

Please note these are draft minutes until approved by the Council as a correct record.

## **SPILSBY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 at 7 p.m. In the Council Chamber, Franklin Hall, Halton Road, Spilsby**

**Present:**        **Councillor Peter Grant (Chairman)**  
Councillor Gill Rymer  
Councillor Gordon Iremonger  
Councillor Michael Lenton  
Councillor Philip Odling  
Councillor Trevor Beaumont  
Councillor Ebony Feek  
Councillor Julia Pears  
Councillor Winston Baugh  
Councillor Geraldine Willis (Minutes)

Also present: Councillor Williams  
P.S. Adam Syred

The Chairman suspended standing orders and allowed Councillor Williams and P.S. Syred to move up the agenda.

**113.** P.S. Syred said he was now working temporarily out of Mablethorpe but should be back at the end of October. He reported the following:

- Reduction in anti-social behaviour.
- In August 30 ASB's reported compared to July 42 incidents and September only 17 incidents.
- Motor cycle youths complaints significantly reduced.
- Reduction in crime by 12½% - on crime recorded reduced by 8%.
- Two Burglary Dwellings – one in the High Street and one in Ashby Road – sneak-in burglary – electrical items taken.
- Collisions – Halton Road car versus pedestrian – 11 year old suffered broken collar bone.
- Fatal accident – Fodderdyke New Leake.
- Fatal – Hogsthorpe – 5 involved.
- Community Speed Watch being rolled out.
- Criminal Damage – Spilsby Theatre – posters taken and then set on fire.
- Drugs – pupil in local school bringing Class A drugs into school – presently on bail.
- Shoplifting – significant reduction.
- On 17.8.2014 police officer assaulted on a bus trying to arrest a girl for public order offence.
- Violence with injury offences significantly reduced.

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P.S. Syred reported on a local family one of whom had been arrested for public order offences – appearing in Court on 14.10.2014 – banned from Pooles Lane. With regard to his two brothers, one was wanted on warrant and one is accused of slashing a tyre in Blacksmith's Lane and due in Court sometime in October.

**114. To receive reports from ELDC/Lincolnshire County Councillor**

Councillor Williams reported back on the question asked by Cllr. Odling regarding overpayment in ELDC car parks (machines that do not give change). He said that ELDC had made 28k from their car parks which will go towards overspend. Unfortunately he did not know exactly how the money was to be spent. He added that he now regrets voting for car park charges.

Councillor Williams said the piece of land in Boston Road (Barley Ag) on which a new Spilsby Surgery was to be built and owned by David Cartwright now seeking planning permission to build houses on the land.

**ELDC Planning Policy** – Cllr. Williams said there would be no more houses built in Skegness and along coast due to flooding. This will have a huge impact on other Towns and Villages with Spilsby looking at 28 houses being built per year for next 15 years. He added that Sibsey were looking at 400 houses being built. He further added that District Councils have the power to consult with each other in order to take up the flack if they have too many being built in their area.

Cllr. Grant said that as Councillor Ayling was not present he reported that she did not attend the Scrutiny meeting on Libraries. He added that the Co-Op originally put in a bid to house the library and this is still the case. He further added that there were a few outstanding issues regarding Highways which she was supposed to look into.

**Action:** *Councillor Grant to contact Councillor Ayling.*

**108. Chairman's Remarks**

Councillor Grant reported that he had attending ELDC Civic Sunday. He also went to a presentation at Franklin Hall for Children's Dancing. He updated the meeting with regard to the Town Clerk's knee operation.

**109. To accept apologies for absence and reasons given.**

Councillor Julia Pears – attending another meeting and would be late.

**110. To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the 2011 Localism Act.**

None.

