

# Public Document Pack

West Lindsey District Council - 6 November 2023

## WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA on 6 November 2023 at 7.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Stephen Bunney (Chairman)  
Councillor Matthew Boles (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Emma Bailey	Councillor John Barrett
Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor Trevor Bridgwood
Councillor Mrs Jackie Brockway	Councillor Frazer Brown
Councillor Karen Carless	Councillor Liz Clews
Councillor Christopher Darcel	Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Adam Duguid	Councillor Jacob Flear
Councillor Ian Fleetwood	Councillor Sabastian Hague
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan	Councillor Paul Key
Councillor Paul Lee	Councillor Jeanette McGhee
Councillor Peter Morris	Councillor Lynda Mullally
Councillor Maureen Palmer	Councillor Roger Patterson
Councillor Roger Pilgrim	Councillor Mrs Diana Rodgers
Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings	Councillor Tom Smith
Councillor Jim Snee	Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee
Councillor Paul Swift	Councillor Baptiste Velan
Councillor Moira Westley	Councillor Trevor Young

**In Attendance:**

Ian Knowles	Chief Executive
Emma Foy	Director of Corporate Services and Section 151
Lisa Langdon	Assistant Director for People and Democratic and Monitoring Officer
Katie Storr	Democratic Services & Elections Team Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

**Also Present:** 3 x Representatives from Keelby Parish Council / Neighbourhood Planning Group  
2 x Representatives from Hemswell Cliff / Neighbourhood Planning Group

**Apologies** Councillor Eve Bennett  
Councillor Mrs Angela Lawrence

### 32 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND TRIBUTES POST STORM BABEL

The Chairman welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting.

A warm welcome was also extended to representatives from both Keelby Parish Council and

Hemswell Cliff Parish Council, who would later in the meeting present their approved Neighbourhood Plans to Full Council.

Before commencement of the formal business, the Chairman took the opportunity to reference the recent flooding across the District and the fantastic response by the District Council's staff when people were in need. He considered this had been of great comfort to those effected, knowing they were being supported. Whilst thanking those on the front-line, he also paid tribute to those other Council Officers working to keep the councils normal functions running, whilst resources were diverted, noting he had written to all staff to such effect.

On hearing the Chairman's comments, Members across the Chamber, sought and were granted, the opportunity to express their gratitude too.

A Cherry Willingham Ward Member commented on having been very impressed with the co-ordination efforts between West Lindsey Officers and staff at other agencies involved, referencing how useful and beneficial the single point of contact approach had been. There had been no "information vacuum" and with over 80 families effected in the Ward, being able to provide up to date and accurate information had been much appreciated by all. Personal tribute was paid to the Director of Commercial and Operational Services.

The Ward Councillor for Bardney, expressed thanks for how staff and all agencies had acted in his Ward, speaking of his reassurance at seeing sandbags arriving throughout the night and well into the early hours. He too spoke of co-ordinated efforts, agencies working together, commenting that residents did not want to be pushed between agencies, they simply wished to be helped, and this is what he had seen happening. Concern was expressed that this was only the start of the storm season and with ground saturated, and water to flow off the land, further problems could be experienced over the coming days and longer winter period.

Councillors from across the Chamber were encouraged to feed through their individual experiences, thoughts and suggestions for improvements to the County Flood Management Group and West Lindsey's own flooding working Group. The Chairman further indicated he was minded to bring a motion to a future meeting in order that Members could debate the matters at greater length.

Ward Members for Welton, Scotter and Cherry Willingham shared similar experiences, thanked a number of officers personally for their work over the entire weekend and into the nights and of how quickly residents needs were addressed.

Bringing comments to an end, Members commented on how community spirit had shone through in effected areas and considered residents should be thanked too for the support and understanding they had shown one another.

A lessons learnt exercise would be undertaken and Members were again encouraged to feed into the relevant agencies.

### **33 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 26 JUNE 2023**

Having been proposed and seconded, it was: -

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on 26 June 2023 be confirmed, approved and signed as a correct record.

### **34 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 12 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Having been proposed and seconded, it was: -

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Full Council held on 12 September, 2023 be confirmed, approved and signed as a correct record.

**Note:** The Officer named within the following item of business left Chamber at this point in the meeting.

### **35 APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER**

The Chairman presented the report which sought to appoint to the Statutory post of Monitoring Officer for West Lindsey District Council, following the successful recruitment to the permanent post of Assistant Director of People and Democratic.

