

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillor Roger Patterson (In the Chair)

Councillor Gillian Bardsley	Councillor Paul Howitt - Cowan
Councillor Sheila Bibb	Councillor Giles McNeill
Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor John McNeill
Councillor Matthew Boles	Councillor Pat Mewis
Councillor David Bond	Councillor Jessie Milne
Councillor Alexander Bridgwood	Councillor Di Rodgers
Councillor Jackie Brockway	Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor David Cotton	Councillor Reg Shore
Councillor Stuart Curtis	Councillor Thomas Smith
Councillor Chris Darcel	Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor Michael Devine	Councillor Anne Welburn
Councillor Steve England	Councillor Angela White
Councillor Ian Fleetwood	

In Attendance:

Manjeet Gill	Chief Executive
Ian Knowles	Director of Resources
Mark Sturgess	Chief Operating Officer
Penny Sharp	Commercial Director
Alan Robinson	Strategic Lead for Democratic and Business Support and Monitoring Officer
Tracey Bircumshaw	Group Accountant
Dinah Lilley	Governance and Civic Officer

Also in Attendance Deacon Stephen Boulter

Also Present 4 members of the public

35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Adam Duguid
Councillor Angela Lawrence
Councillor Hugo Marfleet
Councillor Richard Oaks
Councillor Malcolm Parish
Councillor Judy Rainsforth
Councillor Tom Regis
Councillor Lewis Strange
Councillor Trevor Young

36 PRESENTATION from the Alzheimer's Society - Leading the fight against dementia – Gary Burr

Gary Burr of the Alzheimer's Society attended the meeting to give a presentation on the impact of dementia on society. Dementia remains a national challenge in terms of its scale and impact. Research showed that by 2015 there were 850,000 people in the UK who had dementia, not all of these were older people, younger persons could also be affected. This caused a significant impact on thousands of carers.

It was estimated that there were over 11,000 sufferers in Lincolnshire, with 1,372 in West Lindsey. Facing problems such as loneliness and lack of government support and costing the nation over £26.3bn, appeals were made for increased awareness from both communities and businesses and a change in societal attitudes.

The role of the Local Dementia Action Alliance was to recruit local organisations and work with them to become more dementia friendly and to encourage and support dementia friendly communities. Appeals were made for volunteers to become Dementia Friends, and the benefits of singing groups were described.

The Chairman thanked Mr Burr for his interesting and informative presentation, and Councillors commended the work of the association. Information leaflets were available. Acknowledgement was also made of the work undertaken by previous Councillor Alan Caine.

37 COUNCIL MINUTES (PAPER A)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 27 July 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

38 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

39 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.

40 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i) Vice Chairman of the Council

Councillor Patterson mentioned two engagements of note that he had attended, namely the flag raising for the Merchant Navy, which was to become an annual event, and also the launch of Caistor in Bloom, for which he wished the town the best of luck.

ii) Leader of the Council

Councillor Summers firstly noted the current refugee crisis and assured everyone present that West Lindsey District Council was ready to take whatever action it could to help to support those in need and fleeing to the UK. Owing to WLDC's success in bringing empty homes back into use there was limited capacity, however Officers had been asked to assess capabilities and a conference call with 20 other agencies had taken place.

The next Local Plan Consultation document of 430 pages had been approved by the Joint Strategic Planning Committee. The consultation dates were due to be announced shortly.

Devolution was an opportunity to be grasped with both hands and work was ongoing on this.

A South West Ward working group had been established through the Challenge and Improvement Committee to tackle inequalities.

Congratulations were also passed to Councillor Giles McNeill who had been invited to Chair the Commercial Board of the Association of Public Service Excellence.

Thanks were expressed to two officers from Waste Services who had recently stopped to assist at the scene of an accident, their actions were commended.

iii) Head of Paid Service

The Chief Executive commenced her announcements by informing the Councillors of the new management appointments. Eve Fawcett-Moralee was now the Strategic Lead for Economic Development and Neighbourhoods, and Sarah Troman the Strategic Lead for Housing and Regeneration, with Michelle Carrington due to commence as Strategic Lead for Customer First later this month.

The Chief Operating Officer had been requested to focus on the review of the Planning service, and the Regulatory Team Manager was managing a co-ordinated approach to dealing with anti-social behaviour and community safety.

Local Plan Workshops had been arranged in order to assist Councillors in engaging with Communities prior to the next Consultation period at the beginning of October. West Lindsey was just one of four partners involved in this process, so it was also important to consider the Council's response to the Consultation, this would be co-ordinated into a report for submission to the Prosperous Communities Committee. This would be the last public consultation prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

Council had agreed at the last meeting to submit an Expression of Interest for Devolution, this had been submitted on Friday 4 September and had also been circulated to Councillors for information. Several meetings had taken place with other organisations and the Government was being requested to engage and negotiate with Lincolnshire. The first tranche of successful authorities were to be announced in the next few days and more in due course. The project would be a catalyst for more partnership working. Councillors commended the work being undertaken on the Devolution project.

