

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE OLD COURT ROOM, THE SESSIONS HOUSE, LOUTH
ON TUESDAY 15th JANUARY 2019**

Present The Mayor, Councillor G.E. Horton, (GEH) (in the chair).

Councillors: Mrs. E. Ballard (EB), Mrs. D. Blakey (DB), Mrs. S. Crew (SC), J. Garrett (JG), C. Green (CG), D.J.E. Hall (DJEH), D. Hobson (DH), Mrs. L. Harrison-Wiseman (LHW), R. Jackson (RJ), A. Leonard (AL), M. Locking (ML), Mrs. S.E. Locking (SEL), Mrs. J. Makinson-Sanders (JMS), Mrs. M. Ottaway (MO), L.M. Stephenson (LMS), F.W.P. Treanor (FWPT), Mrs. P.F. Watson (PFW) and D.E. Wing (DEW).

Councillors not present: D. Ford (DF) and D. Turner (DT).

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.M. Phillips, the Town Clerk's Assistant, Mrs. M.C. Vincent, the Mayor's Chaplain, Rev'd N. Brown, The Mayor's Serjeant, G. Darnell, PCSO D. Warrilow, two members of the public and one member of the press were also present.

Public Forum

- A member of the public reported their concerns regarding the state of Keddington Lock which had suffered severe damage in the summer when the water levels dropped and consequently wildlife reduced. The member of the public was grateful for any funding that the Navigation Trust received from LTC but that they were urgently looking for further assistance both in monetary terms and in applying pressure to other relevant agencies. Cllr. RJ agreed that we should give support along with the other agencies. Cllr. Mrs. PFW reported that this had been taken up by both the Navigation Trust and Victoria Atkins, but there were various disputes and legal work to sort out. Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported that ELDC had an Economic Action Plan which included this area and that the member of the public should go and ask ELDC what they were doing about this matter. Following a proposal by Cllr. RJ, seconded by Cllr. LMS it was **RESOLVED** to make Keddington Lock a future agenda item.

Police Consultation

- Cllr. Mrs. JMS asked PCSO D. Warrilow why the CCTV wasn't being used to prevent the type of incidents and vandalism which had occurred at one of the town's charity shops. Cllr. Mrs. EB reported that the CCTV cameras were in the process of being upgraded from analogue to digital and some issues with monitoring were being experienced. PCSO D. Warrilow reported that unless the police were given a short time frame in which to search footage, they had to travel to a viewing suite in either Boston or Skegness to view all footage. He continued, that as much of CCTV investigation is police led, it would be much better once all footage was digital. Cllr. GEH requested that at the next meeting perhaps we could have a CCTV update.

District and County Councillors Consultation

- Apologies from Cllr. T. Bridges (LCC) were noted.
- Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported that although ELDC had a £390,000 contract for the roof at the Cattle Market, this had been deferred and water was coming in through the roof. This had led to a man slipping on water and also the electrics cutting out.
- Cllr. Mrs. JMS further reported that Anglian Water are carrying out the soil levelling at Westgate Fields and that there will be a site visit in the spring. She continued that the area where the gate goes into Westgate Fields was constantly waterlogged and she had suggested making changes to the arrangements.
- Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported that the Conservation Area Scrutiny Panel was still continuing and asked if LTC had been asked for their comments? The Clerk responded that she hadn't.
- Cllr. Mrs. JMS explained that there was a new plan out for the Skegness Foreshore and the Skegness Town Council had taken over a number of assets from ELDC and were also looking to build a new centre in the Compass Gardens. Horncastle, she explained, might also consider taking over a number of assets/services from ELDC and she pondered that this was something that Louth may also need to consider, budget wise.

295. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: DF, DT and JG (who would be late).

296. Chairman's Remarks

Cllr. GEH reported that he was enjoying his year as Mayor, meeting people and seeing (along with the Deputy Mayor and the Mayor's Serjeant) the many volunteers who put in so many hours of work. Cllr. GEH gave a summary of all of the visits and events he had attended since September 2018. He remarked how heartened he had been to see the crowds that had turned out for the beacon lighting outside St. James' Church on 11/11. Further to this, Cllr. GEH expressed that he had thoroughly enjoyed his Christmas morning visits along with Mr. G. Darnell, the Mayor's Serjeant, to the hospital and the Salvation Army centre in Louth.

Cllr. JG arrived at 7.12pm.

297. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations

Councillors CG, RJ and FWPT declared an interest in agenda items 11 and 13c as members of ELDC. Cllr. Mrs. JMS declared an interest in items 10, 11 and 13c as a member of ELDC. Cllr. Mrs. PFW declared an interest in any item relating to ELDC as a member of ELDC. Cllr. DEW declared an interest in item 8 as Chairman of Louth United Charities.

298. Council Minutes

Following a proposal by Cllr. AL, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. JMS it was **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 20th November 2018.

299. Committee Minutes

Committee Minutes were received and it was **RESOLVED** by vote of the Council to adopt them as follows:

- a. Governance and Finance Meeting held on 31st July 2018 - proposed by Cllr. Mrs. EB, seconded by Cllr. RJ.
- b. Governance and Finance Meeting held on 23rd October 2018 - proposed by Cllr. Mrs. EB, seconded by Cllr. RJ.
- c. Planning Meeting held on 6th November 2018 – proposed by Cllr. DJEH, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. SC.
- d. Community Resources Meeting held on 6th November 2018 – proposed by Cllr. AL, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. LHW.