The report included brief detail of the recruitment process, the statutory functions of the MO and Ms Langdon's previous experience. Members involved in the recruitment process spoke of the candidate's excellent nature, demonstrated in interview.

The recommendations were proposed and seconded. On being put to the vote, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that

- (a) in accordance with the terms of Part I, 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended) and all subsequent related legislation, Ms Lisa Langdon be appointed and designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer, with immediate effect; and
- (b) the Constitution be amended, as necessary, to reflect the revised appointment.

Following the decision, the appointed Officer returned to the Chamber.

The Chairman congratulated Ms Langdon on her appointment and Members associated themselves with the Chairman's comments, concluding with a round of applause.

### **36 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this point in the meeting. The Chairman reminded Members that they could make a declaration at any point in the meeting should they feel it necessary to do so.

### **37 MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman introduced the report advising Members that it would be taken "as read" unless any Members had any questions that they wished to raise.

With no comments or questions, and with no requirement to vote, the matters arising were **DULY NOTED**.

### **38 PRESENTATION ITEM - TO FORMALLY RECEIVE THE KEELBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Council was reminded that the Neighbourhood Plan for the parish of Keelby, had been adopted at the last meeting. Unfortunately, it had not been feasible for a Keelby Parish Council representative to be present, to take part in the "tradition" of formally handing over adopted plans, to celebrate the Parish's success.

Representatives from Keelby Parish Council and its' Neighbourhood Planning Group were in attendance, this evening. Councillor Sue Knight, Chairman of Keelby Parish Council (KPC), Councillor Trevor Wright (KPC) and Adrian Mitchell, lead volunteer on the Neighbourhood Planning Group were formally welcomed to the meeting. The Chairman also advised the chamber that he had visited the Parish to see the sites referenced within the Plan.

The Local Ward Member was invited to address the Chamber and spoke of his delight at seeing this document reach its final stages and of the dedication needed to complete such Plans.

Following which, Councillor Trevor Wright of KPC made the following statement: -

"Thank you for the invitation this evening, and opportunity for us to present the Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Keelby. My name is Councillor Trevor Wright, and with me today I have Councillor Sue Knight, Chair of Keelby Parish Council and Adrian Mitchell, a resident who had a large part in the development of our plan.

Keelby village is classed as a large village, is part of the Caistor and Yarborough Ward, it is located on the most northerly boarder of the West Lindsey District, neighbouring both North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire Districts. We often feel very isolated, but I'm delighted to say that we have 2 very proactive and capable District Councillors living in or very close to our Parish, and we are very grateful to Councillor Lawrence and Councillor Bierley for their continuous support and guidance.

With a current population of a little over 2,100, there are approximately 970 dwellings, 10 or so businesses and 2 pubs; but as is the case everywhere, local businesses are dealing with challenging times at the moment.

We pride ourselves on Keelby being a nice place to live, and we as a Parish Council are keen for the village to retain its charm and community spirit, which is important to our residents. It was for this reason that we wanted to develop a Neighbourhood Plan, to give us some control of how the village might develop in the future.

Our neighbourhood Plan (presented to you today) focusses on 7 Planning Objectives that support our vision which reads:

“Our Community Vision for Keelby

Keelby will continue to be a thriving large village community with provision of key services, a good selection of local businesses / shops / amenities a broad range of locally accessible employment opportunities.

It will maintain and improve its overall sustainability, retain its village character and rural atmosphere while ensuring that it’s valued historic Listed Buildings, non-designated heritage assets, local environment, Open and Green spaces are not compromised or lost.”

In support of this we have specified the following Planning Objectives:

Planning Objective 1 focusses on retaining the character of the village, which is most important to us and our residents. Feedback from the vast majority of our residents when surveyed expressed the importance of open spaces, easy access to the countryside and the retention of green and open spaces; with over 80% of responses stating this as their highest priority.

Linked to this Planning Objective 2 centres on the planning of new, large-scale, residential development, and whilst we acknowledge the need for us to support planning objective laid out in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, we are keen to limit the number of large-scale development in the village. An 80 dwelling site has been approved, and a further development for up to 100 dwellings if referenced in our plan, but other than these, we are keen to restrict further development greater than 10 dwellings as we believe that this will begin to impact on the character of the village.

Planning Objective 3 is associated with the smaller scale developments and changes to existing properties. With regards to these, we are keen to ensure that their design features and principles are both in line with current standards and requirements, but also complement the character and appearance of their surroundings and minimise any adverse impact on the Neighbourhood.

