

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE SESSIONS HOUSE, EASTGATE, LOUTH  
ON TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2017**

**Present** Councillor Mrs. P.F. Watson (PFW) (in the chair)

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

**Councillors not present:** M. Locking (ML), Mrs. S.E. Locking (SEL), Mrs. J. Speed (JS)

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.J. Blankley, her Secretary, Mrs. L.M. Phillips, 16 members of the public, LCC and ELDC Councillor, Mrs. S. Dodds and ELDC Councillor, A. Grist were also present.

Cllr. Mrs. JMS spoke in the public forum, congratulating Cllr. Mrs. PFW on obtaining an increased amount of money (£10,000) from Anglian Water to compensate for their disruption at Westgate Fields while undertaking work to lay a new pipe. She reported that she had spoken to Cllr. Grist and had suggested that some of the money be used to purchase some new trees for Westgate Fields and in particular one to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II, our longest reigning monarch.

The Chairman of the Watts Lane Resident Association also spoke in the public forum, outlining their group, its formation, its goals and its progress to date. She informed the Council that it was their intention to erect a gate across Watts Lane in the hope of breaking habits. She explained that the residents intended to lead by good example. The gate would be under 1m in height, would never be locked, would be wide enough to allow emergency vehicles to access, would be insured and would be of a hangman style. It was the hope of the group to improve safety, enforce the prohibition order and maintain the quality of the road. Cllr. Mrs. PFW commended the group and wished them well but stated that the Town Council could not aid them.

A minutes silence was held in honour of David Robinson, a prominent member of the local community who had done much during his life for the town of Louth, who had sadly passed away recently.

**162. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs. S.E. Locking, M. Locking and Mrs. J. Speed.

**163. Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman announced that the funeral of Mr. David Robinson would take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 10.30 at Nichol Hill. She also reported on the following:

- a. that she had accompanied the Royal Horticultural Society Judge around the Cemetery and Spout Yard Park on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July and she had been very proud to do so as the Judge had seemed to be suitably impressed.
- b. that she had attended the opening of Louth and Horncastle Flood Alleviation Schemes on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July.

Finally, the Chairman explained that it had been necessary to call this extra Town Council Meeting in order to discuss items whose deadlines were looming and which either could not be left or if left until 22<sup>nd</sup> August (the next scheduled Town Council Meeting), would not afford the Council enough time to make rounded decisions. However, she was mindful that this extra meeting should not detract from the time afforded to the other committee meetings scheduled for the evening and, therefore, she was anxious that the Town Council meeting should not exceed two hours in length.

**164. Declarations of Interest**

- a. Cllr. GEH – pecuniary interest – agenda item 10 – as a business owner in the vicinity. However, he disclosed that he had sought a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer and would take part in any discussions on this item but would not vote.
- b. Cllr. Mrs. PFW – any item from or relating to ELDC – as a member of ELDC.
- c. Cllr. Mrs. EB – agenda item 11 – as a member of one of the affected medical practices.
- d. Cllrs. Mrs. JMS, CG, FWPT and RJ – agenda item 10 – as a member of ELDC.

## 165. County and District Councillors Report

Councillor Mrs. Sarah Dodds gave a report in her capacity as a County and District Councillor for Louth, summarised as follows:

- a. She applauded the Watts Lane Residents Association for the way they had taken the initiative and made themselves self-sustainable and had found a five year solution that they all agreed to, to solve a local problem.
- b. The Monks Dyke/Cordeaux merger was going ahead. She had not come across anyone in local education who did not think that this was the correct model for education in Louth in the long term.
- c. She gave an early heads up to members that LCC would shortly be undertaking a piece of work on Heritage Services which would involve Lincoln Castle, Lincolnshire Archives, Gainsborough Old Hall and the Museum of Lincolnshire Life. She opined that although none of these were in Louth they were of major importance to the heritage fabric of the County and she would not like Louth to take a stance that as they were not in Louth, Louth should not be bothered. She reported that the piece of work would look at the future provision of those services. It was mooted that they should each 'wash their own face'. A working group would begin looking at potential options in September.
- d. Community Led Housing Scheme. Cllr. Mrs. Dodds had recently met with the Director of Adult Services at LCC who wanted to see a huge impetus from Town Councils and Parishes placing their support behind the scheme. He was concerned about the impact of housing on the health of elderly residents and was keen for Town and Parish Councils to be active participants.
- e. STP – Finally, she reported that the STP would be back at full Council in October in the form that it would then go out to public consultation in. Martin Hill had said that he would not push for unitary status this side of the four year term and this would create a bit of stability to concentrate on things like the STP and the Heritage Services, without the distractions of a local government reorganisation.

