

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SESSIONS HOUSE, EASTGATE, LOUTH
ON TUESDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2018**

Present: Councillor Mrs. P.F. Watson (PFW) (in the Chair)

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

Councillors not present: Mrs. M. Ottaway MBE (MO),

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.M. Phillips, 1 member of the press and 20 members of the public were also present.

Members of the public spoke in the public forum as follows:

- A lady reminded the Council that the river retaining walls on Wellington Street, next to its junction with James Street had collapsed on 17th January and although the Environment Agency had undertaken their statutory duty and cleared the river channel of debris and had shored the banks up they still needed attention. The lady explained that the residents were of the opinion that some authority should take it in hand. Cllr. DH reported that the Environment Agency were suggesting that riparian ownership should come into play. He proposed and it was agreed that this should be a future agenda item.
- A gentleman spoke on the subject of littering in the town. He said he had collected 200 blue sacks full in the past year. On 4th March the group Litter Free Louth would be meeting at Louth War Memorial at 11am to start a litter pick.
- A lady spoke on the subject of Dementia Awareness making the Council aware that a Memories Walk would be taking place on 20th May. She wondered if she could be granted permission to place Forget Me Knots in the planters in the Market Place akin to the Poppies. It was agreed that the lady would email details of her request to the Town Clerk who would place the item on a future agenda.
- A gentleman spoke sharing the objections of himself, his Dance Club and other users of Ayscough Hall regarding a planning application submitted affecting Ayscough Hall.

519. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. M. Ottaway and J. Garrett (who would be late).

520. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman reported that Louth Lions had decided not to hold their bike night this year and consequently they had confirmed that they would not need the funding that the Council had agreed to provide in January. However, they thanked the Council for their offer of support.

521. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations

The following declarations of interest were made:

- a. Cllr. Mrs. JMS – agenda items 6, 10, 11, 15, 18 and 19 – as a member of ELDC.
- b. Cllr. Mrs. SC – agenda item 11 – as Chairman of a Scouts Committee.
- c. Cllr. RJ – agenda items 6, 10, 11, 15, 18 and 19 – as a member of ELDC.
- d. Cllrs. Mrs. SEL and ML – agenda item 10 – as acquaintance of the applicant.
- e. Cllr. FWPT – agenda items 11, 15, 18 and 19 – as a member of ELDC
- f. Cllr. GEH – agenda item 19 – as a member of ELDC.
- g. Cllr. Mrs. PFW – agenda item 4 – as a Trustee of Magna Vitae and member of ELDC.

522. Update by CEO of Magna Vitae (MV)

The Council received an update from Mr. M. Humphreys the CEO of Magna Vitae who explained that the All Weather sports pitch at London Road was 21 years old, was nearing the end of its life and required replacement. However, MV had been unable to put aside sufficient profits from the site to accomplish this. Further, ELDC did not now have a direct interest in this part of the site and so were unwilling to provide funds. Therefore, MV were looking to apply for grants. Unfortunately, England Hockey had just provided a

brand new facility in Horncastle for hockey and, therefore, due to the close proximity of this to Louth it was felt that they would not be willing to provide another. However, England Football would be willing to fund a new 3G pitch but, after clearing up a mistake on the England Hockey website, it had come to light that this type of pitch was unsuitable for higher level hockey to be played on. Understandably, the Louth Hockey Club were concerned that they would lose facilities in Louth. Mr. Humphreys reported that MV had agreed to look to site a 3G pitch somewhere else on the site and would consider deferring action on the current All Weather pitch, pending further talks, a condition survey and analysis of the effect that deferment might have on MV's funding.

523. Presentation by Louth and District Scout Commissioner

The Council received a presentation from Mr. T. Groom, the Louth and District Scout Commissioner on the future of Scouting in Louth. Mr. Groom explained that the local Scouting movement consisted of several groups which met at different locations and had increasing numbers. Further to the sale of the Scouts Thames Street site and investment of the profit an Executive Committee had been set up who were tasked with looking for a new home that would accommodate all of the groups. Mr. Groom had come to inform the Council that the Committee were looking into using the Charles Street Recreation Area, currently owned by MV. He explained that no capital outlay would be needed to acquire the site other than for legal fees and the Scouts objective was to enhance and improve the use of the site, sharing it with the community to ensure its viability so that the community would not lose another asset. He reported that it would attract new community users to the site and would help to deter anti-social use. He confirmed that the Scouts had met with all of the stakeholders who were all on board, a grant had been applied for, plans had been drawn up, a local solicitor had been engaged. He asked for the Council's support.

Cllrs. Mrs. SC declared an interest as the Chairman of a Scout Committee.

Following a proposal by Cllr. RJ, seconded by Cllr. DEW it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should support the Scouts in this endeavour.

Cllr. Mrs. JS left the meeting at 8.11pm.