Planning Objective 4 focusses on the development of Business and Services to

support the long-term sustainability of the village and its residents. Successful and thriving local businesses form an essential and very important part in this long-term sustainability, economic viability and vibrancy of the local community. They contribute to the village in many ways providing valuable local services, employment opportunities and indeed essential social contact.

Furthermore, we are particularly proud of our Sports Ground that hosts Football, Cricket, Tennis and Bowls clubs along with a well-used Skate Park. Initiated by the Parish Council Millennium investment and opened in 2006, the site is the envy of many and offers sports and recreation to 100's of residents and local people. Additionally, with support from WLDC, we are continually improving recreational and play facilities on the village green for both our younger residents and also our more mature residents with the installation of adult gym equipment.

Planning Objective 5 deals with matter associated with the environment and countryside. An integral part of the character of Keelby continues to be that, although it is classed as a large village, its surrounding countryside remains quite rural. Although only a few miles from the important Humber Bank industrial and commercial zone, it is equally also very close to the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, part of which is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We are keen to ensure that we continue to enjoy this and develop in a way that continues to compliment. Therefore, we will continue to support the need for arable farming and the protection of local woodlands and wildlife habitats.

Planning Objective 6 deals with Roads and Transport issues raised by residents as part of the consultation survey, the main issues being associated with conditions of roads and pavements, speeding, access/parking and public transport. The lack of speed restrictions on busy roads that pass through or close to the village is a constant concern to us, and whilst the introduction of our Parish Council led Community Speed Watch initiative helps, there is still much to do and we will continue to liaise with the County Council to address these issues.

Finally, Planning Objective 7 addresses our aspirations to continually improve and develop our Walkways and Cycle routes, and all development proposals should provide links for walking routes to the central areas of Keelby where it is practicable to do so. Additionally, proposals that provide improved, safe cycle links to Immingham, Grimsby and the nearby National Cycle Route 1 will be actively supported.

Can I take this opportunity to thank the West Lindsey District Council Planning Support Team, particularly Nev Brown, who was a tremendous support to us throughout the process; and finally, I thank you for your time and for allowing us the opportunity to present our Neighbourhood Plan to you today.

The Chairman of Council then formally received the Plan from Councillor Wright to a round of applause from all Members and Officers.

Note: During the above item of business, Councillor Owen Bierley declared a personal interest as he had been a Member of the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

### **39 ADOPTION OF THE HEMSWELL CLIFF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Members gave consideration to a report to fully 'make' (adopt) the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan following a successful referendum. Once adopted the plan would become part of the development plan for the District and would have major influence on planning application decisions in the parish.

The Chairman of Council introduced the report and advised Members the Neighbourhood Plan had been prepared by a residents' steering group on behalf of the parish council; congratulating the Group for their time and effort in ensuring the Plan reached the final stage.

Members' attention was drawn to the compliments of the Examiner on the Plan and its policies, as detailed in the report.

The Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan had involved two rounds of public consultation and had been successful at both examination and referendum. The referendum, held on 19 October, had seen residents voting 95% in favour of the Plan.

The Chairman formally welcomed the Chairman of the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan Committee, Mrs Connie Hurd and Mr Mark Hurd, Committee Member to the meeting. Prior to Members debating the matter, the Chairman invited both the Ward Councillor and Mrs Hurd to address Council and present the successful Neighbourhood Plan.

The Ward Member spoke of his delight at reaching this stage, the enormous amount of work and commitment shown by the residents, and of the nuances the area experienced, given its former RAF base status.

Mrs Connie Hurd made the following statement: -

"Councillor Howitt-Cowan, Councillor Bunney, Nev Brown, Officers and Members of West Lindsey District Council and guests,

This is a day some of us in Hemswell Cliff have been waiting for since February 2016, which was 7 years and 6 months ago. Tonight is the night that West Lindsey District Council adopts the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan! (hopefully).

Little did my husband and I know that when we went along to learn about the neighbourhood plan for Hemswell Cliff, seven and a half years ago, that it would take so long to bring to completion, and a whole lot more work than we realised in the beginning.

Our Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan Committee was really pleased (and I was relieved) that when our referendum took place, the plan passed. It has been a long journey for a small group of people who knew little or nothing about planning and for some people at West Lindsey District Council as well as people from a myriad of organisations.