## 166. Council Minutes

Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. PFW, seconded by Cllr. GEH it was **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

## 167. Committee Minutes

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

- a. Planning Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. SC, seconded by Cllr. DJEH.
- b. Community Resources Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – Proposed by Cllr. DT, seconded by Cllr. AL.

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

The Town Clerk had no outstanding matters to report on.

## 169. Correspondence

The Committee noted that the following correspondence had been received:

- a. **From:** LALC **Re:** AGM 2017 - Councillors noted that the 2017 LALC AGM will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October from 5pm to 9pm at Cranwell Village Hall and will feature keynote speaker Claire Mullin from Parliamentary Outreach. No nominations to attend were made.
- b. **From:** LCC Highways **Re:** St Bernard's Avenue Road Maintenance - Around a third of the road has been resurfaced in the past and is in good condition. Other areas have been identified as requiring improvement and are included in our future works programme. However, it is unlikely any improvements will take place until the 19/20 financial year. Following a proposal by Cllr. RJ, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. SC it was **RESOLVED** that a letter should be sent to LCC objecting and expressing the Council's concern re. safety and disappointment.

## 170. Publications

The Council noted that the following publications had been received and are available in the office:

- a. Clerk and Councils Direct July 2017

## 171. Louth Livestock Market

The Council considered the following:

- a. ELDC Councillor, Adam Grist made a presentation on the Livestock Market and took questions, as follows: Cllr. Grist explained that Louth Livestock Market was a story with many chapters which had run on over many years now. He reminded that ELDC had last made a decision in 2014 to sell the site but there were a number of recommendations associated with that not least that a new facility would be provided. In 2016 there had been a slight change when the preferred bidder had decided that they weren't going to pursue the sale. Another company had come forward called AVG and at the time the Executive Board had supported that as the principles of the sale remained the same. Three or four months ago it became apparent that the principles of the decision in 2014 weren't going to be met and the amounts of money being received would be significantly less as compared to the amount of money required to provide a new site, which would be considerably more. Meaning that the sale proceeds and cost of reprovision were now so close that there would not be as much money to go into the pot for use on other district projects. Therefore, the Executive Board had thought that public consultation was needed in order to make the decision regarding the Cattle Markets next chapter. The consultation had been whittled down to include 3 distinct options. He reiterated that these options were not hard and fast. It might be that one of those options evolve slightly into something else. He reported that ELDC have merely tried to keep the consultation as simple as possible but members of the public may include with their responses their suggestions and these will be taken into consideration. He confirmed that the consultation will run until 6<sup>th</sup> September, that the response has so far been good and if responses are still flowing in on 6<sup>th</sup> September ELDC may extend the deadline by a week or so, if there is a clear need. ELDC are keen to hit the Council date in October when they are hoping to make a final decision in order to give stability to the town and the farming market.
- i. Cllr. E. Ballard JP asked if the consultation was available to the whole district (126,000 people), 17,000 of which actually live in Louth. She was concerned that if it was that would mean that the voice of the people outside of Louth, who do not care about the Cattle Market, far outnumber those in Louth. Cllr. A. Grist replied that like it or not it is a district wide decision as it has district wide consequences as the money could be spent across the district. Therefore, everyone who pays Council Tax in East Lindsey has a right to have a view. However, he was of the opinion that the vast majority of responses would come from Louth and the surrounding area.
  - ii. Cllr. RJ explained that one of the difficulties she had had with residents when discussing this was that she was unable to tell them what kind of retail might be on the site. She asked if there was a strong reason why ELDC did not redevelop the Cattle Market itself and control the type of retail outlets allowed. Cllr. Grist reminded Cllrs. that the original decision had been to sell the Cattle Market. Cllr. RJ's idea was not something that ELDC had ever considered. However, it was a possibility that could be considered as a consequence of this consultation. He explained that ADV are the preferred bidder at the moment and they will, at some point, have to declare to planning what they want specifically. At the minutes they are proposing a mixture of food and non-food retail.
  - iii. Cllr. Mrs. LHW asked whether the current operators have committed yet as to whether they would be prepared to run a new Cattle Market or continue to run the old one. Cllr. Grist confirmed that, yes, they would be prepared to operate a new market or continue the old but they have not put anything down in writing to legally confirm this.
  - iv. Cllr. JG was horrified that removal of the Charter was even being considered. With regard to the refurbishment he was concerned that should this happen, land values would go up and in ten years and we would be in exactly the same place. Cllr. AG corrected that ELDC were not trying to remove the Charter. He reiterated that it is one of the options and so must be considered. He also said that all things are cyclical. Debate on the future of assets are inevitably needed every ten years or so. He confirmed that if the refurb went ahead there would be minimal disruption to the running of the Cattle Market. However, there is quite a list of remedial works that will need to be carried out quickly if that is the way the decision goes.
  - v. Cllr. GEH asked if the Cattle Market is still on the market for sale. He also asked what people should do if they had other suggestions to the three options on the consultation. Cllr. Grist answered that the site is not being marketed currently as the Council is working with a preferred bidder to get to a situation where a contract can be signed. With regard to other suggestions he explained that any ideas should be put down in writing and submitted with the consultation for consideration.
  - vi. Cllr. AL was of the opinion that this has always been about the money. He was

