

**MINUTES OF THE LOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE OLD COURT ROOM, THE SESSIONS HOUSE, LOUTH
ON TUESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2019**

Present The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. D.E. Wing (DEW) (in the chair).

Councillors: J. Baskett (JB), M. Bellwood (MB), A. Cox (AC), L. Cooney (LMC), 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. J. Makinson-Sanders (JMS), K. Norman (KN) and J. Simmons (JS).

Councillors not present: Mrs. E. Ballard (EB), Mrs. S.E. Locking (SEL), F.W.P. Treanor (FWPT) and Mrs. P.F. Watson (PFW).

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.M. Phillips, the Town Clerk's Assistant, Mrs. M. Vincent, Fr. J. Younger (Mayor's Chaplain), Mr. G. Darnell, Mayor's Sergeant, Cllr. R. Jackson (ELDC), Cllr. S. Parkin (LCC), Mr. I. Rushby (Extinction Rebellion), a member of the press and 13 members of the public were also present.

Public Forum

- A member of the public addressed the Council regarding a new venture he wished to launch, this being an events website for the town to promote such events as Bands in the Bullring. Businesses wishing to add events would be charged £10pm, but charitable events would be added with no charge. He reported that he had already bought a domain name www.lovelouthlive.co.uk which would be used. The website would be self-financing but hoped that the Town Council would support to encourage engagement in the town. Cllr. GEH commented that he was pleased that the Cattle Market was being used for other activities now as it would become more sustainable. Cllr. Mrs JMS declared an interest as a part of the Zero Degrees Festival group.
- A member of the public raised their concerns regarding a white van that was parked on some grassland on the corner of Stewton Lane and Wood Lane. The van had been left and was in a very dirty state, encouraging other vehicles to also park there. The member of the public reported that an enforcement notice had been served earlier in the year and the van was moved for a short time, but it was soon returned to the grass. The van was creating problems for grass cutting, using up the space where people sat and relaxed, and also created a blind spot for drivers pulling out from Stewton Lane. The member of the public explained that the police would only move the van if there was an official No Parking sign there and so requested that Louth Town Council erect a sign. Cllr. GEH explained that he had previously brought this up in the Public Forum and that it was also down as an agenda item that evening.
- Louth Police Team gave their apologies.
- Cllr. R. Jackson (ELDC) spoke briefly on a report (previously emailed to Councillors) and reported that levels of rough sleepers had increased over the last year.
- Cllr. T. Bridges gave his apologies. Cllr. S. Parkin (LCC) reported that there was now a new Highways Officer at LCC which would give highways more continuity. She commented that Lacey Gardens' residents were having a difficult time with parking and were looking at residents' permits. She reported that LCC are currently starting to look at their new corporate plan as ELDC are doing. She had not yet seen a consultation plan but hoped that Louth Town Council would be included. Cllr. Parkin reported on Corporate Parenting and the part that LCC plays in this and its implications (covering to the age of 25). Cllr. Mrs. JMS told Cllr. Parkin that she had heard that LCC had a £30million deficit. Cllr. Parkin reported that they had recently been given a detailed breakdown and actually had an underspend. Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported that there were issues along Crowtree Lane with the school buses and that they were parking down Breakneck Lane with the engines still running, but she had been told that a drop off place such as the Bus Station was not possible due to safeguarding. Cllr. Parkin gave Cllr. JMS the contact for school buses at LCC.
- Cllr. AL reported ELDC's potential move to Horncastle at a cost of £8million.
- Cllr. Mrs JMS reported that there was going to be a consultation regarding residents' parking on some streets and that it would be put out for public debate.
- Prior to the start of the meeting proper, Father J. Younger said prayers.
- As the Chairman had no vice it was agreed that Cllr. DH should act as vice chairman for the meeting.

174. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence was received from Councillors Mrs. E. Ballard, Mrs. S.E. Locking, F.W.P. Treanor and Mrs. P.F. Watson.

175. Chairman’s Remarks

The Chairman reminded Councillors that he would be more rigidly adhering to Standing Orders to aid the more efficient running of the meeting.

176. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations

Cllr. DH – Item 9a as a resident of Wellington Street.
Cllr. Mrs. JMS – Item 15 as a member of ELDC.
Cllr. AL – Item 15 as a member of ELDC and knows person involved. Item 7 as a Magistrate.
Cllr. GEH – Item 7 as a Justice of the Peace
Cllr. SC – Item 7 as a Magistrate

177. Council Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record, the notes of the Council Meeting held on 13th August 2019.