**111. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 24.7.2014 to be approved as the minutes.**

Proposed: Councillor Lenton

Seconded: Councillor Beaumont

**AGREED**

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**112. Matters arising from the minutes of 24.7.2014 not covered in the agenda**

*Item 92 - hedges on playing fields – still outstanding.*

*Signatories on cheques – hopefully resolved in the next week or two.*

*Item 95 - Councillor Grant reported that no member of public attended Town Surgery.*

*Item 98 – BT contract – Councillor Beaumont reported that we should have received a breakdown on our bill to show what we are paying for. Bill has now been adjusted to suit our requirements.*

*Item 103 – Councillors Grant, Odling and Pears met to discuss contract. Contract with Solicitor. Councillor Grant said the Clerk was still on a temporary contract – new contract will be handed to the Clerk to see if adjustments are needed and then taken to full Town Council meeting.*

**115. To consider payment of accounts – see attached list**

Cllr. Beaumont said these payments have invoices and are paid by cheque. Cllr. Lenton asked for a breakdown on item 4. Cllr. Beaumont said the Clerk had incurred mileage at 40p per mile going on courses.

Item 11 – this was for spraying weeds and ploughing 6 empty allotments.

Item 13 – Cllr. Willis asked who Grant Thornton was – official auditors through the Government.

Proposed	Councillor Lenton
Seconded	Councillor Beaumont

Councillor Grant asked the Town Council for authority to pay these invoices.

Proposed	Councillor Beaumont
Seconded	Councillor Iremonger

**AGREED**

Councillor Pears attended meeting at 8.17 p.m.

Cllr. Grant said with regard to the outstanding invoice from Tony Lawie emanating from the call out to Style Dynamics did the Town Council agree to pay this outstanding invoice. The work undertaken by Tony Lawie to fix the defect was outlined by Cllr. Lenton. Cllr. Beaumont said he had been in contact with Tony Lawie but the Council agreed to wait until Mr. Lawie contacted them again.

**116. Land Registry/Valuation of Land Assets**

Cllr. Beaumont gave overview of property owned by the Town Council. He said the last time the property was valued was around 1960 and obviously way out of date for land values today. He proposed we ask an independent Asset Valuer (Land) and

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ELDC Asset Valuer to undertake this. Cllr. Lenton said there would be a cost implication but Cllr. Beaumont said there was an urgency to proceed.

Proposed        Councillor Beaumont  
Seconded       Councillor Pears

#### **AGREED**

**117. Forthcoming renewal of Spilsby Town Council office and Council Chamber 2015**

Cllr. Beaumont said the lease was due to expire 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. He contacted Sue Oliver, Franklin Hall Manager, and asked if this could be dealt with prior to our budget meeting in November. She said she would bring it forward to Franklin Hall AGM. Previous lease contract was for a fixed period of 9 years. Within that period there were 3 x 3 year periods where the rent was re-calculated after every 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Cllr. Pears proposed we write to Franklin Hall Committee formally and also let them know that Cllr. Iremonger is the Town Council representative. Cllr. Lenton said he would ensure Cllr. Iremonger received the minutes. As yet no date has been arranged for the AGM.

**118. Letter received re payment for electricity – CCTV – plus location of CCTV – Bushes.**

Cllr. Grant said a letter had been received from Style Dynamics regarding payment for electricity for CCTV camera. Cllr. Lenton informed the meeting that £65.70 is paid per annum to all businesses that have CCTV equipment in their premises on 28<sup>th</sup> January every year. So far all had declined payment. Cllr. Lenton gave overview of the contract. Discussion took place on current cost of electricity – now equates to £93.50 per annum instead of £65.70. Cllr. Beaumont said he had made enquiry on cost of running DVR – awaits reply. Cllr. Pears suggested we leave this matter with Chairman of Finance and bring back to next meeting.

Cllr Lenton further added that it states in the contract that we are obliged to pay £65.70 for 3 years. He added that Robert Hall Jones Solicitors drew up the contract which was agreed by the Town Council.

Proposed        Councillor Feek  
Seconded       Councillor Pears

#### **AGREED**

With regard to the location of the CCTV – Bush Tyres – Cllr. Lenton said that it had taken nearly two years to sort out. He went with the PCSO to look at the system; He added that the camera – fixed - was placed to capture vehicles registration numbers going into and out of Vale Road. He produced photographs which showed index marks of vehicles clearly.

