

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE OLD COURT ROOM, THE SESSIONS HOUSE, LOUTH
ON TUESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2018**

Present The Mayor, Councillor G.E. Horton, (GEH) (in the chair).

Councillors: Mrs. D. Blakey (DB), Mrs. S. Crew (SC), C. Green (CG), D.J.E. Hall (DJEH), Mrs. L. Harrison-Wiseman (LHW), D. Hobson (DH), R. Jackson (RJ), A. Leonard (AL), Mrs. S.E. Locking (SEL), Mrs. J. Makinson-Sanders (JMS), Mrs. M. Ottaway (MO), L.M. Stephenson (LMS), F.W.P. Treanor (FWPT), D. Turner (DT) and Mrs. P.F. Watson (PFW).

Councillors not present: Mrs. E. Ballard (EB), J. Garrett (JG), M. Locking (ML), D.E. Wing (DEW).

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.M. Phillips, the Mayor's Serjeant, Mr. G. Darnell, the Town Clerk's Assistant, Mrs. M.C. Vincent, the Mayor's Chaplain, Rev. N. Brown, Cllr. S. Parkin, Sgt. L. Willoughby, PCSO D. Warrilow and 3 members of the public were also present.

Public Forum

- A person wished to make known their support for Louth County Hospital following the meeting between the Town Council and the Lincolnshire East CCG regarding the 'downgrading' of services at the hospital.
- A person reported that they had put a petition on the parliamentary website (not yet approved) to *prevent the downgrading of services* at Louth County Hospital. They raised concerns that if neighbouring authorities stopped treating people out of their county then this would have a great effect on the people here.
- Cllr. LMS was concerned that the CCG had not told the truth about the re-opening of the ward at Louth previously and that with the amount of new housing in the area it was a higher level of services that we needed. She continued that she was in support of the campaign and for a meeting where the public could have their say.
- Cllr. Mrs. PFW stated that although she wasn't at the Town Council/CCG meeting on Monday 17th September, there were three consultation meetings (two on 2nd October at Louth and one on 16th October at Skegness). Cllr. Mrs. PFW continued that the CCG were looking at doubling the caseloads in some areas, but to 'day' cases, and that we didn't want the hospital to close, but it could not be run as it had 50 years ago. Hospitals in Lincoln and Boston were only doing emergency operations and not elective. Cllr. Mrs. PFW stated that Louth could become a centre of excellence for elective operations, but it was social care that we also needed in place.

Louth Town Police Team

- Sgt. Willoughby reported that they were now moving away from sending out police reports for meetings due to time constraints, and that members of the public and councils could log onto www.police.uk and put in their area to find out the local statistics. Sgt. Willoughby continued that if there were specific questions, that they would answer these, but that they could not continue in spending a long time preparing individual area/village reports.
- Sgt. Willoughby reported that the Chief Constable had stated that Lincolnshire may lose 60 further Officers following more budget cuts (ten years previously they had 150 more Officers than today). He continued that in terms of technology Lincolnshire were ahead of many other Forces. With regards to speeding which is an issue in most places, that it was more efficient to try and educate drivers. Also the Community Speedwatch which is a self-help scheme is working well in North Thoresby and North Somercotes. There is an investment to make with the speed gun equipment, but in this way the community can work with the police in conjunction with the Road Safety Partnership. Cllr. GEH stated that the Archers Survey had shown average speed of 27mph in Queen Street. Sgt. Willoughby said that they could take a look at that but that it was probably down to young drivers racing in a circuit, and that they needed to educate them. He continued that there were other roads with issues of speeding and RTAs, such as the Legbourne Road.
- Cllr. GEH stated that with even more cuts it puts more stress on police officers, but Sgt. Willoughby said that there was pressure but that he could cope with the challenges.
- Cllr. RJ said she sympathised with the resourcing issues but there had been a report in July where Lincolnshire Police were criticized, Sgt. Willoughby stated that it was to do with the processes that were used and the logging of older unreported crimes being reported at a later date in relation to new crimes.
- Cllr. DT asked how we could convince the public that the police were doing a good job when instances of someone breathalysed and over the limit (who had backed into a car) was then not prosecuted. Sgt. Willoughby explained that it was often more effective for the victim if they could get the perpetrator to compensate direct in low cost crime cases as opposed to the long process of arrest taking many hours in

resources - this was not applicable to all crimes and that the nature of some crimes do have to go to the Crown Prosecution Service, i.e., rape (the police cannot process these themselves).

