

**GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL**

MINUTES of an Extraordinary MEETING of the Council held at The Guildhall, Marshalls Yard, Gainsborough on Wednesday 24 October 2012 at 7:00pm

**Present:** Councillor Lesley Rollings (Chairman)

Councillor John Butler  
Councillor Harry Clarke  
Councillor David Dobbie  
Councillor Richy Doran  
Councillor Sandra Goacher  
Councillor Vaughan Hughes  
Councillor Cynthia Isherwood  
Councillor Paul Key  
Councillor Robin Perry  
Councillor Mick Tinker

**In Attendance:**

Sue Harrison Acting Clerk to the Council  
Rachel Allbones Assistant Clerk

**Also in Attendance:** Councillor Gillian Bardsley - WLDC  
Lisa Whitelam – President of Gainsborough Chamber of Commerce

**1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND REASONS GIVEN**

Councillor Norman Dinsdale

**2. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

**3. TO DISCUSS THE TOWN COUNCIL'S FUTURE INVOLVEMENT WITH THE TOWN CENTRE PARTNERSHIP AND THE ROLE OF THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGER**

Members were informed that the Town Centre Manager had handed his notice in as he had accepted another job elsewhere, members thanked the Town Centre Manager for the work he had carried out and wished him well.

Members were advised that the meeting had been called in order for the Council to provide a steer as to what involvement they would like the Town Council to have with the Town Partnership in the future.

Lisa Whitelam, President of the Gainsborough Chamber of Commerce, gave a brief overview of the proposal the Chamber had submitted to the Town Partnership with regards to the incorporation of the Gainsborough Town Partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, advising that their vision was for the Partnership to be self sustainable and business lead. The Chamber was also prepared to be the accountable body.

Various Members indicated their support of the proposal from the Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce to revise the job role appoint and line manage the Town Manager and facilitate the Town Partnership and provide discussion documents in order to make more informative decisions to improve and develop the town as a whole.

The Chairman read a letter received from Mark Prisk MP advising Gainsborough's Edward Leigh MP that the application to become a Town Team Partner had been successful and £10,000 had been awarded to the Town Partnership to improve and develop the Town Centre as per the plan included in the Portas Pilot bid.

A meeting of the key partners in the Town Partnership was scheduled for 25 October to discuss ways to move forward.

Some Members expressed concern at being asked to make a decision based on the information provided as it had only been received from the third party that evening

It was proposed to defer any move forward until the audit report has been received from Audit Lincolnshire.

No seconder was forthcoming.

The Acting Clerk advised Council that there were three key points that needed clarifying: -

- 1) Do you wish to continue being the accountable body?
- 2) Do you want to support the incorporation of the Gainsborough Town Partnership with the Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce
- 3) Do you intend to reappoint a Town Centre Manager for the remainder of the financial year?

It was further proposed and seconded that Gainsborough Town Council supports the incorporation of the Gainsborough Town Partnership and Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce and for Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce to become the accountable body.

Councillor Hughes made an AMENDMENT to defer any decisions until the November Full Council meeting when a report can be submitted with all facts and figures in order to make an informed decision, seconded by Councillor Doran.

**RESOLVED** on proposal by Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Doran that the Council defer any decisions until the November Full Council meeting when a report can be submitted with all facts and figures in order to make an informed decision.

Note: Councillor Dobbie was against the above resolution.

Note: Councillor Tinker left the meeting at 8:10pm.

The meeting concluded at 8:22pm.

Chairman