Cllr. Pears said that in July there were problems with the camera and that police complained they could not see registration numbers and that they would have preferred the camera to be sited on the shop opposite Vale Road as this would have

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provided a good view of the road. Cllr. Lenton said that the shop owner would not give permission for the camera to be sited on his premises.

Cllr. Lenton reminded meeting that we have spent many thousands of pounds in order to aid the police. Cllr. Grant said that if the police have a problem with the cameras they should write to us. Cllr. Beaumont suggested that we have a form drawn up which could be used to show where problems are experienced and that the on call Councillor and police officer would sign on the day.

#### **AGREED**

#### **119. Maintenance Contract – update and invite for tenders**

Cllr. Grant said the current contract ran out in June 2013 and a new contract had not been signed, just rolled on for a year. He asked if Councillors wanted to go down the road of tender. Cllr. Pears said she would like to do so and asked that it be advertised to as wide an audience as possible.

Proposed	Councillor Pears
Seconded	Councillor Lenton

Cllr. Beaumont said there must be a contract in place prior to advertising and there should be no deviating from this contract. Discussion took place on cost of advertising. Cllr. Feek suggested that we update contract where necessary and take to Amenities meeting for ratification and then to full Town Council meeting.

Proposed	Councillor Feek
Seconded	Councillor Lenton

#### **AGREED**

Cllr. Lenton said that we are not due to hold another Amenities meeting until March 2015. It was agreed that the next Amenities and Planning meetings would be held on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 at 10 a.m.

#### **AGREED**

#### **120. Welton Garden Services – payments**

Cllr. Grant said that Henry had not been paid for maintenance or for laying matting in the playing fields. He added that the Clerk had met with him to discuss the invoice he had sent to us and that he and Cllr. Rymer had met with him on the 24<sup>th</sup> September.

He gave a brief outline as follows:

- Rubber matting – play area – fee charged for doing this was not the same as originally agreed. He read out the charges as stated on the invoice especially with regard to sand and pegs.

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- With regard to removing rubbish – Henry admitted that he has never taken rubbish away. He has in the past hired a skip and charged it to the Town Council. Cllr. Grant said the hire of skips has never been sanctioned by the Town Council. He then read out an e-mail received from Henry. Cllr. Feek said that we need to decide whether or not to pay him. Cllr. Grant said he would go back to him to see who sanctioned the last skip. It was agreed that we pay the invoice bill less £100.

Proposed      Councillor Pears  
Seconded      Councillor Lenton

## **AGREED**

Councillor attended meeting at 9.25 p.m.

### **121. Receive update on outstanding receipts as per e-mail by the Town Clerk on 6.8.2014.**

Cllr. Odling said he was a little concerned that this had not been raised at the Finance Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> September and added that advice as to way forward should have been sought from Eleanor Hoggart. Cllr. Grant said he had sought advice from her and it was said that we could not proceed until the Town Clerk had returned to work as she was the originator of the matter. Further discussion took place with regard to this matter.

Cllr. Lenton then read out the Town Clerk's original e-mail sent on the 6.8.2014 and his response to that e-mail. Councillors Pears, Oldling and Willis said they had responded to this e-mail.

Cllr. Grant gave an overview of finance matters he found following Sara's death and he gave instances. Cllr. Pears said she felt uncomfortable with this issue as Sara was no longer with us.

Cllr. Lenton said he was concerned that the Town Council had not been kept up to date with what had been happening and failed to see why it cannot be progressed because the Town Clerk is not here. Cllr. Odling said he was concerned that we would be found wanting in any investigation.

Cllr. Beaumont said he had examined the books prior to Sara's death. The books balanced and nothing untoward was found until these receipts were found. It was proposed that we contact the District Auditor.

Proposed      Councillor Pears  
Seconded      Councillor Odling

## **UNANIMOUS**

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Cllr. Lenton said that in answer to the Town Clerk's e-mail (6.8.2014) he suggested that the best course of action would be to call an extra-ordinary Town Council meeting. To date he has not had a response to this request.

