

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE OLD COURT ROOM, THE SESSIONS HOUSE, LOUTH
ON TUESDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2018**

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

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

Councillors not present: Mrs. S. Crew (SC) and L.M. Stephenson (LMS).

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.M. Phillips, the Town Clerk's Assistant, Mrs. M.C. Vincent, PCSO Dean Warrilow, two members of the public and one member of the press were also present.

Public Forum

- A lady addressed the meeting on behalf of Dementia Action Group. She reported that there would be a Dementia Bus as a part of the Alzheimer Roadshow coming to the Louth Co-op car park Wednesday 31st October from 10am-4pm where there would be representatives giving out information. Also the next meeting of their Group was on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at Louth County Hospital. She offered to arrange dementia workshops for the Town Councillors and staff to attend. Mrs. Phillips the Town Clerk, asked how the Town Council building could be made more dementia friendly? She explained that she would be happy to come down to the offices and look around to see what simple things we could do to improve the facilities for those with dementia. Cllr. Mrs. EB confirmed that training was very important as she had been a nurse and understood how frightening it could be to deal with, and talk to a person with dementia if you had no understanding of the condition. The lady stated that no two people with dementia would behave the same as each had different issues. PCSO Dean Warrilow explained that he and police colleagues had received dementia training and had found it invaluable.
- Cllr. GEH welcomed PCSO Dean Warrilow to the Public Forum who stated he would try to get to Council Meetings when he could, but for Councillors to contact him direct (via the Town Clerk) with any concerns. Cllr. Mrs. JMS expressed a concern with parking on pavements, and that a resident had fallen due to the obstruction of a car parked on the pavement. PCSO Warrilow explained that obstruction was a police matter and indeed a crime (if truly an obstruction i.e where a wheelchair is unable to move) but that anything to do with parking bays or yellow lines is a civil matter. Cllr. DJEH asked about the beacon at the top of Church Street that had been demolished. PCSO Warrilow confirmed this was an LCC issue. Cllr. CG queried a matter regarding yellow lines and PCSO Warrilow confirmed that this was also an LCC issue.
- LCC and ELDC Representatives Reports: Cllr. GEH reported that Cllr. Tony Bridges had sent his apologies. Cllr. Mrs. PFW reported that she had been to the Health Scrutiny meeting, and further, she reported that at an ELDC meeting they had overturned a motion regarding the hospital. She continued that she felt that all Town Councillors should reinforce the Town Council's Resolution regarding the Louth County Hospital, and all be 'singing off the same hymn sheet'. Cllr. Mrs. PFW also reported that at an East Lindsey District Council overview on Tuesday they had requested that Health Scrutiny inform LCC that they should make sure Care Packages are in place before the CCG put any proposals forward for changes at Louth County Hospital. She understood that this had to be done via Alison Penn (Joint Chief Executive at ELDC).
- Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported that there were two new Scrutiny Panels coming up, Markets (of which Cllr. RJ was Chair) and Conservation & Tourism, and it would be useful to receive feedback. Cllr. Mrs. JMS also reported that ELDC were looking into the compulsory purchase of land on Brackenborough Road. Cllr. Mrs. JMS also confirmed that there was an updated charter in place for Scrutiny and this could be seen on the ELDC website. She also reported that ELDC Health voted on an amendment that if Louth County Hospital was to decrease bed-spaces, then it must go to a consultation. Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported that the Bus Station and toilets were being renovated and that she would check with ELDC that the toilets would be dementia friendly. Lastly Cllr. Mrs. JMS reported that there was a consultation on Council Tax Support online on the ELDC website (closing 24th October 2018).

203. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Mrs. S. Crew (SC), and L.M. Stephenson (LMS).

204. Chairman's Remarks

Cllr. GEH reported that he was enjoying his year so far as Mayor, meeting people and seeing (along with the Deputy Mayor) the many volunteers who put in so many hours of work. Cllr. GEH also stated that he was still looking for a team for the Charity Quiz Night at Grimsby on 23rd November (£8 including Fish and Chips) and would like to take a team from the Town Council. He drew Councillors attention to a tabled report (written by Cllr. Mrs. JMS) on the recent LALC AGM which they had attended.

205. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations

Councillors DEW, AL & Mrs. JMS declared an interest in agenda item 7 as Hubbard's Hills Trust members and Cllr. Mrs. PFW declared an interest in item 10 as a member of the Health Scrutiny Panel for East Lindsey District Council.

206. Council Minutes

Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. MO, seconded by Cllr. AL it was **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 25th September 2018.

207. Committee Minutes

Following a proposal by Cllr. DJEH, seconded by Cllr. RJ it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 11th September 2018 and adopt the resolutions contained therein.

208. Town Clerk's Report/Update

The Council noted the tabled report presented by the Town Clerk.