worried that most of the sale proceeds would be earmarked for use along the coast rather than in Louth and because the Council is Conservative Led, those Councillors would be whipped to follow the party line. He also wondered what business sense ELDC were employing when they had served notice to quit in just six months on the current operators, unless ELDC already know what the outcome of the consultation will be. He wondered if ELDC could be held accountable for having let the building (a public asset) fall into disrepair. Was it not their responsibility to ensure public assets were looked after. Finally, he asked how the Council intended to get around the fact that not re-providing the Cattle Market would put the Council in breach of a Court Order. Cllr. Grist confirmed that he would fully expect that some Councillors would be looking at the situation from their own perspective and would not be looking at the broader view and the possible effect on Louth. However, he confirmed that Councillors would not be whipped, each would be free to vote their own way. He was not able to say much regarding the notice served as this was being dealt with by the Council's legal team. However, he did not believe that the decision to serve notice had anything to do with the consultation, the two had happened coincidentally at the same time. With regard to maintenance of the site, only essential works had been carried out over the last few years and anything deemed non-essential had been put off because of the decision in 2014 to relocate the site. He was not able to answer regarding the breach of the Court Order but he would try to get an answer on this. Cllr. AL announced that he had found a Royal Charter expert who he had spoken with (at no cost to the Council). That person had never heard of anyone suspending a Royal Charter and was aghast at the money ELDC were willing to spend on it. Finally, Cllr. AL was worried that if ELDC decided to deviate from the 3 options was a consultation needed at all or did ELDC already know what it was going to do.

- vii. Cllr. Mrs. MO wondered who ADV were. What is ADV short for? She had no trust in initials. They could be anybody even someone associated with ASDA.
- viii. Cllr. LMS asked if the preferred bidder was the only bidder or the 'person' who had bid the most money or just the 'person' ELDC wanted to sell to. What did preferred bidder mean? Cllr. Grist confirmed that they were the 'person' who had offered best value (they were the highest bidder). Cllr. LMS wondered, if this was the case, and land prices were expected to rise, why were ELDC looking at selling now, why didn't they wait until prices had risen. Cllr. Grist confirmed that this was exactly why ELDC had gone out to consultation now to confirm whether the people still wanted to go ahead with the sale. He reported that a public meeting would be held on 9<sup>th</sup> August.
- ix. Cllr. Mrs. JMS asked who exactly are ADV Partnership? Why can't you google it and why aren't they listed at Companies House. Cllr. Mrs. PFW said that ADV are actually two companies. An acquisition company and a development company. Cllr. Grist proposed that he would come back in writing with details. Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported that Vinci were working with LCC and she had heard that they had a bad reputation. She also wondered if one of the companies would be involved with Wallmart.

