

**MINUTES OF THE LOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN HELD IN
THE OLD COURT ROOM, THE SESSIONS HOUSE, LOUTH
ON TUESDAY 2nd JULY 2019**

Present The Mayor, Councillor F. Treanor (FWPT) (in the chair).

Councillors: Mrs. E. Ballard (EB), J. Baskett (JB), M. Bellwood (MB), L. Cooney (LMC), A. Cox (AC), S. Crew (SC), H. Filer (HF), D. Ford (DF), J. Garrett (JG), D.J.E. Hall (DJEH), D. Hobson (DH), G.E. Horton (GEH), D. Jackman (DJ), A. Leonard (AL), Mrs. S.E. Locking (SEL), Mrs. J. Makinson-Sanders (JMS), K. Norman (KN), J. Simmons (JS), Mrs. P.F. Watson (PFW) and D. Wing (DEW).

Councillors not present: None

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.M. Phillips, the Town Clerk's Assistant, Mrs. M. Vincent and five candidates for co-option were also present.

Public Forum

- Cllr. Mrs. EB noted that she thought it was much better now that the Chairman had a microphone as sound was much clearer.
- Cllr. GEH read out a card of thanks following the Mayor's Charity cheque presentation.
- Cllr. GEH reported that the Public Footpaths in the town were in a bad state and requested that this subject be added onto a future agenda.
- Cllr. KN reported that during the heavy rain two trees had come down on the railway walk. The Town Clerk confirmed that Railway Walk was the remit of ELDC. A discussion ensued regarding varying views of how well or poorly maintained Railway Walk was.
- Cllr. Mrs. EB reported that there had been instances of anti-social behaviour at certain locations in the town including the Gatherums, Aldi and Charles Street, and though not all in her ward, requested that Cllrs. assent to her writing to Inspector Willoughby. The Town Clerk noted that this was not an issue that could be resolved on in the public forum, but that Cllr. Mrs. EB could write from herself personally, not on behalf of the whole Town Council. The rest of the councillors did not object.
- Cllr. Mrs. EB wished it noted that Louth Athletics Club had been active for many years, but she felt it was treated as a 'poor relation' compared to other sports clubs and received little funding.
- Cllr. Mrs. SEL reported that there had been a visit to Sessions House by the whole of Year 5 of Lacey Gardens School to talk about democracy at which she, the Mayor and the Mayor's Sergeant had presided.

District and County Councillor Consultation

- Apologies were received from Cllr. Parkin.
- Cllr. AL reported that he, and several other Town Councillors had attended (but as District Councillors) a presentation given by a specialist in Market Towns the previous week which had been excellent. He reported that the speaker had said how wonderful Louth was but there were a number of things that needed attention: Colour – baskets and flowers required as the town centre looked drab; poor seating; poor signage; parking which should be pay on exit instead of pay and display.
- There was a discussion regarding issues with rough sleepers in the town and Cllr. Mrs. PFW reported that the authorities should speak with the Rev'd Nick Brown at St. James' as he would have much more of an idea of the reality of how many rough sleepers were in the town.
- There was an update regarding the work on Keddington Lock and that the stones and artefacts would be going to the Navigation Trust.
- Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported that there was now a joint ELDC/Community Lincs Age Friendly officer, who was to make sure that all policies etc, were age friendly.
- Cllr. AL told Councillors that ELDC was putting in a funding application for the High Street Heritage Action Zone for Louth and that they required an urgent letter of support from Louth Town Council. The Town Clerk explained that the Council could not resolve on an item that was not on the agenda and it was illegal to suspend Standing Orders for this matter. Cllr. Mrs. JMS presented a letter from three councillors requesting an Extraordinary Town Council Meeting be called urgently so that this could be attended to. A discussion on how soon a meeting could legally be called and convenient times to ensure a quorum ensued and Monday 8th July 6:30pm was agreed. (Cllrs. Mrs SEL, JS and LMC gave apologies for this meeting).

91. Apologies for Absence

No apologies.

