

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SESSIONS HOUSE, EASTGATE, LOUTH
ON TUESDAY 17th APRIL 2018**

Present: Councillor Mrs. P.F. Watson (PFW) (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), Mrs. L. Harrison-Wiseman (LHW), D. Hobson (DH), G.E. Horton (GEH), R.A. Jackson (RJ), A. Leonard (AL), M. Locking (ML), Mrs. S.E. Locking (SEL), Mrs. M. Ottaway (MO), Mrs. J. Makinson-Sanders (JMS), L.M. Stephenson (LMS), F.W.P. Treanor (FWPT), D. Turner (DT), and D.E. Wing

Councillors not present: Mrs. J. Speed (JS), L.M. Stephenson (LMS),

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.M. Phillips was also present.

Public Forum

- Cllr. AL informed those present that Louth had appeared in HELLO! Magazine recently in a report about Prince Charles' recent visit. He kindly passed a copy of the issue to the Town Clerk for the Council.
- Cllr. Mrs. MO reported that she had been to see the Bomber Command Memorial, which was excellent. She encouraged everyone to visit.
- Cllr. Mrs. EB complained about pot holes in the town. The Town Clerk agreed to chase LCC for a 'walkaround' which had been promised in 2017.
- Cllr. AL updated that ex. Mayor and Councillor Mr. Gus Robertson was back home after a sudden illness and short stint in hospital.

County and District Councillors Reports

- Cllr. RJ reported that ELDC are looking at becoming a borrowing council by borrowing £20m over 50 years for housing. She also confirmed that at a flood meeting regarding the attenuation pond at 82 Eastfield Road it had been stated that the developers had been emptying the pond manually and the pond is much deeper than expected. ELDC have no legal recourse as they made their decision based on expert advice. Cllr. RJ cautioned that this is a problem that might come up again in future and the Town Council should be aware of it and point it out. They should also be aware that the SUDs scheme doesn't necessarily work as it could be based on flawed information.
- Cllr. Mrs. PFW corrected Cllr. RJ explaining that the £20m which ELDC are hoping to borrow is not for housing, ELDC intend to place it in a property fund.
- Cllr. Mrs. JMS informed the Council that the officers at ELDC are going to change the way in which the District's markets are run and there would be a scrutiny meeting to look into this. She also reported that 1) following a proposal from Cllr. Mrs. S. Dodds there would be a scrutiny meeting to look into the conservation area, 2) work on the Hat Box had begun that day, 3) Vicars are now to be included on ELDC's list to receive information on exactly what help is available for homeless people as they often go to churches for help and finally, 4) at a Health Scrutiny meeting at ELDC some disturbing news had been disseminated regarding Louth Hospital.

621. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. JS and LMS who would be late.

622. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations

The following declarations of interest were made:

- a. Cllrs. RJ and Mrs. PFW – agenda item 9 – as a member of ELDC.
- b. Cllr. Mrs. JMS – agenda item 9 – as a member of ELDC and agenda item 6 – as a member of the Hubbard's Hills Trust
- c. Cllrs. AL and DEW – agenda item 6 – as members of the Hubbard's Hills Trust

623. Council Minutes

After prompting from the Town Clerk the Mayor pointed out that there was a mistake with minute 592 of the Town Council minutes of 27th March 2018 and she read out the way in which it should appear, which was as follows: The Council noted that The Committee on Standards in Public Life had launched a consultation (closing date 27th April 2018) as part of their review into local government ethical standards (details and link circulated by email 20th March 2018). Following a proposal by Cllr. DT, seconded by Cllr. GEH it was **RESOLVED** that a working group should be formed, consisting of Cllrs. GEH, AL, RJ, DJEH and DT to formulate a corporate response, to be ratified by the Governance and Finance Committee on 17th April 2018.

Following a proposal by Cllr. GEH, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. PFW it was **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 27th March with the above amendment.

624. Committee Minutes

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

- a. Planning – 13th March 2018 – Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. SC, seconded by Cllr. DJEH
- b. Community Resources – 20th February 2018 – Proposed by Cllr. DT, seconded by Cllr. AL
- c. Personnel – 20th February 2018 – Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. JMS, seconded by Cllr. DEW

625. Town Clerk's Report/Update

The Town Clerk drew Councillors attention to her tabled report which was noted.

