

**MINUTES OF THE LOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE OLD COURT ROOM, THE SESSIONS HOUSE, LOUTH
ON TUESDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2019**

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

Councillors: Mrs. E. Ballard (EB), J. Baskett (JB), M. Bellwood (MB), 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), 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: A. Cox (AC) and D. Jackman (DJ).

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.M. Phillips, the Town Clerk's Assistant, Mrs. M. Vincent, Sgt. L. Willoughby, Mr. W. Hamilton and three members of the public were also present.

Public Forum

- A member of the public spoke to the Council regarding the revised National Express route 449 which would now go to London via Mablethorpe and how this would make journeying to London far more difficult, and was also concerned that National Express would, in the end, withdraw the service altogether. Cllr. JS reported that Lincoln railway station were now running four new train services to London but that the fare was far more than the National Express coach. Cllr. MB said he thought we should write to National Express to note our concerns.
- Cllr. JMS congratulated (along with the rest of the councillors), Cllr. DH on his recent marriage.
- Cllr. FWPT reported that he had been to see the Louth Choral Society's production of Bach's Mass in B Minor and that the use of baroque instruments had been wonderful. Cllr. Mrs. EB had also attended the concert as a Patron of LCS.

258. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors AC and DJ, Cllr. R. Jackson (ELDC), Cllr. T. Bridges (LCC) and Cllr. S. Parkin (LCC).

259. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations

None.

260. Chairman's Remarks

None.

261. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the notes of the Council Meetings held on 8th October 2019 and 22nd October 2019 and approve these as the minutes.

262. Committee Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm receipt of the minutes and adopt the resolutions contained therein of the following Committee Meetings: Governance and Finance – 13th August 2019, Community Resources – 24th September 2019 Planning – 8th October 2019, Personnel – 8th October 2019.

263. Town Clerk's Remarks

The Town Clerk brought Councillors attention to her tabled report. The Clerk also reported that the Christmas Tree in the Market Place was now in place and decorated. Cllr. AL asked if we would be writing to Mr. Strawson to thank him for the tree, the Town Clerk confirmed that this would be the case. Cllr. Mrs. EB also reported that a friend she had was also happy to donate a tree in future years. The Clerk reminded Council that although Mr. Strawson had offered a free tree for ten years, the Council had only resolved to accept the free tree for this year.

264. 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 presentation from Sergeant L. Willoughby of Lincolnshire Police.

Following this presentation it was **RESOLVED** that the Council come out of Closed Session.

265. Community Apiary

Mr. Hamilton reported to the Council detailing the following:

That he had drafted an agreement and would be paying rent equivalent to the fee for agricultural land. That he estimated the size of the plot to be 2023sqm (approx. 70m x 30m). That he had visited and given a letter to all residents on Julian Bower. That there would be up to 45 hives. That the public would not have general access but arranged visits could be booked. That he would be willing to look after the boundary hedge. That he would erect a boundary fence and keep the site locked to protect it. That any honey would be branded as Louth Apiary Honey. It was noted that the Athletic Club should be informed that some of the field would no longer be available for use in running events. Cllr. AL suggested that the agreement could be based on the Mowing Licence the Council issued, and that this could be drawn up by Masons. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should investigate whether this was possible, but that once the agreement had been drawn up, this would be brought back to the Town Council, and at that point, resolved upon. Mr Hamilton confirmed that the beekeeping year began in March and so would want to be in place before that time.

266. LCC Draft Corporate Plan

It was **RESOLVED** to respond that the Council accepted the Corporate Plan at face value, but that it lacked detail and that there was no mention of tourism at all. It should be recorded that the Council would have liked a representative from LCC to come and explain the plan in detail to the Council. Copies of the Council's response should be sent to Lincolnshire County Councillors T. Bridges and S. Parkin.

267. National Express Service 448 – Horncastle to London

After a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would write to both National Express Coaches and the Department of Transport, copying in LCC and ELDC Councillors, to ask that they promote the National Express service more comprehensively as public transport in this area was even more important due to the areas remoteness and hence the need to have transport to get to work. Also, if it was not cost effective to run the service with a full size coach, could a smaller vehicle could be used instead?

268. Annual Maintenance Contribution for Louth Flood Storage Reservoirs for the 12 Months to 31/5/19

The Council noted that as per its agreement with the Environment Agency the above was now due in the sum of £12,271.54.

269. Town Signs

The Council viewed one refurbished Town Sign, and **RESOVLED** that further to requesting the lip under the name of Louth be sealed to stop the ingress of water, they approve the craftsmanship and authorise the refurbishment of the remaining signs.

270. Mayoral Regalia

The Council noted that the Social Chain would be sent for refurbishment and **RESOLVED** to authorise the wearing of the Civic Chain, in its absence, if required. It was noted that the Civic Chain was insured should the Mayor store it overnight at his home.

271. Renewal of Parish Agreement with LCC re. Grass-cutting

It was **RESOLVED** to renew the agreement with LCC re. Grass-cutting for 2020/21.

272. Computer Upgrade

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase hardware and software equipment from Company 1 at a cost of £1,653.12 plus VAT.

273. Events Working Group – 100th Anniversary of Louth Flood

The Council received an update from Cllr. HF clarifying that the group were working with the Louth Museum on plans for the Anniversary and that Louth Town Council would concentrate on the humanitarian plans put into place following the flood. The Museum would work on the events of the day and St James' Church on the aftermath of the event. It was **RESOLVED** that the £500 allocated in the budget should be spent on some of the following: creating the exhibition, producing a printed walking map, advertising the event, holding a service and a photograph competition. The Clerk confirmed that there was a budget of £30 in 2020/21 to be added to the current £1000 for the cleaning of the Flood Memorial in the Cemetery. The Event's Working Group also requested a budget of £500 for VE Day (second weekend in May 2020) and it was agreed that if funds were required for this the spending could be authorised as required and funds taken from general reserve. The Group confirmed that Rev'd Canon Nick Brown would conduct a Civic Service. The group would be discussing who to approach regarding families involved at the time.

274. LALC Conference and AGM

This item was deferred until a report was ready from Cllr. MB.

275. Asset Review Working Group

Following a vote, it was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Cllr. MB onto the Asset Review Working Group.

NB: 9:49pm Cllr. GEH left the meeting feeling unwell.

276. 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. **Benches** – It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to arrange the refurbishment of the Town Council's benches as required.
- b. **Salary Review** – It was **RESOLVED** to implement the increase of 2 salary scale points for each member of staff. One payable first in December 2019 and the second payable first in April 2020.
- c. **Southgate Lodge** – It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the changes requested by the owners of Southgate Lodge.
- d. **War Memorial** - It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to arrange the supply of electricity as required at the War Memorial.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council come out of Closed Session.

277. Next Meeting

The Council noted that the date of the next scheduled Town Council meeting was 14th January 2020.

The Meeting Closed at 9.04pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) Dated _____