GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY SERVICES Committee held at Richmond House, Morton Terrace, Gainsborough on Wednesday 09 October 2013 at 6:30pm

Present: Councillor Cynthia Isherwood (Chairman)

Councillor Matthew Boles
Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor Mick Tinker

In Attendance:

Matthew Gleadell — Clerk to the Council
Rachel Allbones — Assistant Clerk to the Council

Also in Attendance: Cllr. Paul Key
2 Members of Network Rail
2 Members of GRAB
Dave Carter – Dave Carter Associates

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND REASONS GIVEN

No apologies received.

2. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCALISM ACT 2011 AND TO RECEIVE ANY APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

No declarations were made.

3. MINUTES

i. Minutes of the meeting of Community Services Committee held on Wednesday 11 September 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11 September 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to it being noted that Councillors Tinker, Craig and Burr attended the meeting but arrived late.

Note: Councillor Craig arrived at 6.35pm.

4. PRESENTATION FROM GNGE NETWORK RAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Members received a presentation informing them of the £280 million project to improve the tracks, level crossings and signalling over the next 2 – 3 years.

Gainsborough will have the capacity to increase 2 trains per hour in each direction above the current timetable once the project is complete, but will depend on the train companies to facilitate.
Members asked a number of questions relating to the presentation.

5. RICHMOND PARK DEVELOPMENT GRANT FUNDING (Papers A & B)

Note: Councillor Burr arrived at 7.14pm.

The Clerk informed Members of the consultation results received from Groundwork Lincolnshire.

Members raised concerns with regards to how the consultation had been conducted. Members were of the feeling that the consultation was very limited with the members of the community it reached and there did seem to be any vision from Groundwork considering the extent of work and prospects for the park.

Members felt further consultation and a visionary event was needed before moving any further.

Note: Councillor Perry arrived at 7.44pm.

Members asked if Mr Carter had any views with regards to further consultation.

Mr Carter suggested firstly obtaining a small grant to pay for a historical architect draw up ideas, then proceed to consultation in structured stages.

A Member expressed serious concerns with the extent of the project, and felt the Council were being forced into embarking on a project when the timing wasn't right when other aspects like the Town Plan are more pressing.

RESOLVED to: -
a) Inform Groundwork Lincolnshire that the Council would like to revaluate their way forward and will not be attending the meeting on 15 October at the Heritage Lottery Fund, also inform Friends of Richmond Park and West Lindsey District Council
b) That the Clerk look at alternative options to facilitate the consultation and drive the project.
c) Investigate how it could fit into drawing up a Town Plan.
d) Bring back the above finding to the Committee.

6. CIVIC SERVICE (Paper C)

Members considered Paper C.

Members were of the feeling that the current Mayor should hold a Civic Service during her civic year.

RESOLVED to hold the Council's annual civic service in April 2014, and for the Assistant Clerk to arrange a date with the All Saints Parish Church and the Old Hall.

7. GAINSBOROUGH FESTIVAL WORKING GROUP

The Clerk advised that the Gainsborough Festival Working Group had met, and came to the conclusion that external support would be needed in order to run such an event as the Council are now without an Events Officer.

It was noted that the Riverside Festival Committee had decided to carry on working on the 2014 festival until 31 January 2014 to try and obtain the funding needed.

The Clerk advised that himself and Councillor Key had had a meeting with Dave Carter from Dave Carter Associates who has event development experience.

A Member proposed that Dave Carter Associates to take a lead on the work for Gainsborough Festival to try and unify all parties to make one single event.

It was questioned what the cost to the Council would be.

Mr Carter advised Council that he would put a package together as a bid to other bodies to sign up to working with the festival for £2,000.

A Member expressed concern and would prefer to see the Council stand back for 8 – 10 months to see what happens with events in the town then move forward with an event plan for 2015.

Note: Councillor Key requested that it be noted that a Member felt insulted by the way he responded to suggesting the Council stand back for one year.

It was noted that Financial Regulation 12.8 would need to be suspended as only one quotation has been received.

RESOLVED to suspend Financial Regulation 12.8 in order to only consider one quotation.

Note: One Member abstained from voting on the above resolution.

RESOLVED to ask Dave Carter Associates to carry out the preliminary consultation work with a view to an event on 5 July 2014.

Note: One Member abstained from voting on the above resolution.

8. ROPERY ROAD POST OFFICE CONSULTATION (Paper D)

The Clerk advised Members of the consultation on location of Ropery Road Post Office.

RESOLVED to note the consultation on location of Ropery Road Post Office.

9. INDEPENDENT TRADERS HALLOWEEN EVENT

Councillor Tinker informed Members that the Independent Traders Group may need a short term loan to assist with cash flow in order for the Halloween Event to go ahead.

The Clerk clarified that the Council was in a position to do this but would need to set out terms for them to repay the loan.

Note: Councillor Burr left the meeting at 9.12pm.

The Clerk also advised that the Council had resolved to grant the Group £250 towards their event and have successfully applied for a grant of £500 from the Community Chest on behalf of the group, for which payment is awaited.

RESOLVED to loan the Gainsborough Independent Traders Group a maximum of £1,000 (£250 of which is donated by the Town Council and £500 of which is the Community Chest Grant), and for the remaining £250 to be paid back to the Council within the next 5 months.

Note: Councillor Tinker declared a pecuniary interest as a member of the Independent Traders Group and abstained from voting on the above resolution.

The meeting concluded at 9:19pm.

Chairman