626. Correspondence

The Council noted that the following correspondence had been received:

- a. **From:** a member of the public – **Re:** Hubbard's Hills. (Attached). The Mayor invited Cllr. AL as the Chairman of the Hubbard's Hills Trust to address the Council on the matter and the Council noted his comments which were as follows: That the Trust had experienced trouble in obtaining quotes. He confirmed that they had received two quotes but the third tradesperson had dropped out. This had rendered it necessary to find another, sufficiently qualified tradesperson. This had been achieved and they had been approached and had agreed to supply a quote which he expected to receive imminently. Unfortunately, Cllr. AL reported that all of the tradespeople, upon being asked their lead time, had all stated that they would not be able to commence work for at least two months after receiving the go ahead. Cllr. AL assured the Council that there was no intention to deny disabled access and that all efforts were being made to ensure the works were completed as quickly as possible. He urged Councillors to remember that the Trust would not be in this position had vandals not caused the excessive damage to the ramp, but he reiterated that the Trust were working to rectify the problem as expediently as possible and that the public would not be left without disabled access during the summer season as this is still available from the Hallington entrance.

627. Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elect 2018/19

- a. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. JMS, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. LHW it was **RESOLVED** to confirm that the current Deputy Mayor, Councillor G.E. Horton become the Mayor Elect 2018/19. Cllr. LMS arrived at 7.29pm.
- b. With regard to nomination for Deputy Mayor Elect 2018/19 the Council noted that:
 - i. Councillors putting themselves forward should have a seconder;
 - ii. For those proposing other Councillors, they should ensure that the nominee was aware and a seconder was in place.
 - iii. Both the Mayor (Chairman) and Deputy Mayor (Vice Chairman) 2018/19 would be subject to formal election at the Annual Town Council meeting on the 15th May 2018.
 - iv. The Council received two nominations of Cllr. FWPT – proposed by Cllr. Mrs. MO and seconded by Cllr. CG and Cllr. Mrs. LHW – proposed by Cllr. DT, seconded by Cllr. DB. Following a proposal by Cllr. LMS, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. PFW it was **RESOLVED** that a secret ballot be taken following which Cllr. FWPT emerged as the winner. He thanked Cllrs. for their support and confidence. Cllr. Mrs. PFW congratulated both Cllr. GEH and Cllr. FWPT.

628. Review of Local Government Ethical Standards

The Council received a response to the above, as compiled by the working group resolved upon on 27th March 2018. Following a proposal by Cllr. RJ, seconded by Cllr. AL it was **RESOLVED** that this should be submitted as a corporate response.

629. Waste Strategy Consultation

Further to circulation by email on 4th April 2018 of the above consultation the Council considered formulating a corporate response. Following a proposal by Cllr. LMS, seconded by Cllr. AL it was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs. should submit their responses to the questions within the consultation to the Clerk for collation which should be brought back for ratification by the Planning Committee on 19th June 2018.

630. Amenity Grasscutting

Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. EB, seconded by Cllr. DT it was **RESOLVED** to move into closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the commercial sensitivity of the business to be discussed in relation to quotes for amenity grasscutting.

- a. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. EB, seconded by Cllr. CG it was **RESOLVED** that Glendale Countryside Services should be engaged to undertake 5 cuts to the local amenity grass (as specified on the revised maps supplied by LCC, totalling an area of 67,470m² at a cost of £1,889.16 per cut, which was achievable within budget.
Cllr. Mrs. JMS wished it to be noted that she disapproved and voted against the motion.
- b. Following a proposal by Cllr. CG, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. DB it was **RESOLVED** to move back into open session.
- c. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. EB, seconded by Cllr. CG it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to complete and return the Parish Grasscutting Agreement which had been received from LCC and which had to be returned by 30th April 2018.

631. Planters on Aswell Street

Further to discussion on 27th March 2018 on this issue the Council received an update from Cllr. Mrs. SC as follows: Councillor Mrs. Crew, the Chairman of Louth In Bloom, confirmed that following the discussion on 27th March she had emailed the members of the Louth in Bloom Group. In the email she had expressed her wish to resign as Chairman and she had suggested that the Louth in Bloom Group should fold due to the lack of active volunteers and enthusiasm. She had also proposed that assistance be sought from Louth Men's Shed to construct a wooden surround for the tubs using funds held by the Louth in Bloom Group and on completion she had proposed that the tubs be gifted to a local community gardening group. The Council noted the above and that there was some unrest amongst the group, which they urged the group to address.

632. Closed Session Item

Following a proposal by Cllr. AL, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. MO it was **RESOLVED** to move into closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed in relation to staffing matters.

The Council discussed staffing matters and following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. EB, seconded by Cllr. CG it was **RESOLVED** that the Personnel Committee should meet on 24th April to discuss the way forward.

Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. SC, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. SEL it was **RESOLVED** to move back into open session.

The Meeting Closed at 8.56pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman)

Dated _____