As most of you know, a lot of work goes into the preparation of these plans, with consulting the residents and local businesses about their thoughts and ideas, and in writing the plans to legal and acceptable standards. Then comes the scrutinizing and questioning of the plans by various agencies with resulting changes to be made. We want to thank many different people for making this happen: our parish clerk, Helen Reek; Hemswell Cliff parish council chairman, Graham Prestwood; Hemswell Cliff Primary School; Nev Brown of WLDC; the planners without whom we could not have produced this plan—Steve Kemp and his team from Open Plan and Luke Brown. We were fortunate enough to receive Grant Funding from the Neighbourhood Planning Programme, funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to support us through the process. We were also successful in obtaining Lottery Funding to undertake a whole range of community activities in 2017 and 2018. I add my thanks to all the residents and businesses that took part in events, activities, and questionnaires to make their thoughts and ideas known. A huge thank you goes to the members of the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan committee who have persevered over the long haul.

Unlike other traditional villages, you will all be aware that Hemswell Cliff is an ex-RAF base and as such has different issues. The process of planning for the future has helped many of us in Hemswell Cliff have a clearer vision for the future—one where many new jobs are offered and taken up as the Food Enterprise Zone sees food companies establish themselves at Hemswell Cliff. We are supportive of increased housing to support the FEZ which will in turn support additional facilities. It is also hoped that this will reduce the need to travel for employment so that people can live and work in Hemswell Cliff without having to commute into one of the surrounding towns or to Lincoln. The Plan is also supported by a Design Code setting out our vision for well-designed new developments. With a Neighbourhood Plan in place, the needed new housing will bring in funding so we can develop the infrastructure of our village through the Community Infrastructure Levy.

My husband and I have lived in Hemswell Cliff for 28 years and we hope to live there long enough to see some of these developments come into being.

Congratulations to Nev Brown and his team, to the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan Committee and to the residents of Hemswell Cliff!

Thank you all for listening.

Councillor Bunney, I present you with the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan”.

The Chairman of Council then formally received the Plan from Mr and Mrs Hurd to a round of applause from all Members.

The Chairman opened the matter for debate and Members across the floor congratulated the Group on their remarkable achievement with Members expressing their understanding of, and therefore their admiration of, the amount of work, engagement and involvement and determination it took to reach adopted status. Both the Leader and Deputy personally congratulated the Parish and spoke of the amazing work being undertaken at a local level.



The former Chairman of Planning Committee spoke of the importance of Neighbourhood Plans, the precedent level they held in terms of decision making; outlining the hierarchy of policy documents and the ability and impact of Neighbourhood Plans in allowing local people to actually set out what development they would like to see in their own locations, in their own environments. This gave people in each settlement the ability to put a focus on where and how they would like to see the planning system moving forwards.

Hemswell Cliff were considered to be an example to those still navigating the journey to achieving a Neighbourhood Plan.

Having been moved and seconded it was: -

**RESOLVED** that the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan be adopted and made.

**Note:** Councillor Adam Duguid declared an Other Registrable Interest, in that he owned a large amount of land within the Parish Plan area. He did not debate or vote on the matter in light of this fact.

## 40 ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Chairman

The Chairman addressed the Council, referencing briefly some of the events with which he had been involved and attended since Council last met.

It had been a privilege to represent the Council at the Memorial Service for former District Councillor, Alf Frith, it was a sad occasion for the family, but to hear of how Mr Frith had advocated for residents through his years of service was both positive and heartwarming.

The Chairman had raised the Flag for Emergency Services Day, outside of the Guildhall, thanking those who had attended. A worthy cause to be supported given the communities reliance on emergency services.

Other events attended included, Civic Services held by both North Lincolnshire Council and Lincolnshire County Council; a tour of Grimsby Docks, the Award Evening for the Lincolnshire College, where it had been a pleasure to see the students receive their qualifications and awards.

It had been an honour to attend the Destination Lincolnshire Awards Ceremony in October at the University of Lincoln. A handful of businesses from across the District were nominated for awards, with the Chairman delighted to advise that three businesses from West Lindsey had won an award and had now progressed to the National finals. Prior to the event the Chairman had spent time visiting all of those nominated and indicated his visits had been informative,

The Chairman had also commenced a round of industry visits, with the Leader and Deputy

Leader, also taking part, and Ward Members. Again the visits had provided a lot of learning.

The Chairman had also offered his support to a number of Community and Family Days including, horse racing at the Market Rasen Community Day, a performance of Wind in the Willows at the Market Rasen Leisure Centre and a number of performances at the Trinity Arts Centre in Gainsborough.

