

GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Management and Finance Committee held at Richmond House, Morton Terrace, Gainsborough on Wednesday 19 March 2014 at 7:00pm

Present: Councillor Paul Key (Chairman)

Councillor Matthew Boles
Councillor Richard Craig
Councillor Lesley Rollings

In Attendance:

Matthew Gleadell	Clerk to the Council
Rachel Allbones	Deputy Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer
Jonathan Coles	Football Development Officer

Also in Attendance: Councillor Barry Coward

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND REASONS GIVEN

Councillor Norman Dinsdale
Councillor Vaughan Hughes

RESOLVED to accept the apologies and reasons given.

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

Councillor Boles declared a non pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 as he knew the owner of the business in Paper G.

Councillor Key declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 as a personal friend of the owner of the business in Paper G.

3. MINUTES

i. Minutes of the meeting of Management and Finance Committee held Tuesday 18 February 2014

Note: Councillor David Dobbie arrived at the meeting at 7:10pm.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Management and Finance Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 February 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

ii. Minutes of the meeting of Management and Finance Committee held Wednesday 26 February 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Management and Finance Committee meeting held on Wednesday 26 February 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2014 / MARCH 2014 (Papers A, A (revised), B, B (revised) & C)

Members considered and debated at length Paper A regarding Unpaid Expenditure Transactions for 13 March 2014, Paper A revised regarding Unpaid Expenditure Transactions for 19 March 2014, Paper B Cashbook Summary (including due and unpaid transactions) for 13 March 2014, Paper B revised Cashbook Summary (including due and unpaid transactions) for 19 March 2014 and Paper C Budget Comparison Report (including due and unpaid transactions) for 13 March 2014.

RESOLVED to accept and approved the following: - Paper A revised regarding Unpaid Expenditure Transactions for 19 March 2014, Paper B revised Cashbook Summary (including due and unpaid transactions) for 19 March 2014 and Paper C Budget Comparison Report (including due and unpaid transactions) for 13 March 2014.

RESOLVED under Standing Order 14d to vary the order of business to take items 6, 7, 9, 8 then 5

6. FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT (Paper E)

Members considered Paper E regarding a Linx 5's business football league proposals from the Football Development Officer

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL that the Town Council loan £400 to the Football Development Officer for set up costs of Linx 5's Business Football League from Transfer to reserves budget heading.

Note: Jonathan Coles left the meeting at 7.35pm.

7. GROUNDS AUDIT REPORT (Paper F)

Members considered further information requested at previous Management and Finance Committee meeting.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the Paper and to discuss alongside the Ground Audit report at an extraordinary meeting.

9. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FOR GAINSBOROUGH TOWN PARTNERSHIP

Councillor Key advised that he may need to declare a pecuniary interest and proposed appointing a stand in chair as the Vice Chair was not in attendance.

RESOLVED that Councillor Boles would stand in as Chair if Councillor Key had to leave the meeting.

The Clerk as the vice chairman of the Partnership gave members a detailed update of matters concerning the Partnership. In particular the Clerk explained some serious concerns he had regarding the involvement of West Lindsey District Council and how despite being a major Funding Partner in the Partnership their whole approach to the Partnership was such that they have created significant barriers that are preventing the Partnership from developing as it would wish to do so. Particular issues were highlighted around the development of the Gainsborough Market.

For this reason the Clerk was concerned about the involvement of West Lindsey District Council going forward and explained suggestions that had been made about the possibility of finding an alternative funding partner for the Partnership.

Note: Councillor Key declared a pecuniary as an employee of West Lindsey District Council.

Note: Councillor Key left the meeting at 8.03pm and Councillor Boles took the Chair.

Members agreed that the Partnership would be far better with an active supportive proactive District Council but that the Town Council must be mindful of its own investment and ensure that the Partnership is able to develop as intended and if that meant finding an alternative funding partner and proceeding without the involvement of West Lindsey District Council that would be an option that would need to be seriously considered.

The Clerk explained that the Chamber of Commerce and the Partnership had been working very hard to try and get West Lindsey District Council to work in a co-operative way and hopes that after many meetings progress will soon be made.

In all the circumstances the members resolved as follows:

RESOLVED to:

1. Write to the Chamber of Commerce in the form of a letter which the Clerk had prepared and read out to the meeting (see attached) with a copy of the letter to be sent to Manjeet Gill (Chief executive) at West Lindsey District Council.
2. The Mayor Lesley Rollings as a West Lindsey District Council member in her own right would write to Manjeet Gill requesting that the Partnership concerns be included on the next Prosperous Communities meeting Agenda at West Lindsey District Council so that the West Lindsey District Council members can be made aware of the ongoing problems being faced.
3. The Town Council do not commit long term to the funding contributions set out in the Service Level Agreement at this time but to review the situation in 6 months time in order to give West Lindsey District Council an opportunity to respond to the ongoing concerns that had been repeatedly raised by the Partnership in the preceding 6 months.
4. Recommend to Full Council that the £10,000.00 contribution to the Town Manager post be paid for the 2014/2015 financial year.

8. PAYROLL SERVICES (Papers G, H & I)

Councillor Craig declared a non pecuniary interest as he had dealt with the business in Paper G for PACS.

Note: Councillor Coward left the meeting at 8.31pm.

Members consider appointment of accountants to undertake payroll services for 2014 / 2015.

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Rigel Wolf on Paper G.

Note: Councillor Dobbie abstained from voting on the above resolution as accountants on Papers G & H have both had previous dealings with the Council accounts.

Note: Councillor Key returned to the meeting at 8.39pm and took the Chair.

5. FEES AND CHARGES 2014/2015 & 2015/2016

Members reviewed fees and charges for amenities and allotments.

The Clerk advised that at the Allotments Sub-Committee meeting the previous night the Sub-Committee Recommended that no notice of an increase for 2015/16 should be applied this year.

RESOLVED to have no increase in allotment rent for 2015 / 2016.

Note: Councillor Boles left the meeting at 9.10pm.

Members considered at length sports ground charges.

RESOLVED to increase the charges as per attached paper and that grass football pitch fees begin from the new football season in 2014.

RESOLVED under Standing Order 14s to allow the meeting to continue until 10.00pm.

A discussion ensued regarding the Football Development Officer booking the facilities for development work.

RESOLVED to give the Football Development Officer a 50% discount on bookings related to initiatives organised and managed by them but that they should ensure that any bookings conflict with other 3rd party bookings.

RESOLVED that one off bookings are inclusive of VAT.

10. STANDING ORDERS (Paper H)

RESOLVED to defer until the next Management and Finance Committee meeting.

11. STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS (Paper I)

RESOLVED to defer until the next Management and Finance Committee meeting.

12. DEBT RECOVERY POLICY (Paper J)

RESOLVED to defer until the next Management and Finance Committee meeting.

13. PURCHASE OF NEW COMPUTER

RESOLVED to note the purchase of a new laptop computer purchased in accordance with section 11.2 of the Financial Regulations.

14. RICHMOND HOUSE LEASE TO LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RESOLVED to defer until the next Management and Finance Committee meeting.

The meeting was closed at 9:40pm

Chairman