- Cllr. Mrs. SEL stated that due to speeding drivers and cyclists they have to take great care when coming out of their drive onto Alexandra Drive. Sgt. Willoughby referred again to Speed Watch but that also now PCSOs were receiving delegated powers i.e., to stop a driver not wearing a seatbelt, and these powers were being rolled out.
- Cllr. LMS said she had looked on the police website and there was nothing on bullying there, Sgt. Willoughby said she should contact him and he would set some stats for her.
- Cllr. Mrs. JMS made reference to a man who was thought to be drunk urinating on the market stalls and asked about an exclusion order. Sgt. Willoughby said that there was an issue getting people to give any evidence and that they needed it in writing. Cllr. Mrs. PFW said that she'd had a text message about a public nuisance at 11.30pm at night, Sgt. Willoughby stated that she should text back to say ring the police on 101.
- Cllr. GEH thanked Sgt. Willoughby and PCSO Warrilow for coming.

County and District Councillors Reports

- Cllr. Tony Bridges had sent his apologies.
- Cllr. Sarah Parkin updated the Town Council on the Scrutiny into the Transition of Children into Adult Social Care (including children with a disability).
- Cllr. Sarah Parkin also reported on road roundabout sponsorship, and stated that Highways needed to have discussions with ELDC and town councils. She continued that they were looking at sponsorship from large businesses, i.e., Tesco.
- Cllr. Sarah Parkin also reported that she had emailed ELDC regarding a man who had been killed in WWII, but who was not added to the War Memorial as was born in Rhodesia and had refused inclusion.
- Cllr. Sarah Parkin reported on the lights being switched off at Florence Wright Avenue and asked if LCC had been? Also that she had been trying to work with ELDC and LCC regarding the pathway in the Florence Wright area which was very overgrown. The Town Clerk reported that the pathway had now been cut. Cllr. GEH stated that ELDC said they would cut it down if they were in the area and it was overgrown. The Town Clerk reported that LCC would cut half a metre either side of the path but only if it was causing a hazard to pedestrians. Cllr. FWPT said that LCC own it but will not cut it. Cllr. GEH asked if anyone had any further information to please email Cllr. Sarah Parkin.
- Cllr. Mrs. PFW reported on the Market Hall clock and that the main motor had stopped working, and as bespoke, would cost £1,000. The clock at the Bus Station had now been put right.
- Cllr. Mrs. PFW reported that she had used her ELDC grant to buy two Tommy Soldiers that would be used at each Armistice (two weeks either side). These would be blessed on Sunday 30th September at 4pm near to the War Memorial.
- Cllr. RJ reported that ELDC were looking at moving out of Manby, market scrutiny was ongoing.
- Cllr. RJ also reported that Sutton on Sea beach hut preservation may go to full council as they may be knocked down with only £500 compensation to owners.
- Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported that the health people are looking into prescribing as there is £1,000,000 in over prescribing and they are trying to work to improve the system – the money could be used in better ways.
- Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported the Police Commissioner had visited ELDC and children were going to be mini cops!
- Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported ELDC were going to build toilets inside the Boar's Head (currently outside), at a cost of £50,000, for a new tenant.
- Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported that there had been a big sheep sale two weeks earlier and that it was booming as was this week's cattle sale. Re-roofing would hopefully take place Friday to Wednesday so that the market days could continue without disturbance as this could cause some farmers to struggle financially.
- Cllr. GEH welcomed the new member of staff Maria Vincent, to Louth Town Council.