178. Committee Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm receipt of the minutes and adopt the resolutions contained therein of the following Committee Meetings: Personnel – 21st May 2019, Governance and Finance – 21st May 2019, Planning – 16th July 2019 and Planning – 13th August 2019.

179. Town Clerk’s Report / Update

The Town Clerk drew Councillor’s attention to her tabled report. Cllr. DJEH asked if there had been any further updates for item 135 – Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported she had spoken to ELDC but had not heard back and so would follow her email up, but said that ELDC seemed to want to be connected with Boston College as there were now four more courses in Horncastle. Cllr. DF raised item 145a and reported that he had asked the Town Clerk to pass on his objections to the Tree Officer at ELDC, but the Town Clerk had pointed out to the Tree Officer that they were Cllr. DF’s own views and not that of the Town Council. Cllr. DF was concerned. The Town Clerk confirmed that she had passed the Town Council’s objections on to the Tree Officer but could not say that Cllr. DF’s comments were those of the Council as the Council had not discussed the points raised. Cllr. AL pointed out that the Town Council were only consultees.

180. Presentation from Ian Rushby of Extinction Rebellion

Cllr. GEH left the room at 7.30pm objecting to a presentation from a group with the word Rebellion in their name. Following Mr. Rushby’s presentation about climate change and the issues the world is facing and will face in the future due to global warming, the Council **RESOLVED** (by a recorded vote) to declare a Climate Emergency and aim to be carbon neutral as soon as possible.

For	Against	Abstained
Cllrs: JB, MB, AC, LMC, HF, DF, JG, DJEH, DH, DJ, KN, JS, DEW		Cllrs: SC, AL, JMS

Note: Cllr. GEH not present.

181. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. LALC Annual Report 2018/19
- b. Clerks and Councils Direct (September 2019 Issue)
- c. Notification of the 95th Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities AGM

182. Traffic Management Proposals

It was **RESOLVED** to support the following requests to LCC via the relevant County Councillor:

- a. Place double yellow lines on Wellington Street to assist residents whose access is regularly blocked (requested by a member of the public).
- b. Take action re. on-street parking to enable refuse lorries to access side streets to collect rubbish on the appointed day. (Requested by Cllr. Mrs. JMS).

- c. Consider traffic safety issues at St. Bernard's School and possible implementation of a one-way system, as a traffic calming measure. (Requested by Cllr. LMC).
- d. Place a disabled parking bay outside the former Harvey's furniture shop, on the north side of the street where there is an existing row of ordinary street parking bays. (Requested by ELDC Cllr. R. Jackson).

183. Bus Shelter on Park Avenue

Cllr. AL reported that when the housing estate was handed over to the housing trust the bus shelter was handed over too. Therefore, ownership lay with them. It was **RESOLVED** that while the Town Council would be happy to agree for the bus shelter to be demolished by someone else. Unfortunately, the Town Council could not accept the liability for the cost of the demolition.

184. LALC County Committee Nomination Form

Following a proposal it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would put forward Cllr. JB as a candidate for the LALC County Committee.

185. LALC Conference and Annual Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. JB attend the LALC Conference and Annual Meeting on 15th October at The Bentley Hotel at South Hykeham.

186. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

- a. The Council noted that the Council's External Auditor had completed its limited assurance review of Louth Town Council for the year ended 31st March 2019.
- b. The Council received and **RESOLVED** to approve the Notice of Conclusion of Audit.
- c. The Council received Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19, noted the external auditor's comments and noted that no action was required.
- d. Council noted that the official period for inspection of its financial records expired on 2nd August 2019. Cllr. Mrs. JMS gave thanks to the Town Clerk for her work on the AGAR.

187. Tidy Louth Working Group

The Council received an update from Cllr. DF regarding the work and meetings of the Tidy Louth Working Group reporting that they had talked to the local retail trade regarding recycling plastics. Members of the group were also identifying places that required extra litter bins. Cllr. KN reported that he noted when the actual bins were emptied, they were not being located properly on their bases leaving them loose. The Clerk asked Cllr. KN to send her details of the bins so that she could report the issue. Cllr. Mrs. JMS asked what the remit of the Tidy Louth Working Group was, the Clerk confirmed that the group could not do anything without first coming back to Council. Cllr. AL reported that following the Market Town meeting earlier in the month (arranged by ELDC), one of the main issues that those attending had was with the lack of litter picking and street cleaning and that following that meeting it was hoped these would be improved. Following a proposal, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs. HF and AC be co-opted onto the Tidy Louth Working Group.