Discussion followed on our former Clerk paying £120.65 for padlocks from Scotts. This receipt was matched up with a £10 receipt to cover repair for the Mayor's chain case. It is assumed this receipt for £120.65 was connected to Spilsby Town Council.

Cllr. Beaumont said we now have robust systems in place which include a petty cash book for sundries (£100). Receipts have to be obtained and given to the Clerk. He checks the postage every month and signs the book.

**122. Reports from Amenities/Finance/Planning meets**

*Amenities meeting 9.7.2014 – noted.*

*Finance meeting – 10.9.2014 – Cllr. Odling said he had been a signatory in the past.*

*Amenities meeting 10.9.2014 – Item 22 – cannot be discussed any further for 6 months.*

Cllr. Lenton asked if we had had a response from Sue Oliver regarding our letter sent her. No response as yet but an agenda item for the Franklin Hall Committee meeting.

**123. Purchase of portable hard-drive for computer back-up and storage plus Microsoft Office 2008**

Cllr. Beaumont has not as yet been able to contact Kris Dowse. He added that that he made enquiry of purchasing a flash drive but would this would cost more than the hard drive. He added we needed 2 terabites. Portable hard drive including VAT £79. It was agreed that we would purchase.

Proposed      Councillor Lenton

Seconded      Councillor Feek

Cllr. Beaumont said we need to update Microsoft Office and we could go for 2010 which would cost approximately £150.

Cllr. Odling said he would like to make an amendment to the original proposal before we buy anything ask Kris Dowse/Simon Cooper for advice as to what we need and don't need.

Proposed      Councillor Beaumont

Seconded      Councillor Lenton

**AGREED**

**124. Planning Applications**

Cllr. Rymer distributed document to meeting and Cllr. Pears gave overview of proposed plans for Vale Road and Church Street.

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**Vale Road** – main issues are flooding – trees and a request for more flats

Trees - all agreed with report.

Flats - Cllr. Baugh felt there should have been more flats built but the overall view was that it was a good mix.

Flooding report excellent and therefore difficult to challenge. Cllr. Grant gave overview of historical flooding to area. Cllr. Pears thinks report mitigates flooding report. After further discussion in which Cllr. Beaumont raised some issues not mentioned in report, Cllr. Pears said she would check on the internet with regard to his concerns. Cllr. Beaumont further asked if we could bring to the attention of Planning Department any concerns we have. Cllr. Pears said we could. Cllr. Beaumont further added that previous concerns which were raised by different agencies had not been addressed. Cllr. Pears asked if we agreed overall with reports.

**AGREED**

**AGAINST – Councillor Beaumont**

In Cllr. Pear's report she suggested that if officers were to consider a community payment would it be appropriate that such payment be related to health and doctor's surgery.

**AGREED**

It was agreed that the New Life Centre would be put on the agenda for the next Planning Meeting.

**8 and 10 Church Street** – Cllr. Pears recommended ELDC approve these applications. Overall she was extremely impressed by the work of Lincolnshire Heritage Consultancy and the two buildings will be enhanced by the proposed work. The proposed alterations will have limited impact on our Conservation Area.

**AGREED for both 8 and 10 Church Street.**

**125. To consider the Town Council going on Social Network (Face-book)**

Cllr. Feek said this would enable the Town Council to reach a wider audience. Cllr. Lenton agreed. He added we need to rectify some of the misconceptions that people have and said that it could be used to advertise forthcoming events – job applications etc. Cllr. Pears said we should have a policy in place prior to going on Face-book and obtain further information before making the decision.

Proposed	Councillor Odling
Seconded	Councillor Beaumont

**AGREED**



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Cllr. Grant suggested that all Councillors read the amendment to NALC's 2013 Model Standing Orders (England).

***Action: Agenda item for next Town Council meeting.  
Cllr. Feek and Town Clerk prepare policy and bring to next Town Council meeting.***

Meeting closed 11 p.m.