

SPILSBY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on Thursday 23rd October, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Franklin Hall, Halton Road, Spilsby

Present: **Councillor Peter Grant (Chairman)**
 Councillor Michael Lenton
 Councillor Philip Odling
 Councillor Trevor Beaumont
 Councillor Winston Baugh
 Councillor Mark Gale
 Councillor Geraldine Willis (Minutes)

Also present: Councillor Williams
 P.C. Dave Mills

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

126. To receive reports from ELDC/Lincolnshire County Councillors

Councillor Williams reported that he had met with David Taylor ELDC Planning officer re 17, Simpson Street. He gave an overview of circumstances behind non payment of Council Tax and added that four teams were involved at ELDC. He further added that he had sent the Town Council an e-mail outing the circumstances and said that ELDC were in a difficult position as the lady had died intestate. Councillor Beaumont asked about water leaks and vermin. Councillor Williams said that the water had been stopped and he was awaiting a report re vermin. He added that ELDC had replaced a window and door on the premises.

With regard to the overpayment of car park charges – which amounts to 39/40k – he said he is still unaware of how this money will be spent.

Councillor Grant said a potential resident for the new property in West End Crescent had approached him to say that he was concerned that he had been asked to bid on a flat that has not been build yet when he has already put a bid in for an existing flat.

As Councillor Ayling could not attend the meeting Councillor Grant read out an e-mail received from her.

Libraries – consultation has to be repeated due to the last one being rejected due to the judicial review. We have until 31st October to get out views in. Councillor Grant said that the Co-Op has actually put a bid in but without volunteers to run the library it will not be implemented.

Funding – She said she had some funding for any small local projects and asked for suggestions for this funding.

127. To receive a report from the Emergency Services

P.C. Dave Mills gave an overview of crime figures for the year. 16 ASB's in Spilsby – 6 assaults in Spilsby – 2 domestic disputes – 11 burglaries in our area 5 of which in Spilsby, 2 being burglary dwellings. Person arrested for Aggravated Burglary in Post Office Lane. He added there had been a 150% in burglaries year on year – last year 6 this year 15. Criminal Damage – 5 in Spilsby. Theft – 9 in total 3 in Town.

128. Chairman's Remarks

Councillor Grant said he had attended King Edward VI Academy for a presentation. Also he had been invited by the Mayor of Stamford to a Proms event which he attended.

Councillor Grant said that Councillor Cadman by virtue of her non attendance she was now disqualified. He added that he had been in touch with Sue Brewitt with regard to advertising post. Councillor Odling suggested that we send her a letter in recognition of her long service and hard work as a Town Councillor and as a past Mayor of Spilsby. This letter to be accompanied by flowers.

Councillor Grant said he had attended a NALC conference with Councillor Swanson and the Town Clerk. He gave overview of the evening.

129. To accept apologies for absence and reasons given.

Councillor Ayling
Councillor Rymer
Councillor Iremonger

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

None.

131. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 25.9.2014 to be approved as the minutes.

Page 2 – Item 114 – paragraph 3 – change **flack** to **slack**.

Proposed: Councillor Beaumont

Seconded: Councillor Lenton

AGREED

132. Matters arising from the minutes of 25.9.2014 not covered in the agenda

Item 115 – mileage incurred by Town Clerk – 40p mileage amended to 45p.

Item 116 – James Bolton has said if asked he will undertake at no charge.

Action: Awaits Town Clerk's return to work.

Discussion followed on land in Boston Road – Barley Ag – which planning is being sought for houses. It was said that ELDC seem to be reducing land for industry.

Further discussion took place with regard to the Industrial Estate and the original planning for Barley Ag for new Doctor's Surgery.

Item 117 – Forthcoming renewal of Spilsby Town Council office and Council Chamber 2015. Letter received from Franklin Hall Committee re 'Review of Town

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Council Lease on office and Chamber'. At a meeting of the Trustee's they are happy to renew the lease for a further 3 years with effect from 31.3.2015 and proposed a small increase in rent from £3780 per annum to £4000. Continued use of the common areas (kitchen and toilets) would also be included. The letter also stated that a builder was to look at the west wall of the council Chamber with regard to any possible damp conditions and remedies. Councillor Grant said that he had spoken with Sue Oliver re taking down pictures – leaving heaters on in order to dry out damp areas. He also added that we should be looking at a 9 year lease and not as at present 3 years. Councillor Beaumont proposed we should write a letter to Franklin Hall Committee and ask for a minimum of 9 years lease with rent increased every 3 years as at present.