Prayers

Prior to the commencement of the meeting proper, the Mayor's Chaplain, Rev. N. Brown kindly said prayers.

164. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Mrs. E. Ballard (EB), J. Garrett (JG), M. Locking (ML) and D.E. Wing (DEW).

165. Mayor's Announcements / Chairman's Remarks

- The Mayor reported that he made twelve public appearances with the Deputy Mayor attending a couple. The Mayor also reported that ELDC was to issue a lease for the cattle market and to make the best use of it. An application had been made for the change of use – Planning ref N/105/01652/18. You can log onto the

planning portal and paper copies of supporting statements should be sent to the Case Officer, Ryan Dodds at ELDC by October 2nd 2018. A public consultation had already been held, via Simon Williams. Cllr. LMS asked if the cinema was going to be different to the one we currently have? Cllr. GEH suggested that the Councillor goes to the planning portal to see the application.

- The Mayor reported that he was most annoyed that, following the meeting with the CCG, comments had been made about fellow Councillors on social media, and that Councillors should stand up in front of the Council to make these comments and not placed on social media sites. Cllr. DT suggested that there was a lot of public passion but that people could be put off when it becomes political. He requested that the member of the public who had added a petition should let the Town Clerk know when it went live so that she can forward to Councillors. The Mayor suggested that we might go down to London. Cllr. Mrs. JMS stated that the word ‘closure’ should not be used, and if closure was used on a petition she could not support it - that we needed to find out what the problems were, she felt that the CCG had mis-managed their communication, that the hospital had a multi-disciplinary team but they didn’t have the staff at the hospital required to do this. She continued that staff wanted our support and that a demo was alarming to them. Cllr. LMS confirmed that the petition did not use the word ‘closure’ but ‘downgrading’ and that the petition was to get the government to support the hospital. The Mayor stated that other members of the public had used the word ‘closure’.
- Cllr. FWPT reported that he had gone to the Hospital Club to a NCS Meeting and people were concerned – they were trying to recruit 39 doctors.
- Cllr. Mrs. PFW asked if the Councillors knew what downgrading means and that we ought to find out what they were going to do as they could be *upgrading* the hospital services. Cllr. RJ stated that she had put forward a motion for the next Town Council meeting. The Mayor confirmed that the next scheduled Town Council meeting would be after the consultation process had closed. It was agreed that an extra-ordinary meeting would be considered. Cllr. LHW stated that she thought there was going to be a Public Meeting. Cllr. AL said that it was an assumption that we would get a public meeting together before the consultation finished. The Mayor consulting with the Town Clerk confirmed that we were still waiting on the CCG for a date. Cllr. LMS’s opinion was that a public meeting should still be held even if the CCG were not able to attend.
- Cllr. Mrs. JMS asked that Cllr. Mrs. PFW take to the Scrutiny Committee that it was not good enough using online surveys for the consultation as not everyone used computers. Cllr. Mrs. PFW also confirmed that she had recently discovered that Lincolnshire did not have a Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) unlike many other Authorities.
- The Mayor reported that the Social Chain of Office needed to go to a jewellers for repair (being carried out free of charge), and requested that whilst the chain was away that he be permitted to wear the Civic Chain. Cllr. Mrs. JMS asked if this would make a difference to the insurance covering the Chain. The Town Clerk confirmed the Civic Chain was insured to be out overnight.

166. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations

Cllr. Mrs. PFW declared an interest in any item from or relating to ELDC – as a member of ELDC.

167. Council Minutes

Following a proposal by Cllr. AL, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. MO it was **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 14th August 2018.

168. Committee Minutes

Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. SC, seconded by Cllr. DJEH it was **RESOLVED** to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 14th August 2018 and adopt the resolutions contained therein.

169. Town Clerk’s Report / Update

The Town Clerk drew Councillors attention to her tabled report which was noted. With regards to the update on Virgin Media, the Town Clerk stated that Councillors needed to email details of the complaints that they had received as in order to carry out remedial works Virgin Media required a list of detailed incidents.

