

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE SESSIONS HOUSE, EASTGATE, LOUTH
ON TUESDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2017**

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

Councillors: Mrs. E. Ballard (EB), Mrs. D. Blakey (DB), Mrs. S. Crew (SC), J. Garret (JG), D.J.E. Hall (DJEH), Mrs. L. Harrison-Wiseman (LHW), D. Hobson (DH), G.E. Horton (GEH), R. Jackson (RJ), Mrs. J. Makinson-Sanders (JMS), Mrs. M. Ottaway MBE (MO), Mrs. J. Speed (JS), L.M. Stephenson (LMS), F.W.P. Treanor (FWPT), and D.E. Wing (DEW)

Councillors not present: M. Locking (ML), Mrs. S.E. Locking (SEL), C. Green (CG), A. Leonard (AL) and D. Turner (DT)

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.J. Blankley, one member of the press, nine members of the public and three invited guests (Dr. Donal Staunton (DS), Dr. Neil Parkes (NP) and Newmarket Medical Practice, Practice Manager Angela Jesney (AJ) were also present.

The Chairman informed those present that the meeting was being recorded.

Public Forum:

A gentleman spoke regarding a chance meeting he had with Councillor Mrs. Watson immediately before participating in the Fight4Louth Hospital rally. Councillor Mrs Watson responded that as Mayor of Louth her first and only priority is the wellbeing of the people of Louth. She stated that in her position as Mayor her response was based on the official communications from the Chief Executive of LCHS which were taken in good faith and she had no reason to doubt. She said that she was mindful there is certain logic to the argument if there are adverse rumours it will be difficult to attract staff and there will be an impact on Louth Hospital and our Town. The Chairman invited Mr Slater to raise awareness of the campaign by continuing, he then spoke of his concerns about the STP in Lincolnshire and the proposals for Louth / Skegness.

Councillor Stephenson raised concerns regarding the Councillors Code of Conduct.

Councillor Mrs. Speed raised the issue of lost services such as A & E and Coronary Care Units and whether previous consultations had been effective. Dr. Parkes responded that the major exercise, Shaping Health, in 2009 had been upheld as a successful pilot on a National scale and that the descriptions of some services were inadequate such as Urgent Care.

234. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and noted from Councillors M. Locking (ML), Mrs. S.E. Locking (SEL), C. Green (CG), A. Leonard (AL) and D. Turner (DT)

235. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman thanked the doctors for taking the time to attend the meeting.

236. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations

The following declarations of interest were made:

- a. Councillor PFW - as a representative of ELDC on the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire and receiving treatment from ULHT.
- b. Councillor PFW – as a member of ELDC – declared at item 8.
- c. Councillor JMS, RJ – Items 6 and 9 as a member of ELDC
- d. Councillor LMS as a patient at a Louth Medical Practice

237. Presentation by GP Practices in Louth

GP representatives were invited to speak and take questions for Louth Town Council regarding health issues such as mergers and the proposed STP in Louth. Drs Staunton and Parkes, and Ms Jesney introduced themselves, and spoke and answered questions on the following:

Public meetings held regarding merger proposals affecting the three practices in Louth had been well attended and the survey responses indicated 80% support to date.

Problems in attracting doctors to rural Lincolnshire and benefits to having larger list numbers such as

bidding for pharmacist services had led to the merger proposals. Reassurances were given regarding travel to surgeries out of town and that this would predominantly affect staff. Moving forward health services would involve other bodies such as Hospices and the Citizens Advice Bureau. Following discussions on centralised services it was reiterated that any additional monies would be used to provide new services. Dr Parkes opined that standards needed to be high to match patient expectations and that safer systems needed to be built.

The historical differences and personalities were the reason that the three practices in Louth were not involved in a single merger. It was emphasised that the services were moving forward as an evolution and not as a revolution and that they were all working closely together to achieve the best services for Louth. A new initiative was being developed locally known as the Neighbourhood Team that Dr Parkes offered to come back to talk to the council about. Different ways of assessing patients with Nurse Practitioners being front line and supervising doctors available is one model for the future and similarly splitting Primary care into Emergency and Chronic branches where appointments systems could be separated and prioritised.

Dr Staunton expressed his strong personal views on whether the local medical infrastructure was coping, and that big is not beautiful and in his opinion things will get worse as there were no funds. He appealed to Louth Town Council to take this forward.

The Mayor thanked the invited guests for coming and talking to the council.

238. GP Practice Mergers

Following a discussion by councillors it was proposed by Councillor MO, seconded by Councillor FWPT it was **RESOLVED** that Louth Town Council support both merger proposals.

239. County and District Councillors Report

District Councillors apprised those present on –

- a. Sale and redevelopment of Ayscough Hall, Lee Street.
- b. Community Asset process of the Navigation Warehouse
- c. Scrutiny Committee on Business Waste
- d. Future scrutiny of the Wellbeing Service
- e. Future scrutiny of Communications and Engagement
- f. Health Scrutiny Feedback

240. Council Minutes

Following a proposal by Councillor GEH, seconded by Councillor MO it was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the following Council Meeting were approved as the minutes.

- a. Town Council Meeting – 22nd August 2017

241. Town Clerk's Report on Matters Outstanding.

The Town Clerk informed the Council that it had been discovered that errors in numbering sequences had been found in some recent minutes that had been approved for Committees and that they would reappear on those Committee Agenda to correct the records.

242. Louth Livestock Market

The Council received a report from the Town Clerk which contained a paragraph from Councillor AL who was not present. Councillors agreed that the comments to Options 1,2,3 represented the views of those on the Town Council and following a proposal by Councillor SC, seconded by Councillor DEW it was **RESOLVED** that Louth Town Council support Option 3 and that the comments sheet should be submitted to ELDC as the consultation response.(Attached)

243. Next Meeting

Councillors noted that the date of the next scheduled Robed Town Council meeting is Tuesday 17th October 2017.

The Meeting Closed at 20.57hrs

Signed _____ (Chairman) Dated _____