Proposed: Councillor Beaumont

Seconded: Councillor Grant

AGREED

Item 120 – Welton Garden Services – payments. Paid in full less £100.

Item 121 – Receive update on outstanding receipts as per e-mail by the Town Clerk on 6.8.2014. Councillor Grant said he had contacted ELDC who said that we do not have a District Auditor. Grant Thornton is now our District Auditors. They have a team who will come in – at no cost – to do an audit. They do not check receipts just balances. Councillor Odling said we need to deal with this matter once and for all. Councillor Lenton proposed we contact Grant Thornton next week.

Proposed: Councillor Lenton

Seconded: Councillor Odling

AGREED

133. Correspondence

Letter received from a resident regard road works in Vale Road/Shamfields area.

E-mail received from Lincolnshire County Council saying that work would be completed by mid November.

Councillor Beaumont read out an e-mail received from Paul Gutherson – Digital Skills Project Officer at Community Lincs. Re internet support to Parish Councillors. After further discussion Councillor Odling suggested we send a copy of his e-mail to Councillor Feek for further exploration.

Proposed: Councillor Beaumont

Seconded: Councillor Lenton

AGREED

It was reported that the bench opposite NISA was broken and had been taken away by family who installed it to repair – they will liaise with Town Council prior to replacing. The incident has been reported to police and an incident number obtained.

RWE – re Triton Knoll – all correspondence relating to Wind Farm is being held at ELDC if anyone wishes to view. Further discussion took place on the project.

134. Bank Account with Lloyds

Councillor Beaumont reported that he had received a call at home from Nadia (Lloyds Bank) with regard to three signatories who they have no information about, i.e. contact details etc. These signatories are – Councillors Grant – Iremonger and Rymer. He added after further conversation with her that he would seek permission of the Town Council to send a letter to the financial ombudsman. He further added that since that conversation he had received a letter from Lloyds with pro-forma's to be completed. Councillor Lenton proposed we complete and send off and see what happens.

135. To consider payment of accounts

Payment slips handed to Councillors. Councillor Beaumont said he had checked and found nothing contentious. Councillor Odling asked with regard to Item 3 were they separate items. Councillor Beaumont said they were all on one invoice.

Councillor Lenton said with regard to payment of accounts 28.7.2014 - 8.9.2014 – Town Clerk's travel expenses – why was it necessary for the Clerk to take and collect the accounts at a cost of £11.70 each way. It was suggested that we liaise with Haines Watts to see how we could proceed.

Proposed: Councillor Lenton

Seconded: Councillor Odling

AGREED

136. Reminder of Precept / Amenities / Planning meeting dates.

All Councillors were reminded of the dates of these meetings.

Councillor Beaumont gave overview of 'Working Budget 2015-2016' document which was distributed to meeting. He said with regard to the Government Grant – which was discussed at length last year, there was a possibility that ELDC would utilise this grant to help with their own finances and not pass on to local Councils as in the past. He said that we would not know outcome until January 2015 so therefore when we meet to discuss the precept we would have to bear in mind that we may not receive this grant. Councillor Lenton asked for the minutes to reflect his thanks to Bonny for providing an up to date resume of running total of Town Council finances.

137. Update on computer

Councillor Beaumont contacted Simon Cooper and they met at his house. Mr. Cooper said we should opt for Microsoft Office Home and Business 2013 – once only payment of £153.68 excluding VAT.

Proposed: Councillor Beaumont

Seconded: Councillor Lenton

AGREED

With regard to external hard drive Mr. Cooper suggested we opt for WD My Passport Ultra Portable Hard Drive – 2 TB – cost £65.83 excluding VAT - £78.99 including VAT.

Proposed: Councillor Beaumont

Seconded: Councillor Grant

AGREED

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138. Clearing rubbish etc. in Spilsby by Councillors

Councillor Beaumont concerned that Councillors seem to be the only ones clearing the rubbish/debris from Spilsby – especially in the run up to ‘Best Kept Town’ competition. Councillor Baugh said that people on Job Seekers Allowance have to voluntarily work 30 hours per week in the local community but not in an area where they live. Councillor Beaumont proposed that Town Councillors only participate in a clean-up of the town on a voluntary individual basis only.

Proposed: Councillor Beaumont

Seconded: Councillor Baugh

AGREED

Councillor Lenton did not agree.

139. To ratify Town Clerk’s contract (in closed session)

Meeting closed at 10.48 p.m.