 2014 a first draft of the local plan was approved for public

engagement, beginning on 1 October. I would encourage all those who have a view on the quantity and location of development in the District up to 2036 to engage with this process.

As well as the published documents there will be drop in sessions in various parts of the District (venues) which will allow residents to question planning officers and councillors.

I repeat this is a genuine opportunity for residents to influence the content of the local plan before any decisions are made at a strategic level * about the amount and location of development the District should take.”

The Chairman offered Mr Allen the opportunity of a brief supplemental question, following which, he made note of paragraphs 150, 153 and 154 of the NPPF which referred to Local Plans, and reiterated that there was no confidence in the JPU.

The Leader responded again stating that the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan was still only part way through production. Further details on specific allocations would be drawn up next year and more consultation would be undertaken in due course.

41 QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9

A question had been submitted by Councillors Diana Rodgers and Geoff Wiseman.

“On the 28th of April 2014, together with Councillor Strange, I asked that West Lindsey District Councillors should support funding for an extra visiting warden for sheltered housing where ACIS had previously provided full time wardens.

In his response the Leader said that he would ask for the issue of additional warden support for the sheltered accommodation to be thoroughly investigated. During discussion, it was suggested that the Longhurst model be looked at as an alternative; and the Chief Executive noted that it may be useful to look at the problem within the context of Supporting People.

On the 2nd of September a report was presented to the Prosperous Communities Committee in which it was recommended that officers continue to monitor the services in ACIS sheltered accommodation and that a report be brought back to the Committee once a full year's monitoring information on the new provision is available.

Through her work in the Voluntary Sector, Councillor Mrs Rodgers has had regular contact with the residents of Park House, in Welton; and she has frequently discussed concerns and issues with me and with Councillor Strange.

In preparation for last Tuesday's meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee, Councillor Rodgers visited Park House and spoke to residents. The report presented to the Committee deals with percentages; but Councillor Rodgers deals with people. Councillor Rodgers was so alarmed by

what she was told that she asked me to visit, to see for myself, and hear what the residents had to say.

I will not go into detail about structural defects and deficiencies; but I have to report that residents were very emotional and repeatedly thanked us for taking the time to come and listen to them, in the hope that we could do something about their worries and fears.

Again, I will not go into detail about operational issues: so suffice it to say that a recent management meeting with residents should have been held in a village hall; but it was locked. The meeting then reconvened in a local public house; and when the elderly residents could not mount the stairs leading to the meeting room; the meeting was then reconvened in the pub car park.

Can Councillor Rodgers and I have an assurance from the Leader that the resolutions that were approved at Prosperous Communities Committee on 2nd September 2014 are implemented quickly to enable a full report outlining the options available to this Council can be brought back to Prosperous Communities Committee within six months?”

The Leader of the Council responded by thanking Cllrs Rodgers and Wiseman for their question.

“Council heard about the changes in the resident wardens service in Acis sheltered accommodation in April. It is clear that at the time this changed caused much concern in these schemes. Through Council Prosperous Communities Committee was asked to receive a report outlining the concerns and setting out the options available to the Council to assist in this area. In doing this it has to be remembered that the Council is not the organisation responsible for the sheltered accommodation and that Acis are not the only registered providers who operate older persons’ accommodation in the District.

On 2nd September 2014 Prosperous Communities Committee received a progress report on the work being undertaken by this council in this area. Without wanting to repeat what was in that report it was clear from the monitoring information available from the providers (Acis/Wellbeing Service) that there have been very few issues reported with the new arrangements. Prosperous Communities Committee resolved to continue to monitor the situation and to seek residents’ views on the support offered since the withdrawal of the resident wardens in April. I support the resolutions of the Committee and fully expect a report to be brought back to the Committee within six months.”

The Leader then stated that he expected full communication between Members and sheltered housing schemes in their wards. It was affirmed that a full list of all schemes would be provided for all Members.

Councillor Rodgers elaborated further on the issue, and the Leader commended Councillor Rodgers for the initiative she had taken on this matter.

Note: Councillor Milne declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as she was the West Lindsey representative on the ACIS management board.

Note: The Leader of the Council then referred to the previous item and extended an invitation to Mr Gordon Allen to meet with himself and officers outside of the Council meeting to discuss the issues with the emerging Local Plan.

42 CONSTITUTION CHANGES FOLLOWING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

The Head of Central Services introduced the report emphasising that the details regarding the Anti-Social Behaviour legislation had been considered by the Prosperous Communities Committee, and that the report before Council was simply for approval of the required Constitutional changes.

The Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee reiterated the statement made by the Head of Central Services and moved the recommendations.

Members emphasised that the public needed to have confidence in being able to approach the correct authority to report problems and that action would be taken.

Given the proposed devolved powers to officers, it was questioned what safeguards were in place to protect the public. The Head of Central Services resolved to look into the matter.

The proposed changes to the wording in the Constitution were set out in the report, however an amendment was proposed, seconded and voted upon.

RESOLVED that:

“2. To appoint, authorise, nominate, named persons or organisations to...” be amended to read “...suitably qualified named persons ...”

The amended recommendation was then moved, seconded and voted upon.

RESOLVED that the amendments to the constitution as detailed in Section 3(a) and 3(b) of the report, subject to the inclusion of the words ‘suitably qualified’ under Part 4, page 32 paragraph 2a.

43 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS PUBLISHED SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING ON 28 JULY 2014.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Committee meetings published since the last Council meeting on 28 July 2014 be received.

The meeting concluded at 7.53pm.

Chairman