300. Town Clerk's Report/Update

- a. The Council noted the tabled report presented by the Town Clerk.
- b. Councillors attention was directed to the copies of the banner advert (cover) and full page adverts prepared in anticipation of the Love Louth brochure.

301. Correspondence

The Council received and noted the following correspondence:

- a. The contents of an email regarding a proposed increase in precept from Mr. O. Nicholson, as circulated on 17th December 2018.
- b. Further tabled details of the new Community Forum as proposed by Mr. J. Gale and Mr. M. Forman. A discussion followed raising concerns regarding the formation of the Louth Community Forum if they were not going to have a formal constitution or a dedicated bank account. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. EB, seconded by Cllr. CG it was agreed that the Town Clerk should write to Messrs. J Gale and M. Forman with the Town Council's serious concerns that the 'group' should have a formal constitution and a dedicated bank account.
- c. That issue 121 of the publication 'Clerks and Council's Direct' had been received and was available to view in the office.
- d. That volume 61 of the Journal of the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities had been received and was available to view in the office.

302. Louth United Charities

Following a proposal by Cllr. AL, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. SEL it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Mrs. JMS should be reappointed as a Louth Town Council representative on the Louth United Charities.

303. Grants

Cllr. Mrs. JMS proposed that that in future years, if Louth Town Council voted to continue with grants, no grant should be made of over £1,000 unless there were special circumstances. This was seconded by Cllr. AL and following a change to the word of ‘special’ to ‘exceptional’. A vote was taken but the resolution was not passed.

304. Precept

a. Following receipt of a recommendation from the Governance and Finance Committee made on 20th November 2018 and following a lengthy discussion regarding future proofing the Town Council with regards to further services they may be called on to take over, and the potential capping of precepts a proposal was made by Cllr. AL, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. EB and with a recorded vote, **RESOLVED** to approve a precept request for 2019/20 of £379,197, which represented, for a band D Council Tax Payer, an annual charge of £75.95, a monthly charge of £6.33 and a weekly charge of £1.46.

Cllrs. For	Cllrs. Against
EB, DB, SC, JG, CG, LHW, DH, GEH, AL, ML, SEL, MO, DEW	DJEH, RJ, JMS, LMS, FWPT, PFW

b. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. MO, seconded by Cllr. DEW it was **RESOLVED** that the Council delegate authority to the Town Clerk to complete the necessary form and submit to ELDC (Collection Authority) by the 21st January 2019 deadline.

305. Bin

Following a discussion regarding bins in the Louth area and the potential costs of new bins, it was proposed by Cllr. RJ, seconded by Cllr. AL and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would make a request to ELDC for the provision of a bin on the corner of Chestnut Drive and Eastfield Road (estimated cost of £300 to be taken from the Street Furniture budget, if required).

306. Lovely Louth Competition

The following items were discussed:

- a. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. SC, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. EB it was **RESOLVED** that Louth Town Council should run the Lovely Louth Competition in 2019.
- b. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. SC, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. SEL it was **RESOLVED** that the closing date for registration should be Friday 28th June 2019 at 12 noon.
- c. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. SC, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. SEL it was **RESOLVED** that judging should take place during the week commencing 8th July 2019.
- d. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. SC, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. SEL it was **RESOLVED** that winners should be notified from 17th July 2019.
- e. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. SC, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. LHW it was **RESOLVED** that the competition should be overseen by the Floral Enhancement Working Group and the Town Clerk.
- f. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. MO, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. SC it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. DF be co-opted onto the Floral Enhancement Working Group.

307. Training

- a. Further to circulation by email on 10th December 2018 of the 2019 LALC Training Schedule and following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. EB, seconded by Cllr. AL it was **RESOLVED** to approve the booking of LALC courses as per the tabled list (pre-election). It was also agreed that Councillors should email the Town Clerk with any courses they wished to go on within seven days of that meeting.
- b. Following a proposal by Cllr. LMS, seconded by Cllr. JG, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillors attending the LALC courses listed on the tabled schedule in the pre-election section should receive travel expenses, if requested.
- c. Following a proposal by Cllr. MO, seconded by Cllr. CG, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would join LALC’s Annual Training Scheme at a cost of £160. (Which covers attendance for council members/staff at all training events at no further cost, other than a charge of £9 per person at all-day sessions to cover provision of lunch and light refreshments throughout the day).
- d. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. EB seconded by Cllr. Mrs. MO it was **RESOLVED** not to send a representative on an ELDC GDPR training course for Town and Parish Councils at a cost of £50 per delegate.

308. NJC Pay Scales

The Council noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) had reached an agreement on the new pay scales for 2019/20 which would be implemented from 1st April 2019.

309. The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities

Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. SEL seconded by Cllr. DEW it was **RESOLVED** to approve renewal of membership of the above organisation at a cost of £143.20.

310. Public Works Loan Board

It was noted that the Town Council was to pay the next (6 monthly) installment of the Council's Public Works Loan which would fall due on 31st January in the amount of £10,256.71.

311. Next Meeting

Cllr. GEH thanked Councillors for their attendance and the Council noted that the next scheduled meeting of Louth Town Council would take place on 19th February 2019.

The Meeting Closed at 8.19pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman)

Dated _____