

GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the Council held in the Ceremony Room, Richmond Park, Morton Terrace, Gainsborough on Wednesday 4 December 2013 at 7:00pm

Present: Councillor Mick Tinker (In the Chair)

Councillor Mark Binns
Councillor Matthew Boles
Councillor Darren Burr
Councillor John Butler
Councillor Barry Coward
Councillor Richy Doran
Councillor Sandra Goacher
Councillor Cynthia Isherwood
Councillor Paul Key

In Attendance: Clerk to the Council
Deputy Clerk to the Council

Prior to the meeting commencing the Deputy Mayor held a one minute silence in remembrance of the late Councillor William Parry who had sadly passed away.

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND REASONS GIVEN

Councillor Richard Craig
Councillor Vaughan Hughes
Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor Kenneth Woolley

RESOLVED to receive the apologies for absence and accept the reasons given.

Members noted that Councillors Norman Dinsdale and Robin Perry had also sent apologies.

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

Councillor Doran declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6iv as a Member of the WLDC Planning Committee.

3. COUNCIL MINUTES

i. Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 5 November 2013 (Paper A)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 5 November 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4. TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE PERSON PRESIDING MAY WISH TO LAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL (Paper B)

The Deputy Mayor advised that he had attended an excellent evening at the Air Cadets and acknowledges the hard work the volunteers put in.

RESOLVED to note Paper B.

5. TO RECEIVE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS (Paper C)

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Committees be received.

6. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER MOTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

i. Recommendation received from Management and Finance Committee

RESOLVED to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to accept the revised budget proposals for 2013 / 2014 (Paper D)

Members were advised that a lot of consideration was put into the revised budget at the Management and Finance Committee meeting.

Note: Councillor David Dobbie arrived at the meeting at 7:20pm.

Councillor Dobbie requested that as Council had already agreed to refurbish the Cemetery toilet block and erect notice boards on allotment sites that provision for those be made in the revised budget.

The Clerk informed Members of some areas of change Officers felt was necessary.

RESOLVED to amend the recommended revised budget as follows: -

- take £1,000 from code 2010/9 and put into the new code 2010/28 for external lighting repairs
- decrease code 1110/2 from £1,500 to £1,325
- include a repayment under code 200 of £750
- increase code 2000/3 from £0 to £1,300
- include £3,000 provision for the cemetery toilets repairs under code 3010/14
- include £2,000 for allotment notice boards under code 2080
- decrease code 1115 from £14,165.57 to £8,790.57 for the transfer to reserves

Note: Councillor Key abstained from voting on the above resolution.

ii. Recommendation received from Management and Finance Committee

RESOLVED to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to accept the amendments to the Financial Regulations (Papers E & F)

The Clerk reminded members of the ongoing need for the All Weather Pitch to be rejuvenated as highlighted at previous meetings of the Council. The Clerk explained that as bookings were now being lost and complaints being made about the surface he felt that the work should now be done forthwith. The Clerk highlighted that a planned meeting with the Football Foundation and West Lindsey District Council had been postponed due to the non availability of West Lindsey officers.

The Clerk had hoped that the issue concerning the Sinking Fund would have been resolved at that meeting. The Clerk explained concerns he had regarding the financial regulations and how their implementation would delay the work to the AWP if adopted. The Clerk explained that quotes had been obtained previously by Sue Harrison as the previous acting Clerk. The Clerk generally explained that he wished to get the work done immediately but that ongoing discussions with West Lindsey District Council regarding the sinking fund will continue thereafter and should eventually be resolved.

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

RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations be adopted save for clause 11.4 shall not apply in relation to the Roses Sports Ground all weather pitch rejuvenation work intended to be undertaken in December 2013 for which the Clerk shall have delegated authority to commission the work on the grounds of Health and Safety concerns.

Note: Councillor Key voted against the above resolution.

Note: Councillor Binns abstained from voting on the above resolution.

iii. Recommendation received from Management and Finance Committee

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL to adopt the Risk Management Policy.
(Paper G)

RESOLVED to vary the order of business and move the item to the end under Standing Order 14d as a Member felt personnel issues may be discussed.

iv. Motion received from Councillor Barry Coward

That this council seeks to make a joint submission with West Lindsey District Council to the Planning Enquiry to be held in February 2014 to ensure the strategic requirements of Gainsborough are effectively presented.

Background:-

The draft Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy covering North Kesteven, Lincoln and West Lindsey area is due to go before the Planning Inspectorate via public enquiry in February. The public consultation was held during August 2013 and as such Gainsborough Town Council were unable to prepare a submission.

The Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy is the strategic planning document for Gainsborough over the next twenty years and as such it is important that Gainsborough's future development is correctly represented in the document.

The Strategy focuses on Lincoln / North Hykeham urban area with Sleaford, and to a lesser extent, Gainsborough as satellites.

However as Gainsborough is a growth point set to double in size during the period of the plan I consider Gainsborough has to develop as a hub of its own with axes running out to Lincoln, Newark, Retford, Doncaster, Scunthorpe and Grimsby. This presents problems with the Core Strategy as presently conceived as there appears to be no dovetailing with neighbouring plans in Nottinghamshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire.

Gainsborough has to attract employment from a wider range of industries than perceived in the plan which appears to rely on the construction industry to employ Gainsborough folk (what happens when all the houses are built I wonder). Likewise the extra 20,000 folk who are to be enticed to live in Gainsborough cannot be matched by a simultaneous rise in employment in the town as envisaged in the plan. It will therefore be necessary to ensure good transport, both highway and public transport, along the axes listed above to encourage sufficient economic activity. Good transport links will also benefit not only the towns at the end of each axis but the villages and towns along and close to these lines of communication.

None of this appears to be featured in the Central Core Strategy, but in my view it is essential if development over the next 20 years is to be sustainable.

Councillor Coward informed Members that progression had been made since submitting the above motion. He advised that a meeting was to be held on 12 December in view of a question the inspector had raised and requested that he and the Clerk attend.

RESOLVED that Councillor Coward and the Clerk attend the meeting on 12 December.

Under Standing Order 13e the motion was referred to the Planning and Development Committee.

7. REPORT FROM THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

The Clerk provided members with an update as to progress in relation to the following items as well as highlighting some other matters as follows:

- Allotment Agreements
- LALC Training schedule for 2014
- Deputy Clerk / RFO in place and working under new Terms and Conditions
- 2014 / 2015 Budget
- Bus Shelter repairs
- Meetings with WLDC regarding Town Plan & GAIN

A Member expressed an interest in reinstating regular meetings with WLDC for Officer and Councillor involvement.

8. RESPONSES FROM LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT (Papers H & I)

Members noted the responses from LCC regarding The Belt Road and 20's Plenty.

It was noted that Members were not happy with the responses received and pointed out some inaccuracies.

A Member informed Council that the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy mentions upgrading of The Belt Road.

RESOLVED for the Clerk to draft a response in consultation with Councillor Coward stating the inaccuracies and referring to the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy and invite Mr Wiles from Lincolnshire County Council to a meeting of Council.

RESOLVED to exclude the Public and the Press under Standing Order 14n for the following item.

- iii. Recommendation received from Management and Finance Committee

RESOLVED to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to adopt the Risk Management Policy.
(Paper G)

A Member raised concerns that Council still haven't enacted a recommendation from the initial audit in September 2012.

The Clerk advised that the Council can review the first audit report in a separate meeting; Members recognised there was a lot of work for the Council to do to fully comply with the Risk Management Policy but working towards it.

RESOLVED that Council adopt the Risk Management Policy.

The meeting concluded at 8.19pm.

Chairman