

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Extraordinary Council held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Gainsborough, on Monday 10 November 2014, at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Malcolm Parish (In the Chair)
Councillor Sue Rawlins (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Gillian Bardsley	Councillor Malcolm Leaning
Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor Giles McNeill
Councillor Mark Binns	Councillor Pat Mewis
Councillor Ken Bridger	Councillor Jessie Milne
Councillor Jackie Brockway	Councillor Irmgard Parrott
Councillor Alan Caine	Councillor Roger Patterson
The Revd Councillor David Cotton	Councillor Judy Rainsforth
Councillor Stuart Curtis	Councillor Di Rodgers
Councillor Chris Darcel	Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor Chris Day	Councillor Reg Shore
Councillor Richard Doran	Councillor Lewis Strange
Councillor Ian Fleetwood	Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan	Councillor Mick Tinker
Councillor Burt Keimach	Councillor Anne Welburn
Councillor Stuart Kinch	Councillor Geoff Wiseman

In Attendance:

Manjeet Gill	Chief Executive
Mark Sturgess	Chief Operating Officer
Ian Knowles	Director of Resources
Alan Robinson	Head of Central Services and Monitoring Officer
Kim Leith	Health and Safety Co-ordinator
Dinah Lilley	Governance and Civic Officer

Also Present 7 members of the public

49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Nigel Bowler
Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Angela Lawrence
Councillor Tom Regis

Note Councillor Day had apologised in advance to say he may be late.

50 LONE WORKING PRESENTATION

The Health and Safety Co-ordinator had attended the meeting in order to give the Lone Working presentation as had been recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee on 4 September 2014 as it had been considered very relevant for Members to be aware of the dangers which could be encountered when working alone.

Several Members echoed the issues which had been highlighted and mentioned that consideration should even be given to attire and parking position.

The Policy containing the appendix specific to Members would be circulated following the meeting.

Note Councillor Day arrived at 7.05pm.

51 COUNCIL MINUTES

- a) **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 8 September 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.
- b) **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 8 September 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.
- c) **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 22 October 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

52 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Cotton, Curtis and Summers declared that in relation to Paper F, they were the Council's representatives on the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee, and Councillor Fleetwood the reserve Member.

Councillor McNeill declared a pecuniary interest in relation to the motion as he was a regular train user.

53 MATTERS ARISING (PAPER D)

The Chairman noted that all items were showing as black as having been completed.

RESOLVED that the Matters Arising be noted.

54 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i) Chairman of the Council

The Chairman highlighted some of his recent engagements, the full list having previously been circulated around Members. Those events the Chairman mentioned included: the Mayor of Newark's Annual Battle of Britain Commemoration Service at Newark Town Hall followed by the Chairman of East Lindsey District Council's Civic Service; two days of the University of Lincoln's Graduation Ceremonies at Lincoln Cathedral; RAF Scampton's Annual Formal Reception and Sunset Ceremony; RAF Hemswell Day Remembrance Service; the Gainsborough Business Awards; the Mayor of Gainsborough, Cllr Mick Tinker's, Civic Service at All Saints Parish Church; the WLDC Macmillan Coffee Morning; the Lincoln Aero Club Dinner at Hemswell Court; the Gainsborough town's Sci-Fi and Halloween market; and the Chairman's own Civic Service at St Mary's Church in Welton and for which he wished to thank all who attended and made the occasion such a special and memorable one.

The Vice Chairman of Council (Councillor Mrs Sue Rawlins) noted that she had also been honoured to attend the University of Lincoln's Graduation Ceremonies at Lincoln Cathedral and to share in the Students' special day.

The Mayor of Gainsborough, Cllr Mick Tinker, also wished to express his thanks for all those Council officers and the traders involved for the success of the Sci-Fi and Halloween market weekend.

ii) Leader of the Council

Councillor Summers informed the Councillors that at that morning's meeting of the CLJSPC it had been announced that there had been over 400 submissions for development sites of 25 or more dwellings. From November to January there would be an assessment of schools, shops and public transport, followed by site selection between February and July. The second draft would be released for consultation in July 2015.

A total of 83 gypsy and traveller pitches would be required by 2036, and there would shortly be guidance for parishes on working on Neighbourhood Plans, following which the final consultation would be out in January 2016.

iii) Head of Paid Service

The Chief Executive noted that current focus remained on the future of the Council's budget which was likely to continue to be difficult. Discussions around growth in the District were focussed on promoting as much as possible in Gainsborough, whilst also considering the strategic position of the A15 around Hemswell and Scampton. Funding was also being sought from the LEP.

The Chief Executive shared with Councillors that she had recently met with some investors from London who were considering Gainsborough as a potential site for relocation, in terms of what the area could offer, which was really positive.

55 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the public.

56 QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9

There were no questions pursuant to Council procedure rule 9.

Note Councillor Doran declared a pecuniary interest in the following motion as he was employed by East Midlands trains.

Note Councillors McNeill and Doran left the meeting for consideration of the following item.

57 MOTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10

Chairman.