Regarding the refugee crisis, meetings had taken place with the County Council and other agencies, and details were awaited from the Government. The LGA lead spokesperson was working on details and once the scale of the problem was understood, information would be circulated. Councillor Darcel asked if the Council could assist local benefactors to provide assistance to refugees and it was agreed that it was necessary to engage with all sectors in the local community.

41 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Strategic Lead for Democratic and Business Support read out a question which had been submitted by a member of the public:

“SLAB ALLEY

The passage, known as Slab Alley, goes from the Market Square though to a Car Park, back of B & M's, Caskgate Surgery, and on towards Whittons Gardens and the Riverside.

In 1962, I with many others, walked through that passage until we were stopped (gated).

We think the Alley is a walkway that should be reopened to everyone. It's part of the past and the town, because we have walked though it for many, many years.

The Disabled used the car park to cut through to Boots, shopping in market square and return. Same with folk from Caskgate Surgery.

My friend and I loved to go across to the riverside with sandwiches on beautiful days.

I'm sure that each person who has signed the petition will have memories to share.

Whilst I understand this is a County Council matter (and I intend to present my petition to them), the reason I am here tonight is to ask you as my local District Council, whether you would consider making a representation of support of my plight to the County Council on behalf of the community and residents who have signed the petition.

Regards, Rose Kettleborough”

Councillor Bierley, as Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee, thanked Mrs Kettleborough for her question stating that the alley was not on land owned by West Lindsey District Council and the public body responsible for this work area was the County Council. However he did support her suggestion and the Council had to take note when such a large number of residents felt strongly about an issue. He therefore moved that the Monitoring officer be delegated authority to write to the County Council to offer the support to the request.

Members noted the conjecture of the ownership of the land, however even if in private ownership the County Council could ascertain if the alley was a designated Public Right of Way. It was agreed that the alley was part of the character of the Market Place.

It was moved, seconded and voted upon that the proposal be supported.

RESOLVED that the Monitoring officer be delegated authority to write to the County Council to offer the support to the request regarding Slab Alley.

42 QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9

There were no questions pursuant to Council procedure rule no. 9.

43 MOTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10

The following motion had been received from Councillors Giles McNeill and David Cotton.

“West Lindsey District Council has in recent years held an awards Ceremony to celebrate the contribution and achievements of both individuals and groups within the district.

No awards ceremony took place in the previous civic year.

Following a meeting of the Community Awards Panel it was felt that it was important to have a scheme of community awards, supported by the Council. On the basis that new members of the Council, elected in May 2015, may not be aware of the current awards system, the Panel felt it would be best to run a scheme of community awards, along similar lines as in previous years; so that all councillors can evaluate and make recommendations in the future to improve the scheme.

Therefore I move that the Council:

> runs a Community Awards scheme and present awards in the current civic

year

- > Encourages Councillors and other stakeholders to make nominations
- > Encourages members to use the opportunity to evaluate the Community Awards scheme and make recommendations to the Panel to improve any future scheme”

The Leader of the Council responded by thanking Councillors McNeill and Cotton.

“As I am sure you are aware the Deputy leader and I agreed a civic program with our Head of Paid Service prior to annual council. This ceremony was seen as a key element of our program. I therefore fully support your motion.”

The Council Vice Chairman commended the excellent scheme, and the Leader of the Opposition noted the existing Alderman scheme and requested support for both. It was also noted that awards could be bestowed on groups as well as individuals.

RESOLVED that the motion be supported.

44 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT SERVICE 2014-15 (PAPER C)

The Director of Resources introduced the report informing Members that it met the Council’s responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2003. The report was an annual review of Treasury Management activities and the Actual Prudential and Treasury indicators for 2014/15.

It also complied with the CIPFA Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

The Council had complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The report set out the appropriate indicators, targets for those indicators and actual outcomes for the year.

Two key aspects included a review of funding for Capital Expenditure and how the Council managed available funds. The current interest rates being achieved were then listed.

Members commended the report, its layout and clarity, and in responding to a number of questions, e.g. the impact of the Chinese economy and also Pension liabilities, the Director of Resources and the Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee clarified that further details would be set out in reports being submitted to the Governance and Audit Committee, which would be available shortly.

RESOLVED that Members accept and approve the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2014/15 and the actual 2014/15 Prudential and Treasury Indicators contained therein.

45 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS PUBLISHED SINCE THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 27 JULY 2015.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Committee meetings published since the Council meeting on 27 July 2015 be received.

The meeting concluded at 8.17 pm.

Chairman