Bringing his announcements to an end, the Chairman spoke of visiting the depot to mark the retirement of a Council employee, who had worked for the Council for 44 years. It had been a privilege to mark the occasion and the Chairman wished to formally acknowledge and recognise the service and dedication of the employee, Mr Tony Stocks', in Full Council.

Finally, the Chairman invited fellow Councillors to attend his Civic Community Christmas Carol Concert, at the Methodist Church in Market Rasen, on 8 December. The Claxby Community Choir would be performing and there would be light refreshments following the Service – all were welcome.

## **Leader**

The Leader made the following address to Council: -

“Chairman, welcome to tonight's meeting, it's been several months since the last full Council meeting with lots to report, I will try and keep my announcements brief, I have the following items to report: -

The Scampton Asylum Centre proposal: -

Over the course of the last week, the High Court heard the substantive case of Judicial Review, this Council's challenge of the Home Office decision, to use RAF Scampton as a site for asylum accommodation. Our case, presented by our appointed legal team, supported by Officers, set out that the Home Office have failed to evidence a true emergency, in the terms required by planning legislation, known as the class Q, that they have not adequately assessed the environmental impacts of the proposal, and the impact of the community have simply been disregarded. Clearly, this Conservative Government have shown no respect for many of the servicemen who have lost their lives, to save our nation through the cold resurgence. We heard that the Home Office intended to secure a long term planning permission for the use of RAF Scampton through an unusual tool available to the Government, known as a Special Development Order. I have been clear as the Leader of the Council that the Home Office must not yet again seek to find a way round the public process by using an inappropriate planning tool. As is seen by our enforcement actions, we are committed to holding the Home Office to account and we will continue to use these powers to the best public interest. We will now await for Lady Justice Thorntons' judgment, and this will inform us of our next steps. Members will continue to receive updates in a timely manner and once we understand the outcome of these proceedings, I'll be able to set out more details of what this involvement will look like. Finally, on behalf of the Council, a very special thanks to Sally Grindrod-Smith, Rachel Hughes and their teams for the hard work they have done on behalf of this Authority, their efforts have been widely appreciated.

The awareness of the fight for Scampton has been achieved through the hard work of our communications team and a big thanks to Julie Heath and Steve Cawthorne who have led on this work. Finally, I'd like to thank our neighbouring authorities for their kind comments and messages of support in the plight to Save RAF Scampton.

LIVES First Responders: -

The LIVES First Responders Service is a highly valued service and West Lindsey, have been pleased to support them in the development of a new headquarters building on the A15 Showground site. This partnership has demonstrated creativity and imagination in delivering this development, which will serve our District for many years to come.

Liaison with Town/Parish Councils: -

At the last full Council meeting I talked about working closely with our Town and Parish Councils and I'm pleased to report that regular meetings have commenced with our main towns and parishes. We aim to establish improved joint working between the Councils and a better engagement with local residents, the feedback has been extremely positive.

Savoy Cinema: -

Finally, Chairman, the Gainsborough Town Centre for the past 50 years has been in decline and lacked investment. Last Friday, myself and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Rollings, met Savoy Cinemas, to sign a landmark agreement, to deliver a £9m cinema and leisure development.

This agreement is part of a larger spending plan of £15m of investment for the town centre, and this financial investment, is the biggest, I think, ever made by this Authority, and it's a priority for the new Administration Group. Further updates will be provided regarding the Town Centre development over the coming months.

Thank you."

## **Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive addressed Council and was pleased to announce that West Lindsey had been shortlisted for two awards at the LGC Workforce Awards. Representatives of the Council would be attending a national event to present the Council's submissions for:

- Best Next Generation Employer (six Councils shortlisted)
- Best Innovation in Smart Working – Jointly with the Council's partner Technology One.(six Councils Shortlisted)

The Chief Executive briefly summarised to the Chamber the basis of each submission.

Both the Chief Executive and Leader had attended the LGA National Conference held in July. As always this had proven to be a useful networking event, linking with colleagues

across the sector and providing opportunity to explore potential new initiatives.

Referencing the Scampton Judicial Review Hearing, thanks were expressed to Sally Grindrod Smith and Rachael Hughes for their work on the legal process and for ensuring West Lindsey were in the best possible position. Thanks were also paid to Management Team colleagues and Team Managers who continued to accommodate a range of additional meetings relating to Scampton, continuing to act as a “critical friend” to the Home Office.

