

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE OLD COURT ROOM, THE SESSIONS HOUSE, LOUTH  
ON TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

**Present** Councillor Mrs. E. Ballard JP (in the chair)

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

**Councillors not present:** L.M. Stephenson (LMS)

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.J. Blankley, her Secretary, Mrs. L.M. Phillips two members of the public, one member of the press, invited guests, Mr. Baird and Mr. James were also present.

Members of the public spoke in the Public Forum, as follows:

- Cllr. Mrs. JMS congratulated Mr. M. Crannage on his superb playing of the Compton Organ prior to the BBC Radio 4 Any Questions? event, held at Louth Town Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> February.
- Cllr. Mrs. PFW reminded those present that the ELDC Chairman's quiz would take place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and she invited everyone to attend.
- Cllr. GEH complained about dog fouling in the town, saying it was getting worse. It was agreed that this would be a future agenda item. Cllr. DEW wondered if the signs that the dog warden painted on the pavements could include arrows, directing dog owners to the nearest bin. Cllr. Mrs. MO opined that the general public needed to have some common decency. Cllr. Mrs. JS suggested that the local schools be asked to cover the topic in a science lesson to educate the younger generation about the bacteria and the risks that dog feces presents in the hope that future generations will not allow public fouling.

**447. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors LMS and FWPT (who might be late).

**448. Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman informed Cllrs. that Louth Methodist Church was hosting an exhibition entitled 'Stations' during the first two weeks of March on behalf of Louth Churches for Refugees – which is a group affiliated to Churches Together in Louth and District. She reported that Cllrs were invited to a launch event at Louth Methodist Church starting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28th February at which The Rt Rev'd Christopher Lawson, Bishop of Lincoln would speak. There would be an opportunity to hear of the work of Louth Churches for Refugees, explore the exhibition and speak with people with experience of the impact of war on refugees.

**449. Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were received as follows:

- a. Cllr. Mrs. PFW – any item from or relating to ELDC – as a member of ELDC and especially item 4 as a member of Health Scrutiny.
- b. Cllr. Mrs. MO – item 12 – as her nephew is involved in Louth Run for Life
- c. Cllr. CG – item 11 – as a member of ELDC.
- d. Cllr. Mrs. JMS – item 4 – as a member of the working group at ELDC tasked with looking into this and item 11 as a member of ELDC.
- e. Cllr. RJ – item 11 – as a member of ELDC.
- f. Cllr. FWPT – item 11 – as a member of ELDC.

#### 450. Presentation

The Chairman of East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Mr. Stephen Baird and Mr. Gary James, Accountable Officer from CCG gave a presentation updating the Council regarding healthcare proposals for Lincolnshire and the impact on Louth Health Services/Louth Hospital. Full details of which can be obtained by visiting [www.lincolnshirehealthandcare.org/stp](http://www.lincolnshirehealthandcare.org/stp). Cllrs. asked questions etc., some of which were as follows:

- a. Cllr. RJ asked for assurances that there would not be any incentives to let people die at home rather than in hospital. They were assured that there was no drive to change the current situation. Mr. James reported that generally, people wish to die at home but be well supported. He thought that it would be a challenge to keep people safe at home but nothing in this STP would drive an adverse change.
- b. On the subject of Louth Hospital – Mr. James reported that the age of the Louth Hospital Estate made it a challenge. He confirmed that a new hospital would be the ideal. However, Skegness were also in the same situation and finding funding for two hospitals would be difficult. Therefore, building one new one to service both areas needed to be looked at. Location and funding to be discussed. Mr. James opined that a public debate was needed to decide such things.
- c. Cllr. GEH asked about frontline GP services. He was assured that recruiting of more GP's was a priority but in the meantime Mr. Baird was of the opinion that the system needed to change and other avenues of proactive care should be explored.
- d. Cllr. Mrs. SEL asked if it was really possible to bring financial balance by 2021. Mr. James thought probably not but the current proposals would take us a long way towards it and they are the right thing to do.
- e. Other Cllrs. commented that: 1) the outcome of the STP revolved around pounds, shillings and pence and questioned whether it was a futile exercise. 2) People who abuse themselves with alcohol and other substances should not be allowed free treatment. A chargeable system should be introduced. 3) When Louth had a proper A&E Department ambulances were told not to take patients there. Mr. James informed that the reason for this is there are certain tests for certain conditions and these have to be done in a specialist hospital with the right technology. 4) More explanation is needed by the general public of terms used like urgent care. 5) Continuity between different nursing shifts is needed. 6) Protocols need changing.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Baird and Mr. James for attending and it was agreed that they would come back for a longer discussion after liaison with the Town Clerk.