On Friday 10th of October 2014 I attended an East Midlands rail summit at Loughborough accompanied by Councillor Lewis Strange. In excess of 100 delegates from the East Midlands were addressed by ELEVEN speakers. It was a full and very interesting day. The speakers were:

The Right Honourable Nicky Morgan MP

Anna Walker office of rail regulation

Phil Verster network rail

David Horne East Midlands trains

John Smith GB Railfreight

Alison Munro HS2limited

Councillor Jon Collins chair of East Midlands HS2 programme board Lilian Greenwood MP shadow rail minister Bridget Roundswell Volterra Ltd George Cowcher Derbyshire Notts and Leicestershire chamber of commerce Michelle Craven-Faulkner Derby and Derbyshire rail Forum.

The main driver for the summit was HS2. But it very soon became apparent there would be fringe benefits for places like Gainsborough and Lincoln. Lincoln city is a city destined for growth, you can see it happening right before your eyes. Growth is inevitable once the economy begins to move forward and this is where we as the local authority must influence how and where expansion occurs.

With that growth will come increased pressures on accessibility mainly highways.

Unless we shape the future.

I put some questions to the panel following presentations and during our lunch break Phil Verster of network rail approached me to say, "if you require rail improvements for the future you must begin lobbying now".

Mr Chairman it is obvious to me we have a number of areas in which we could lobby.

The A158 coming in from the coast via Horncastle and Wragby through Langworth is an extremely busy route in a morning and evening. A station at Langworth would enable commuters to park their cars at Langworth and ride on to Lincoln Central Station reducing the amount of congestion for the city. Another potential stop would be in the region of Fiskerton/Cherry Willingham. This Feeder Line comes all the way from Grimsby through Market Rasen These facilities would need to be DDA compliant for obvious reasons.

Serious consideration should also be given to the rail link between Lincoln and Fellingby airport via Saxilby and Gainsborough. It was also noted how one speaker made a joke of Gainsborough Central Station pointing out the coach service arrived one minute after the train had left.

Mr Chairman.

I propose this Council forms a working group to build a case of justification for rail improvements through West Lindsey. This working group will work collaboratively with Lincoln City Council, Lincolnshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council to formulate a representation to The HS2 program board, network rail, East Midlands trains and the Minister for rail.

I so move

JJ Summers

The Leader of the Opposition expressed his support for the motion and this was echoed by other Members. It was agreed that more support was needed generally for rural public transport and a strategic view was required with everyone on board from neighbouring authorities. An individual's name was also suggested as being a key group member.

It was proposed, seconded and voted upon that the matter be referred to the Prosperous Communities Committee.

RESOLVED that the content of the motion be referred to the Prosperous Communities Committee for detailed investigation and the establishment of a working group.

59 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODY (PAPER E)

The Head of Central Services introduced the report which required the nomination of a West Lindsey District Councillor to be a representative on Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield.

RESOLVED that Councillor Lewis Strange be appointed to the position of the Council's representative on Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield, with Councillor Alan Caine as reserve.

60 CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL PLAN - RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION (PAPER F)

The Chief Executive introduced a comprehensive report which provided details of the key consultation responses arising from: Member consultation workshops; the Extraordinary Council Meeting of 22nd October 2014; and also individual councillor responses to Local Plan consultation.

The report also outlined the process and timetable of the Local Plan procedure and summarised the key issues arising. Proposals for additional arrangements were included to ensure effective input by Parishes and Councillors representing West Lindsey to shape the Local Plan for its next draft stage.

The proposed West Lindsey District Council formal response to the consultation was set out in the report and had to be submitted by Tuesday 11 November 2014.

Lengthy discussion ensued on various aspects of the report and the consultation response. Subjects raised included: Local Plan staffing levels; support for Neighbourhood Plans; Government funding; the grouping allocations of various settlements; inclusion of Councillor comments; comparisons with other areas (including France); and Planning Inspectorate decisions based on the weight afforded to different levels of Plan preparation.

There were still significant concerns regarding what was seen as speculative opportunistic development in inappropriate locations and that the reinstatement of development boundaries would help in resisting this. There was a need to differentiate between those areas that wanted growth and those that did not. The representatives that sat on the CLJSPC assured fellow Councillors that West Lindsey's views were emphasised and that the representatives of the other partner Councils did not dictate what happened elsewhere.

It was proposed and seconded that an amendment be included to encourage working with partners to lobby the Government to seek a window preventing inappropriate development until such time as National Policy, the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans are all aligned with each other.

On being voted upon, this was **AGREED**.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the submission of the Council response as proposed in the report along with the appendices attached be approved;
- b) a lead Members' group representative of the political makeup of the Council, be established especially at key stages such as during land allocation;
- c) the Chief Executive be tasked to work with the CLJSPC to produce a parish survey, which will particularly help to inform the Allocation and Settlement Strategy;
- d) having given consideration to the report and appendices the Council work and engage with other Councils to seek support to approach the

Government for a window to prevent opportunistic development until such time as a Local Plan is in place and in alignment with National Policy and Neighbourhood Plans.

61 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS PUBLISHED SINCE THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2014.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Committee meetings published since the last Council meeting on 8 September 2014 be received.

The meeting concluded at 9.07pm.

Chairman