Picking up on earlier comments, the Chief Executive paid his own tribute to staff for their work during Storm Babet. Special thanks were paid to Ady Selby, Emma Foy, Sarah Elvin and Veronica Edwards for covering the Fiskerton Information Centre over the weekend, supporting those residents who were evacuated. It was noted there remained a risk of flooding at Fiskerton, but this was reducing as the water levels subsided. Members noted a Lincolnshire Resilience Forum response plan was in place should there be any further issues in the area.

Finally, August had seen the successful recruitment to the role of Assistant Director of People and Democratic and Monitoring Officer. Ms Langdon was again formally welcomed to the organisation.

This brought announcements to a conclusion.

#### **41 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chairman advised the meeting that no public questions had been received.

#### **42 QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9**

The Chairman advised the meeting that two questions pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No.9 had been submitted to the meeting. These had been circulated to all Members, separately to the agenda, and published on the website.

The Chairman invited, Councillor Chris Darcel Local Ward Member for Cherry Willingham, to put his question to the Leader as follows:-

“A Cherry Willingham resident has requested I ask the Council to join and support the “Planning for the Planet” organisation, [www.foodfortheplanet.org.uk/councillors](http://www.foodfortheplanet.org.uk/councillors) . I know the Council is rightly concerned about our environment and that the District Council has limited power to influence matters, but in supporting Planning for the Planet, I believe the Council will be making one further step to help preserve a viable planet for our grandchildren.

Personally, I believe this action should have been taken as a result of the Kyoto Agreement 32 years ago, but better late than never.

Will the Leader of the Council commit to asking the Environment and Sustainability Member Working Group to explore the feasibility of joining

Planning for the Planet, if we do not already belong, as a matter of urgency, and can he confirm that our Environmental Protection Officers are currently enforcing the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone legislation and the General Binding Rules for small sewage discharge to the ground that were brought in a few years ago?

Thank you.”

The Leader of the Council responded as follows : -

Thank you, Councillor Darcel and please pass on my thanks to the Cherry Willingham resident for their important enquiry into what this Council is doing to play its part in tackling climate change.

Through its ambitious Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, this Council has made tackling climate change a key priority and we are committed to our target of becoming a carbon net zero Council and district by 2050.

Planning for the Planet is a network of places using local planning policy to support good food and farming, and to save rivers.

57 local authorities are currently signed up to Planning for the Planet. Currently, West Lindsey, nor any other Lincolnshire Council with the exception of City of Lincoln, is signed up to Planning for the Planet.

However, through our Corporate Plan, the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, and our Environment and Sustainability Action Plan, the Council is already delivering, or planning to deliver many of the actions that Planning for the Planet encourages. On that basis, I will write to the Chair of the Council's Environment and Sustainability Member Working Group to ask that the group investigates the feasibility of this Council formally signing up to Planning for the Planet, including any financial implications, and that an update on the group's findings are reported back to their Parent Committee – Prosperous Communities Cttee

In the meantime, the meeting of Prosperous Communities Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> October received the Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change annual progress report, which set out in detail the actions this Council has taken over the last 12 months to tackle climate change; and the actions planned over the next 12 months and beyond in pursuit of meeting our 2050 target.

NVZs are enforced by the Environment Agency, as are the General Binding Rules for small sewage discharge. The Rural Payments Agency also carries out inspections to check farmers and landowners are complying with the NVZ rules as part of cross compliance.

The Local Authority where its aware of such matters works with it partners to ensure that they discharge any powers available to them. Enforcement Officers here, have highlighted to me two Government websites where Members of the public can find more information about these matters including how to report concerns to relevant agencies. I shall ensure these are circulated to you

Councillor Darcel and all Members following the meeting.

Councillor Darcel, thanked the Leader for his response.

The Chairman then invited, Councillor Paul Swift Local Ward Member for Dunholme and Welton, to put his question to the Leader as follows:-

“Leader of the Council,

It has been mentioned in media reports including by the BBC[1] and My Local Lincolnshire[2] as well as included in the Home Office’s Scampton Factsheet[3] that West Lindsey District Council will receive £3,500 for each new and occupied bedspace at the Scampton asylum centre once it is up and running.

What is unclear is exactly when and under what conditions this money will be received when costs to the council and other local bodies are already being incurred, over what time span it is intended to cover expenditure for, how the money will be spent or divided with other authorities, and most importantly for taxpayers, if it is enough to cover the actual costs.

There is an intimation in some quarters including by a former Chief Immigration Officer at Border Force[4] that West Lindsey District Council is being “paid off” by the Home Office and will turn a profit from Scampton being used as an asylum centre, which as Members being privy to draft financial plans, we know this to be wholly not the case and that we are in fact likely to have our finances negatively impacted by the Government’s disastrous and unwelcome plan. The tax burden of which the Government appears intent for our residents to unfairly pay for.