92. Chairman's Remarks

Cllr. FWPT reported that he had spent a fantastic day on Sunday at the Run for Life and was pleased to see Cllr. Mrs. JMS and the Deputy Mayoress taking part. He continued that this coming Saturday he would be holding a reception for the French party that were arriving to play in a football tournament, and that Councillors were invited to come along.

93. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations

The following Declarations of Interest was made:

- a. Cllr. Mrs. PFW – item 7 as knows candidates standing for co-option.
- b. Cllrs. Mrs. JMS and AL – item 8a (Public Toilets) as members of ELDC.

94. Council Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record, the notes of the Council Meeting held on the 18th June 2019.

95. Committee Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm receipt of the minutes and adopt the resolutions contained therein of the Governance and Finance Committee meeting held on 5th March 2019 and the Planning Committee meeting held on 21st May 2019.

96. Town Clerk's Report/Update

The Town Clerk drew the Council's attention to her tabled report. Regarding item 74 (bin on Virginia Drive) on the report Cllr. DJEH requested an update, and the Clerk reported that a draft had been written but it was still to go to ELDC.

97. Co-option of Councillor Vacancy on St. Michael's Ward

The Town Clerk and the Chairman explained the process for co-option. Councillors questioned whether a secret ballot could be taken. The Town Clerk read out advice from NALC which confirmed that a secret ballot could not be used by the Town Council in this instance. The Council agreed on three questions to be asked of each candidate. Following interview of all five candidates it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** by vote of the Council to move into closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the business to be discussed in the following item being potentially of a confidential third party and sensitive nature in relation to suitability and voting for co-option candidates. Following a series of votes, each knocking out the lowest scoring candidate it was **RESOLVED** that Jeremy Baskett (JB) be co-opted as the Ward Member for St Michael's.

The Council **RESOLVED** to come out of Closed Session.

Mr. Baskett signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his seat at the table.

98. Correspondence Received

- a. **Public Toilets** – Following receipt of a letter from a member of the public voicing a complaint regarding the charge for using the toilets in Louth and also questioning the cleanliness of them, and after a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** to write to ELDC to request they remove all the charges for using the toilets and machinery in Louth.
- b. **Town Centre Transport** - Following receipt of a letter from a member of the public who voiced their concerns regarding the change of the Stagecoach bus route due to issues with the town centre route in Louth being congested and following discussions as to the reasons that buses cannot navigate the town centre easily, with suggestions of changing the traffic flow and pedestrianisation, it was **RESOLVED**:
 - i) To forward a redacted copy of the letter to Councillor Parkin, ask her to consider this and the Town Council's concerns and investigate whether there was any possible compromise that could be reached.
 - ii) To write to the original complainant and explain the action taken.
- c. **Parking** – Following receipt of a parking survey compiled by the U3A (circulated by email on 25th June) it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should write to the U3A to congratulate the group on their work, to express the support of the Town Council and their wish to work with them.

- d. **Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service** – The Council noted that the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service AONB Annual Review 2018/9 had been received and was available to view.

99. Closed Session Items

It was **RESOLVED** to move into Closed Session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the business to be discussed in the following item, information being of a confidential commercial third party and sensitive nature in relation to:

- a. **Cemetery Lodge** – the Council received an update, noted correspondence received and noted that no objections had been received during the formal advertisement and cooling off period.
- b. **St. Aethelheard’s Chapel** -It was **RESOLVED** not to consider selling. However, the Council agreed that they might consider a longer lease with conditions included if all costs were paid by St. Aethelheard’s.
- c. **Julian Bower** – The Council received legal advice from NALC and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should write to the gentleman who had approached the Council with regard to siting an apiary on the Julian Bower field to apprise him of the advice received and to suggest that he contact the Louth Allotments Association and discuss the possibilities of their requesting an extension to the current allotment area at Julian Bower to enable the siting of the beehives under their Allotment Tenancy Agreement.

It was **RESOLVED** to come out of Closed Session.

100. Next Meeting

The Council noted that the date of the next scheduled Town Council meeting was 24th September 2019.

The Meeting Closed at 9.22pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman)

Dated _____