- a. Cllr. Mrs. JMS expressed thanks as she found it a very useful document.
- b. Following on from the report, Cllr. JMS gave a report of the LALC AGM that she and Cllr. GEH had attended, which the Council noted. At the meeting the new President, Gary Ellis, had been elected.
- c. Cllr. Mrs. EB reported that she would be attending the NALC Conference at the end of October.

209. Road Safety

Cllr. GEH reported that he had spoken to a gentleman who was happy to come and speak to the Council about road safety in the area, and listen to their concerns regarding speeding traffic. Following a proposal by Cllr. RJ, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. MO it was **RESOLVED** that the gentleman should be invited to a future Town Council Meeting to speak.

210. Hubbard's Hills

Cllr. AL reported that the Civic Trust had approached the Hubbard's Hills Trust to request a bench be located in Hubbard's Hills in memory of Mr. David Robinson, but that the Hubbard's Hills Trust had refused as this was against their policy; instead they had suggested planting trees in memory of him. Cllr. AL continued that there were other areas in Louth town's centre where a memorial seat could be located or even a seat sited in Spout Yard. Following a discussion about the most appropriate place (in which Cllr. RJ declared an interest as being related to a member of the Spout Yard Management Trust) it was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. SEL, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. MO and was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would write to the Civic Trust offering an alternative space in Louth's town centre for a memorial bench or plaque.

211. Councillor Vacancy / Co-option Procedure

Following a proposal, Council noted that confirmation had been received from ELDC that Louth Town Council's most recent vacancy could be filled by co-option. They considered a co-option policy and timescales. Following a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. EB, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. MO it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the co-option procedure (as recommended by FOG) with the agreed timescales:
Advertise – 24th October 2018, Closing Date – 12th November 2018, Interviews – 20th November 2018.

212. Councillor Training

The Council noted the details regarding the training session which would be held at The Sessions House from 6pm on Tuesday 27th November. It was requested that all Councillors notify the Town Clerk of their attendance. Cllr. CG reported that he would be attending.

213. Feedback from Louth Hospital Public Meeting–facilitated by Louth Town Council – 18th October 2018

Following a lengthy discussion, these comments were noted:

- a. That the meeting was part of an engagement and that the suggestions were not a ‘fait accompli’.
- b. That the church was used as a venue as it held a large audience. It was noted that there were 180 people at the British Legion meeting and only 80 at St James’.
- c. That more attention should have been given to ensure attendees could see and hear everything. It was noted that although the amplification was a little disjointed, those attending should have moved to the front where more audible.
- d. That the Power Point presentation could not be seen even at the front as it was inappropriately designed (i.e too many words on the screen to read and graphics which were meaningless).
- e. That there had been no unpleasant behaviour or heckling.
- f. That people could have gone to the CCG workshops instead which gave out much information.
- g. That this meeting had been useful for people to air their experiences and concerns.
- h. That much of the discussion was regarding A&E, and yet there has not been an A&E department at the Louth County Hospital for some years.
- i. That it was disappointing that two of the panel never spoke, and that all panel members should have been delegated to speak.
- j. That although it was intended the meeting to go on for as long as it took to answer all questions, the Panel members had requested that it be completed earlier as some had to travel a distance home.
- k. Cllr. AL had been asked for a radio interview in the morning regarding the meeting.
- l. That Healthwatch were holding a further engagement session at the Conoco Rooms on 5th November from 2-4pm.
- m. Thanks were extended to the Town Clerk, Town Clerk’s Assistant and Cemetery Manager for their work and co-ordination at the meeting.

214. Correspondence

Following a discussion regarding a letter about the formation of a Louth Forum, it was proposed by Cllr. AL, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. SEL and **RESOLVED** to ask the correspondent to address the Town Council in a future meeting to elaborate on the plans and the intention of the Forum; its financial status; its volunteer status; and how the Town Council would fit in to the Forum.

215. Parking Enforcement

The Council considered an article in the Sun Newspaper. Following a lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. AL, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. MO and **RESOLVED** that Louth Town Council write to Lincolnshire County Council with their concerns that the on street parking system operated by LCC is resulting in extremely poor national publicity for Louth and is affecting the vitality and viability of the town centre businesses. Further that the Council would like to know if:

- a. The Traffic Wardens are advised to operate a piecemeal approach to their work?
If so, is there scope to change this?
- b. Are the Traffic Wardens given strict guidelines to follow with regard to issuing fines or are they able to use their common sense?
- c. What safeguards are in place?
- d. Is there a social media policy that staff members are expected to abide by and is training on this given?
In addition for Lincolnshire County Council to confirm:
- e. The amount currently levied per fine
- f. Provide statistics showing how much is generated from on street parking fines in Louth
- g. Provide a breakdown of 2. above by individual Louth roads
- h. Confirm how much net revenue the County Council actually receives from parking fines imposed in Louth
- i. Confirm how the money from 4. above is reinvested in Louth.

216. Next Meeting

Cllr. GEH thanked Councillors for their attendance and the Council noted that the next scheduled meeting of Louth Town Council would take place on 20th November 2018.

The Meeting Closed at 8.09pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) Dated _____