Can the Leader of the Council please give a breakdown of:

- a) how and when the money will be received;
- b) over what time frame it is intended to cover (and beyond that if it is a recurringly granted sum);
- c) what the split with other local bodies will be;
- d) what it will be spent on;
- e) whether the council stands to gain or lose financially and if so by how much, and;
- f) how might the Home Office’s sparse funding impact our residents’ tax bill compared with other Lincolnshire districts that don’t have this intrusive and ill thought out plan forced upon them?

Thank you.”

References:

1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-67145553>
2. <https://mylocal.co.uk/lincolnshire/feed/118078>
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodationfactsheets/factsheet-raf-scampton-asylum-accommodation-accessible>
4. [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/kevin-saunders-8370a5199\\_raf-scampton-i-](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/kevin-saunders-8370a5199_raf-scampton-i-)

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The Leader of the Council responded as follows : -

“Officers at West Lindsey District Council are in negotiations with the Home Office regarding a funding agreement for the extra services that will need to be delivered by the Council arising from the Home Office’s decision to locate an asylum accommodation centre at RAF Scampton. We continue to act in the best interests of the Council Tax-payer by protecting them from costs to the Council directly attributable to the centre. The Corporate Policy and Resources Committee have been provided with estimations of additional required costs based on current evidence and it was confirmed that actual income and expenditure would be reported back to committee as it arises.

The Home Office has confirmed that any funding from them will now be ringfenced and we can only claim what has been spent up to a maximum of £3,500 for each bed made available. West Lindsey cannot keep the full £3,500 per bed as the funding is to cover West Lindsey costs, City of Lincoln costs and County Council Costs.

As negotiations are ongoing we are unable to provide answers to questions a – f. However these answers will be reported to the relevant committee when they are known”

Councillor Swift thanked the Leader for his response.

#### **43 MOTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10**

The Chairman advised the meeting that three Motions had been submitted pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No. 10 and these were set out on the agenda.

Councillor Fleetwood was invited to put his Motion to the meeting as follows:-

“Many members of this Council will have in recent weeks been walking round their local communities. Some will have met other people walking for health benefits or exercising their dogs, which many people have added to their households in the last couple of years.

During April, it was brought to my attention that some litter and dog bins were filling up very rapidly and that some were very full. While it might appear very easy to request that any particular bin is emptied, this can become a lot more cumbersome and complicated when trying to explain the location of that bin to the District Council who own and look after so many across the District. After a little research I discovered that some other Councils put an asset number onto each bin and this seems a good idea to me, if for no other reason than trying to manage any particular bin that might need a repair or replacement.

But with a little more thought, if a bin had an asset number on it, say DB1 or LB1, then a further two stickers could be added. The first would be to put a simple

notice on saying 'if this bin is full or in need of repair, please ring the District Council with the phone number for the right department' to enable it to be actioned quickly, and the second would be to put a QR code (quick response digital image) on the relevant bin so in these times of digital technology the entire process could become automated and offer a 24/7 service to the residents.

Environmentally this would help to keep the area more beautiful, from a health perspective it would keep the area cleaner and from a management angle the entire system would become easier to maintain.

As Opposition Group Leader, I therefore call on this Council to support me in requesting that the Prosperous Communities Committee explores the feasibility and financial implications of introducing asset numbers on all District Council litter bins; plus an information sticker detailing how to report a full or damaged bin to the Council for collection, and a QR code on each bin as an automated alternative for contacting the Council to report a full or damaged bin.

I so move  
Councillor Ian Fleetwood"

The Chairman thanked Councillor Fleetwood and drew Members attention to Council Procedure Rule 10.4 "*if the subject of a motion comes within the remit of any committee(s), it shall, upon being moved and seconded, stand referred without discussion to such committee(s) for consideration and determination.*

The Chairman indicated, whilst he had some discretion, he would on this occasion be applying Rule 10.4. As such a seconder for the motion was sought and received and on that basis the Chairman advised the matter would stand referred for determination, with no requirement for a vote.

The motion submitter was advised he would be invited to Prosperous Communities Committee, when the motion was considered and determined, and the Chairman indicated he trusted Officers would bring this forward in as timely manner as feasible. Council would be advised at their next meeting when this was anticipated to be.