524. County and District Councillors Report

LCC Councillors Mrs. S. Dodds and Mr. T. Bridges were present and reported as follows:

- a. Cllr. Mrs. S. Dodds reported as follows:
 - i. LCC's SEND consultation was live,
 - ii. Extension to rights for care leavers – more responsibility for all tiers of government to recognise role as Corporate Parents.
 - iii. Receipt of the second Ombudsman Report against Adult Service Directorate in a year, which was about third party top up payments.
 - iv. Tony McCardle was to leave on 28/2/18 and Richard Wills was taking over in the short term.
 - v. Resurfacing of the Louth Bypass.
 - vi. LCC's Budget - 2 year financial plan for revenue and capital, driven by cost pressures within demand led services such as Children and Adults, high priority areas remain like safeguarding adults and children, flood risk, supporting communities, fire and rescue, the long term future for local government wouldn't be decided until after the Fairer Funding Review. LCC is part of the Business Rates Retention pilot. The scheme had been worked out on a 60/40 split between LCC and the 7 districts. It was predicted to generate nearly £7.5m of revenue for LCC with that funding going to meet cost pressures in children's services and highways. Despite this extra funding, there was still a heavy use of reserves to keep services running, with £1.776m being used this year and nearly £34m being used the following year. Austerity, substance misuse and mental health issues had all, according to these budget papers, contributed to an 8% rise in looked after children nationally since 2010, with a 5% rise being seen in Lincolnshire. In the next two years, this results in a £1.8m cost pressure for LCC alone.

- b. Cllr. T. Bridges reported:
 - i. that he was the Chair of the Brexit Committee which would be meeting the following day to try to ensure that Lincolnshire get their rightful amount on Brexit.
 - ii. Some of the streetlights which were going off at midnight have had their switch off time brought forward to 10pm. LCC are moving through the county looking at the streetlights and trying to make sure that where LCC are responsible for lighting that everyone has some responsibility for that lighting.

District Councillors reported as follows:

- a. Cllr. R. Jackson reported that between the ELDC draft budget and final budget £2.91m had appeared mostly due to business rates. There are two amendments to the budget, both mention litter picking and street scene and Councillors grants.
- b. Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported that as long as it was voted for at the ELDC budget meeting shop front grants would be brought back and Councillor grants. There would be some new apprentices in the street scene department. Universal credit would come to the area in September. The District Council are supporting a Louth Hub Digital Project in Louth Town Centre by contributing £20,000.

525. Council Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the following Council Meetings:

- a. Town Council – 9th January 2018 – Proposed by Cllr. GEH, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. EB.
- b. Town Council – 23rd January 2018 – Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. JMS, seconded by Cllr. GEH.
- c. Town Council – 30th January 2018 – Proposed by Cllr. GEH, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. JMS.

526. Committee Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to receive the Minutes of the following committee meetings and adopt the resolutions contained therein:

- a. Planning – 7th November 2017 – Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. SC, seconded by Cllr. DJEH.
- b. Planning – 19th December 2017 – Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. SC, seconded by Cllr. DJEH.
- c. Planning – 9th January 2018 – Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. SC, seconded by Cllr. DJEH.
- d. Community Resources – 7th November 2017 – Proposed by Cllr. DT, seconded by Cllr. AL.
- e. Governance and Finance – 19th December 2017 – Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. EB, seconded by Cllr. CG.

527. Town Clerk's Report / Update

The Town Clerk had nothing to report.

528. Correspondence

The Council noted correspondence from a member of the public regarding the increase in litter and dog mess around the streets of Louth and a possible solution of self-funding litter wardens. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. PFW, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. EB it was **RESOLVED** that District Cllr. Jackson should be tasked with approaching ELDC with this suggestion, as the body responsible for Street Cleaning, and that a reply be sent to the member of the public in question informing him of the Council's actions.

529. Discretionary Rate Relief

Following a proposal by Cllr. GEH, seconded by Cllr. AL it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should support an application for the above made by 2nd Louth Scouts and that delegated authority should be granted to the Town Clerk to sign the paperwork on behalf of the Council.

530. Julian Bower Field Rental

Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. EB, seconded by Cllr. CG it was **RESOLVED** that delegated authority should be given to the Town Clerk to progress the letting out of the Julian Bower 'Field' for hay cutting for the summer season 2018.

531. Wayleave Agreement

Following a proposal by Cllr. JG, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. JMS it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to sign the wayleave agreement, as requested by Northern Powergrid in relation to land adjacent to Julian Bower House, on behalf of the Council.

532. Permission to Reproduce Images of Louth Panorama

Following a proposal by Cllr. RJ, seconded by Cllr. CG it was **RESOLVED** that permission should be granted to a local author to reproduce pictures of the Louth Panorama for a book he has written entitled 'Forty Stories from the Louth Panorama'.

533. East Lindsey Area Forum

Following a proposal by Cllr. AL, seconded by Cllr. CG it was **RESOLVED** that Councillors Mrs. SC and Mrs. EB should attend the above, taking place on Monday 26th March 2018 at Tedder Hall, Manby from 6.45pm on behalf of Louth Town Council.

534. Citizens Advice Bureau

Following a proposal by Cllr. JG, seconded by Cllr. DJEH it was **RESOLVED** that the donation of £1,000 to Citizens Advice, as approved in the 2017/18 budget, should be released.

535. Building Communities of Specialist Provision: A Collaborative Strategy

Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. PFW, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. SC it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should respond in support of the above consultation on behalf of Louth Town Council.

Cllrs. Mrs. JMS declared an interest as her daughter in law was a teacher.

536. LCC Fairer Funding Consultation

Following a proposal by Cllr. AL, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. JMS it was **RESOLVED** that County Councillor Mrs. S. Dodds should be asked to formally pass on the Council's dismay at the questions contained in the above consultation, which it was felt were too convoluted and above what could be expected of your average volunteer Councillor let alone paid operatives. The Council was in agreement that it supports Fairer Funding but that the consultation was not appropriate.

537. Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Licensing Policy Consultation

Following a proposal by Cllr. AL, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. EB it was **RESOLVED** that no corporate response should be made to the above.

538. Next Meeting

The Council noted that the next scheduled Town Council meeting would take place on 27th March 2018.

The Meeting Closed at 9.03pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman)

Dated _____