170. Purchase of Extra Remembrance Wreath

Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. PFW, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. MO it was **RESOLVED** to purchase a wreath, to be laid in La Ferté-Bernard, on behalf of the Town Council, as part of their 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI commemorations.

171. National Savings and Investment Account

Following a proposal by Cllr. DJEH, seconded by Cllr. RJ it was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs. CG, Mrs. SC, LMS and Mrs. EB be signatories of the said National Savings and Investment Account. Cllr. LMS wanted to know why we had a second bank account. The Town Clerk confirmed that it had existed for well over 15 years and it was a savings account that much of the 'reserve' finances were in.

172. Christmas Arrangements

Cllr. AL requested that after the elections the Council should look at the Christmas arrangements in detail, but that they should stand this year. Following a proposal by Cllr. AL, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. MO it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to continue with the following arrangements: ● Cable Repair works to support cables across the carriageways of Louth, Discontinued use of one cross-street string. ● Repeat of 2017 cross street decorations (excluding string mentioned above), ● Installation and removal of cross street decorations, ● Switch on to take place at Louth Christmas Market on 2nd December 2018, ● Provision of engineers at Switch On event, ● Purchase of Christmas tree, delivery, erection and removal services and barriers, ● Repeat of 2017 lights and decorations, ● Repeat of 2017 Solar Xmas Tree arrangements, ● Repeat of 2017 Christmas Crib arrangements including the replacement of fairy lights, ● That any overspend be taken from General Reserve, Tourism Budget or EMR Tourism Budget whose levels stood at £176,327, £1,000 and £1,524 respectively.

173. Lovely Louth

The Council noted the date for the Lovely Louth Presentation. Cllr. DH agreed to take photographs and the majority of Councillors were able to attend on Tuesday 2nd October from 6.30pm at the Sessions House. A discussion continued regarding the arrangements for refreshments and the use of tea cups and saucers. It was agreed that the Mayor should be in full Robes.

174. Battle's Over, A Nation's Tribute, WWI Beacons of Light – 11th November 2018

Following a proposal by Cllr. LMS, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. MO it was **RESOLVED** to authorise the arrangements for the Battle's Over, A Nation's Tribute, WWI Beacons of Light as recommended by the Events Working Group Report (circulated with the agenda) detailing:

- a. Which Councillors would act as Stewards on the evening / help with setting up / site clearance – Cllrs. Mrs. DB, Mrs. SC, LMS, Mrs. LHW, Mrs. MO, Mrs. SEL, DJEH.
- b. Which Councillors would recite a number of names in blocks of perhaps 10 or 20 of those on Louth War Memorial. Cllrs: DT, CG, LMS, Mrs. SC, Mrs. JMS and Mrs. PFW. It was noted that if Mr. F. Robertson was unable to recite the last post reading on the night that Rev'd Nick Brown would do this.

175. Gulley Cleansing in Louth

Further to circulation by email of the LCC Chief Executive's reply re. the above on 22/8/18, the Council considered, at the request of a member of the public, undertaking their own survey of every street in the town to ascertain the number of drains in each street and their condition / how many are blocked. It was agreed that all Councillors would keep an eye on the gullies in their area. The Town Clerk confirmed that it was the same online facility for reporting blockages as for the potholes.

176. Feedback following Walk Around with LCC and Virgin Media

Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported to the Council the feedback from representatives of Virgin Media and LCC following the walk around Louth on 19th September. She reported that they had 90 incidents with up to 25 on one street. She confirmed that the work done was guaranteed for two years and if something was wrong and had to be corrected, then the clock stops and it was guaranteed for a further two years. Finally, she reported that LCC were to spray Louth's paths with a tar mix next year. Cllr. DH reiterated earlier comments asking Councillors to send details of the complaints they had received to the Town Clerk.

177. Next Meeting

The Council noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Town Council would take place on 23rd October 2018.

The Meeting Closed at 8.46pm

Signed _____ (Chairman)

Dated _____