Councillor Key was invited to put his Motion to the meeting as follows:-

"Leader, the current side waste (Refuse) Policy adopted, I believe, in 2009, should be reviewed because it does not, in my view, comply with the Council's commitment to becoming carbon net zero.

As it stands under the current policy, (refuse) side waste is not collected. After about 2 days, this refuse becomes fly-tipping and is collected by a caged van, then tipped at the waste transfer station, the weight then being recorded as street cleansing.

Leaving the side waste next to the bin to me is very counterproductive as collecting at source, means another team does not have to duplicate the task using more fuel and carbon emissions.



I urge members to support me in requesting that the Prosperous Communities Committee commits to formally reviewing the side waste policy within the 2023/24 financial year to ensure that the policy is in line with the Council's commitment to reduce carbon emissions from its fleet of vehicles.

I so move.  
Councillor Paul Key”

The Chairman thanked Councillor Key and again drew Members' attention to Council Procedure Rule 10.4. which he would again be applying on this occasion.

As such a seconder for the motion was sought and received and on that basis the Chairman advised the matter would stand referred for determination, with no requirement for a vote.

The motion submitter was advised he would be invited to Prosperous Communities Committee, when the motion was considered and determined, and Council would be advised, at their next meeting, when this was anticipated to be.

Councillor Smith was invited to put his Motion to the meeting as follows:-

“I, Councillor Thomas Jacob Neil Smith, propose the following motion:-

Chairman, as some of you may know, LNER recently undertook a validation run for a daily direct run from Cleethorpes through Market Rasen to London. This is a most welcome step in the right direction and something that many have been campaigning for over a considerable period of time. I request that we lobby LNER to assess the viability of Barnetby being included into the direct run from Cleethorpes, passing through Market Rasen, to London, to enable our residents to be truly connected to our nation's capital. This will open up more opportunities for work and leisure for our residents and this should be something we work with all our statutory partners to achieve.

I so move  
Councillor Thomas Smith”

With the motion duly seconded, debate ensued.

Members from across the Chamber indicated their support for the motion. Many spoke of how Barnetby station was a lynch pin to opening and connecting the northern corner of the District and would much improve connectivity for settlements such as Caistor and Keelby. Furthermore, it would support and improve connectivity to Humberside International Airport. Members spoke of the excellent service running from Lincoln to London direct and considered other parts of the District should have access to such services.

On being put to the vote, the **MOTION AS SUBMITTED** was declared **CARRIED** and as a result it was

**RESOLVED unanimously** that the District Council lobby LNER, seeking support

from all statutory partners, to assess the viability of Barnetby being included in the direct run from Cleethorpes, passing through Market Rasen, to London.

#### **44 AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Chairman introduced the report which sought to make amendments to Committee Memberships following a request from the Opposition Group.

Having been proposed and seconded, on being put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) Councillor John Barrett be appointed to the Licensing Committee and Regulatory Committee, for the remainder of the current civic year, replacing Councillor Roger Pilgrim: and
- (b) Councillor Roger Pilgrim be appointed to Governance and Audit Committee, for the remainder of the current civic year, replacing Councillor John Barrett.

#### **45 NEW OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENT AND AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING OUTSIDE BODY AND WORKING GROUP APPOINTMENTS**

The Chairman introduced the report which sought to appoint a Member to the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board, a new Outside Body. The report also dealt with making and amending appointments, previously made, to Outside Bodies, Internal Working Groups, Boards and Panels, having received requests from Members to do so.

Whilst nominations were included in the published report, for the majority of the positions being appointed to, nominations for the seat on the Environment and Sustainability Working Group were sought, with Councillor Swift being proposed and seconded.

With no further nominations made for any of the positions available the recommendations were put to the vote en-bloc. With no votes against it was

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) Councillor David Dobbie be appointed to the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board until Annual Council 2027 and the Body be added to the list of approved duties in the Members Allowances Scheme;
- (b) Councillor Stephen Bunney be appointed to the Funding Consultative Panel until Annual Council May 2027, replacing Councillor Paul Key;
- (c) Councillor Lynda Mullally be appointed to the Community Grants Panel, until Annual Council 2027 replacing Councillor Mrs Diana Rodgers;
- (d) Councillor Paul Swift be appointed to the Environment and Sustainability Working Group until Annual Council May 2027, replacing Councillor Eve

Bennett; and

- (e) Councillor Paul Key be appointed to the Lincolnshire Pensions Committee, on behalf of West Lindsey District Council, until Annual Council May 2027, replacing Councillor Trevor Young.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 pm.

Chairman