188. Unofficial Parking / Parking on Green Spaces

Cllr. GEH reported that this agenda item related to a member of the public who had spoken in the Public Forum and her concerns regarding a van that was left on a communal green area on the corner of Wood Lane and Stewton Lane. There were concerns regarding the safety of car drivers pulling out of Stewton Lane due to visibility, the lack of grass cutting due to inaccessibility of the area and then the trend to attract even more cars left on the grass. Although the van had received an enforcement sticker and was moved to the owners drive for a short time, it had then been returned to the grassed area. Cllr. GEH reported that the police stated that they could not move the van unless there was a 'no parking' sign on the grassed area and that having spoken to a member of the Highways staff at LCC, Louth Town Council could apply to have a sign erected there but the Town Council would have to pay. Cllr. DJ declared an interest as an acquaintance of the owner of the van. Following discussions regarding possible ways forward and other areas in Louth with similar issues, it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should write to LCC Highways and request either that a 'no parking' sign be erected on the grassland area in question or obtain permission to erect one.

189. Amenity Grass Cutting

- a. It was **RESOLVED** that Councillors should undertake a survey of each ward to ascertain whether there were any additional areas of amenity grass that it should take on, bring this list back to Council for ratification before approaching LCC with the list with a view to inclusion on the amenity grass cutting schedule. The Clerk reported that should the Town Council take on any extra areas it should receive an allowance from Lincolnshire County Council.
- b. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should budget for 14 amenity cuts and that she be given delegated authority to make arrangements.

190. Christmas

The Council discussed the offer of a free Christmas Tree made at the previous meeting and the Clerk reported that she had also received an offer from a local electrical contractor to provide free of charge 16 x 10 metre LED strings (100 LEDs) on each length and a transformer to power them. The Council also discussed looking into obtaining decorations for the tree. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to pursue the offer of a free Christmas Tree and free new tree lights and that she should also look into purchasing more lights and some decorations and/or make alternative arrangements as necessary. Budget for extra lights and new decorations to be capped at £2,000. It was also noted that the Council could not make donations to a charity, but that perhaps an arrangement could be made through the Mayor's Charity fund, and that Councillors could take around buckets at the Christmas market to collect for local charities.

191. Budget Setting

The Town Clerk requested that any ideas for any future projects should be put forward for inclusion in the budget and should be sent to her by 17th October 2019.

192. Electricity Supply

It was **RESOLVED** to give delegated authority to FOG to undertake a review of its utility suppliers and change them in conjunction with the Town Clerk as necessary.

193. Closed Session Items

It was **RESOLVED** to go 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 Storage** – The Council received estimates for containers and it was **RESOLVED** that by resolution, using s.111 of the LGA 1972, subject to the relevant permissions being obtained, the Council approve the purchase of a new, green, 10 foot standard container from Mr. Box to include Corten (Anti-Rust) Steel, double doors on one end, factory fitted high security lock box, 28mm Marine Plywood flooring internally (Anti-Rot), equipped with Fork lift pockets for ease of movement, durable marine specification paint and a high security padlock at a cost of £2,750 and approve associated costs to site the container should these arise. Costs to be taken from the EMR Cemetery Facilities budget and EMR Cemetery Workshop/Lodge budget.
- b. **FoI** – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation from the Council's solicitors.
- c. **Julian Bower** – It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would work with Mr. Hamilton to site a Community Apiary at Julian Bower.
- d. **War Memorial** – Following discussions at Council on 18th June, the Council received a tabled report detailing the Clerk's findings to date and noted the reply from LCC. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council should progress arrangements for Remembrance Events.
- e. **Southgate Lodge** – The Council received an update and **RESOLVED** that the Deputy Mayor Cllr. DEW and Cllr. AL should sign the contract and related documents as soon as required to do so.

194. Next Meeting

The Council noted that the date of the next scheduled Town Council meeting was 26th November 2019.

The Meeting Closed at 9.38pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) Dated _____