Cllr. Mrs. S. Dodds left the meeting at 8.20pm.

- b. The Council agreed to defer making a response to the ELDC Consultation regarding options put forward for consideration until a future meeting.
- c. Following a proposal by Cllr. AL, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. MO it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should write to our MP Victoria Atkins to voice it's concerns about the possible loss of our historic charter rights to hold a cattle market in Louth after almost 450 years of being endowed with this right by Queen Elizabeth I and the effect it will have on local businesses and services and small farmers in the area too, bearing in mind the community she represents is based on farming. Copies to also be sent to other MP's in the area who have farmers who will be affected, the Prime Minister, Environment Secretary and Shadow Environment Secretary.
- d. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. MO, seconded by Cllr. AL it was **RESOLVED** that an extraordinary meeting be called to allow for a full debate on the response of Louth Town Council to be submitted by the closing date (6<sup>th</sup> September 2017). A possible date of 5<sup>th</sup> September was mooted. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would do her best to set up another meeting with all involved parties and any comments that Councillors might wish to be included in the response should be given to the Town Clerk well in advance of 6<sup>th</sup> September.

- e. Following a proposal by Cllr. CG, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. MO it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. AL be given permission to take a free consultation with a Charter Expert.

**172. Louth Medical Practice Consultations**

The Council agreed to defer making a response to two merger proposals affecting all three medical practices in Louth until a meeting with representatives from all practices attending had been held.

**173. Amenity Grass Cutting**

The Council received and considered a written report on the above. Following a proposal by Cllr. AL, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. EB it was **RESOLVED** that:

- a. the Council should leave grass cutting with LCC for 2017/18 to expose the worst case scenario to inform future year's expectations of standards.
- b. the Council should form a working group whose remit should be to validate information by using plans provided (to ensure that LCC had not excluded areas that may be cut by householders currently) and to ascertain agreements and liabilities required to report back to the Council with a view to taking on the service in 2018/19.
- c. the working group should consist of one member from each ward these to be Cllrs. Mrs. SC, FWPT, AL, DT, Mrs. DB, CG and Mrs. JMS. Other Cllrs. should help with the work and put forward information relevant to their ward but they should not be an official part of the group.

**174. Temporary Traffic Restriction**

Councillors noted that the following notifications regarding temporary traffic / footpath restrictions had been received:

- a. Temporary 30mph Speed Limit in place on: A153 (From Ranyard Lane, Goulceby to 500 metres North of New Lane, Tathwell). No Waiting/No Loading At Any Time Orders in place on: A153 (1200 metres North & South of Bluestone Heath Road junction) - Bluestone Heath Road (1200 metres Northwest & Southeast of A153 junction). Road Closure (Access for British Superbike Traffic Only) Order in place on: A153 (from Bluestone Heath road to junction North of Cadwell Park main entrance). Left Turn Only Order in place: From A153 onto A16 (Louth Bypass). Road Closure Order in place on: Bluestone Heath Road (Rowgate Road to A153), Old Main Road, Scamblesby, South Street, Scamblesby, Watery Lane, Scamblesby, Mill Lane, Scamblesby, Chapel Lane, Scamblesby, Rowgate Road, Scamblesby. PERIOD OF RESTRICTIONS: 17/8/2017 to 20/8/2017 (Restrictions to be implemented as & when required during the period above). ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: Local diversion routes will be signposted.
- b. Hawthorn Avenue – 08/08/ - 25/08/17 closures to be implemented as and when required for essential works by M & M Contractors / Virgin Media.
- c. High Holme Road (Broadbank to Grimsby Road), 22/09/ - 29/09/17 – essential maintenance works.
- d. Horncastle Road / South Street (A16 to B1520) and Edward Street (Horncastle Road to Crowtree Lane) 25/09 – 29/09/17 for essential maintenance works.
- e. Link Footway between Stewton Lane and Havelock Close 21/08 – 03/09/17 – essential maintenance work by Northern Power Grid.

**175. Next Meeting**

The Council noted that the date of the next scheduled meeting was Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017 (Urgent Items Only).

The Meeting Closed at 9.07pm.

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

Dated \_\_\_\_\_