Cllr. Mrs. JS left the meeting at 8.31pm.

#### 451. Council Minutes

Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. PFW, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. SEL it was **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

#### 452. Committee Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the resolutions contained within the following minutes:

- a. Planning Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 – proposed by Cllr. Mrs. SC, seconded by Cllr. DJEH.
- b. Planning Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – proposed by Cllr. Mrs. SC, seconded by Cllr. DJEH.
- c. Community Resources Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – proposed by Cllr. CG, seconded by Cllr. DT.
- d. Personnel Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – proposed by Cllr. Al, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. SEL.

#### 453. Town Clerk's Report on Matters Outstanding

The Town Clerk reported that Councillor A. Grist's visit to speak to the Council was being rearranged. Following a proposal by Cllr. CG, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. MO it was **RESOLVED** that he should be invited to attend at the Annual Town Meeting to speak.

#### 454. Correspondence

The Council noted that the following correspondence had been received:

- a. From: LCC Re Amendment to The Lincolnshire Permit Scheme (management of street and roadwork activities on the public highway in Lincolnshire). Amendments relate to changing 'Single-authority Scheme' to 'Multi-authority Scheme' to accommodate neighbouring authorities in the future if required. Comments by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

#### 455. Amenity Grass Cutting

The Chairman confirmed that she was in the process of writing her report for presentation along with the petition at the LCC meeting scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

#### 456. Campaign for the Protection of Rural England

The Council **RESOLVED** to make the corporate response to the above consultation:

- a. What are the things that concern you most about Lincolnshire's countryside today?
  - Louth Town Council is concerned that Lincolnshire countryside is shrinking, developments are quickly covering any and all available land much of which is farmland which may in the future be valuable to the UK population as agricultural land if the need arises to become more self-sufficient when the UK leave the European Union. Vital jobs could be being created through agriculture to help feed a growing population.Cllr. Mrs. PFW declared an interest as a member of the Drainage Board.
- b. Several ideas have been put forward already. From your perspective could you put these suggestions for action into a priority order (1 being most important): promoting better road repairs, oppose new home building in areas of flood risk, tackling fly-tipping and litter, promoting sustainable rural communities, making better use of existing empty properties, promoting better management of development in The Wolds, promoting better management of water resources, creating local job opportunities.
  - Louth Town Council ranked all ideas as equally important but wished that instead of opposing new home building in areas of flood risk a more positive spin could be put on this by trying to find ways around the problems, as they have done in Holland.
- c. CPRE Nationally is campaigning on several fronts. Which of the following campaign areas do you think are particularly relevant to Lincolnshire and should be taken up by the Branch? (again please rank in priority order): light pollution, tranquillity, brownfield land (promotion for development ahead of greenfield land), more realistic housing targets (council housing need surveys often overstate demand), litter, protecting hedgerows, promoting local foods, better transport choices and safer roads, reducing our energy needs, investing in renewables but limiting the impact on the countryside.

Louth Town Council rank brownfield land (promotion for development ahead of greenfield land) first, better transport choices and safer roads second, more realistic housing targets (council housing need surveys often overstate demand) third and all of the others as equally as important as each other. They would also like to see more definition of terms e.g., transport choices?

#### 457. ELDC Transformation Programme

The Council noted that the savings requirement from Public Toilets has been put back to 2018/19 with a Scrutiny Panel set up to consider public toilet provision and the links with other strategies and plans within the programme.

#### 458. Grant Request

Following a proposal by Cllr. GEH, seconded by Cllr. DT it was **RESOLVED** that a request for financial support from 'Louth Run For Life' 2017 should be supported but that they should be made aware that they have missed the formal grant giving exercise and because of this only £100 is left within that budget head to award them. In future, they should ensure that any request is made in the proper way via the formal process, as a request by them outside of this will not be considered.

**459. Apprenticeship / return to work employees**

Councillor JMS proposed that the town council investigate the possibility of employing an apprentice for future posts in the council office and also to investigate the possibility with First College of giving a returning to work individual the chance to gain experience working with us to enable them to get back into employment. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. CG, however, two alternative proposals were also made: 1) Cllr. AL proposed that an apprentice should not be looked into and a paid employee should be engaged, as had been planned. This was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. MO. 2) Cllr. DT proposed that Mablethorpe be approached to explain how their system works. This was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. JMS. On a vote of the Council it was **RESOLVED** that an apprentice should not be looked into and a paid employee should be engaged.

**460. Next Meeting**

The Council noted that the date of the next scheduled Robed Town Council meeting was 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017 when Governance Document Review recommendations would be considered.

The Meeting Closed at 9.22pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman)

Dated \_\_\_\_\_