

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY LOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE OLD COURT ROOM, THE SESSIONS HOUSE, LOUTH
ON TUESDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2019**

Present The Mayor, Cllr. F.W.P. Treanor (FWPT) (in the chair).

Councillors: 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. 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.E. Wing (DEW).

Councillors not present: Mrs. E. Ballard (EB).

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.M. Phillips, the Town Clerk's Assistant, Mrs. M. Vincent, Mr. H. Johnston and Mr. P. Eldridge and 9 members of the public were also present.

Public Forum

- A member of the public wished to offer her and her husband's support for a new artificial Christmas tree.
- A second member of the public wished to refute that it was cheaper to have an artificial tree. They opined that the problem lay with the decorations and pointed out that the new tree would not have decorations which would have to be purchased at an extra cost.
- A third member of the public told the Council that they grew trees and that they would give the Town Council a Christmas tree for free and perhaps the Council could organise some kind of charitable donation.
- A fourth member of the public explained that they did their own survey of shops in Louth and that every single person they had spoken to had wanted a real tree. They continued that Louth town centre was a conservation area, where plastic windows and signs were not allowed. Therefore, a plastic tree was not appropriate.
- A fifth member of the public said that they thought an artificial tree with over 7000 lights would encourage visitors to come to the town.
- A member of the public responded that the lights in Louth didn't come on until 3.30pm which only left a few hours before the shops closed. The Town Clerk corrected that in fact the lights on the tree came on at 12 noon and it was the cross street lights that did not come on until 3.30pm.
- Cllr. Mrs. PFW questioned the amount of plastic that each person in the UK generated compared to other countries and that she was unsure that any product with PVC in it could actually be recycled, and that as a rural area, we should promote those people that grew Christmas trees here.
- A sixth member of the public said they thought we should have a real tree this year and look further into an artificial tree next year.
- Cllr. AL commented that the survey for what the residents of Louth and shops wanted should have been done before the original vote and that since there had been an offer for a free tree then we should take this offer and look at Christmas again over the next year.

167. Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. E. Ballard.

168. Chairman's Remarks
None.

169. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations
None.

170. Presentation by Mr. H Johnston on the ELR50 Event
Mr. H. Johnston, the event organiser for the ELR50 Event and Mr. P. Eldridge, volunteer Marketing Manager at Lincs Wolds Railway, gave a full presentation on the ELR50 event in 2020. The presentation covered the original closing of the railways in October 1970, a large railway exhibition to be held at Batemans Brewery in Wainfleet (1st August 2020 until the 4th October 2020), the opening of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of track running towards Louth from Ludborough (September 2020) and the ultimate goal to have the railway open all the way to Louth

(with a station and visitor centre on the industrial estate). Mr. Johnston reported that they would be having a small steam locomotive (called Mabel) which they were going to be offering to towns in the area to hire although the cost for this would be a five-figure sum. This venture was a not-for-profit event which would be fundraising money for the Lincs Wolds Railway project (railway to Louth). Many of the Councillors wished the venture well as they had used the railway from Louth before its closure, and they agreed that steam railways were a big tourist attraction in an area.

171. Christmas Tree

Following requests from three Councillors the Council reconsidered its previously agreed Christmas tree arrangements and following a recorded vote, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would rescind their previous resolution to buy an artificial Christmas tree.

For Artificial Tree	Against Artificial Tree
Cllrs: MB, AC, LMC, HF, DF, JG, DJEH, KN, JS, JB	Cllrs: SC, DH, GEH, DJ, AL, Mrs. SEL, Mrs. JMS, FWPT, Mrs. PFW, DEW

The vote resulted in there being 10 votes each. Therefore, the Chairman, Cllr. FWPT used his casting vote and voted against.

Note: at the end of this item Councillors: LMC, JG and AC left the meeting.

172. Town Clerks Report

The Town Clerk reported that after discussion with the Chairman on the subject of recent meetings and how things might be improved it had been decided that more attention would in future be paid to the implementation of standing orders designed to assist the smooth flow of meetings. She politely requested that Councillors refresh themselves with the section of standing orders entitled Rules of Debate and informed Councillors that their copy of standing orders could be found in the white folders issued after the elections in May. Cllr. GEH asked that any new lights needed for the Christmas Tree be put on the next agenda.

173. Next Meeting

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

The Meeting Closed at 8.55pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman)

Dated _____