

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 24th September 2015 at 7.15pm in the Council Chamber, Franklin Hall, Halton Road, Spilsby.

Present: Cllr J. Pears (Chairman)

Cllr Argy
Cllr Fleming

Cllr Grant
Cllr Rymer

Cllr Iremonger
Cllr Wright

Also present:

Cllr Leyland (Leader ELDC), Cllr Williams, PCSO Pearson, Mrs Maureen Clark, Mr Miles Jermy (Press)

125. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone and the new councillors. She said that it had been a busy time with 3 vacancies being advertised and 3 new councillors. Cllr Fleming was returning to the Council. She also reported that Cllr Lenton and Cllr Willis had resigned. At present, non-one had applied for the vacancies.

126. To accept apologies for absence and reasons given

Cllr Odling, Cllr Gale, Cllr Ayling. Reasons accepted.

127. Leader of East Lindsey District Council Cllr Craig Leyland

Cllr Leyland thanked the Council for their invitation to the meeting. He updated the Council on current matters. He said that Cllr Alan Grist would be pleased to come to a meeting to further discuss any issues.

Several questions had been tabled to Cllr Leyland prior to the meeting.

Boston Road Car Park- the question of free parking was discussed. The Scrutiny Panel at ELDC is still in progress and will give a decision. The Chairman said that no notification had been given to the Haulage Business regarding payment and that there were very few places for lorries to park. Cllr Leyland will email the clerk with the figures for the revenue for all of the car parks.

Any concerns should be raised with the Scrutiny Panel.

Rate Relief Scheme-Cllr Leyland will email the clerk with details. He said that the Rural Development Fund is open to all businesses. There is also a shop front grant available to help small businesses to update their shop fronts.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Leyland for his information.

Cllr Fleming said that Post Office Lane Car Park had been free and people who worked in Spilsby could park for free. He asked for an individual breakdown for each car park as opposed to penalties. Cllr Leyland said that this information could be requested under the Freedom of Information Act and that he would email it to the clerk.

Cllr Wright said there are more empty shops than any other town and only 3 market stalls and asked if there could be any reduction in pitch fees.

Cllr Leyland replied that there had been a reduction in the amount of market trucks and that there was only one now. He said that discounted fees could be considered.

Cllr Grant said that there was one unit on the Industrial Estate that had been empty for 3 ½ years. The rent is so high plus the business rate so it would be difficult for any business to make it pay.

Cllr Leyland said that he would send out the information regarding the rentals.

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Mrs Clark said that the parking on Boston Road and the surrounding area was bad as people did not park in the car park now. Cllr Leyland asked if the decision was reversed, then would the Town Council be happy.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Leyland for his visit and answering the questions.

128. To receive reports of Crime and Disorder.

PCSO Pearson reported that PCSO Miller had now left and that there would be a new PCSO starting in Spilsby.

The main problems at the moment are down the A16 corridor from Holton le Cley to Stickney with the theft of ride-on lawn mowers. He said that people are not signing up to Lincs Alert. Vehicle noise is an ongoing problem. There has been a police presence in town until 10pm to try to reduce the problem.

Cllr Fleming thanks PCSO Pearson for the full list of occurrences.

The Chairman said that there had been problems on the allotments and would like the police to meet with the Clerk and herself.

ACTION: Clerk to call 101 for an appointment with the PCSO

129. To elect a Vice Chairman/Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the Amenities Committee

Cllr Argy was proposed and seconded as Amenities Chairman. Agreed

RESOLVED: Cllr Argy be Amenities Chairman

No Councillors volunteered to become Deputy Chairman. Cllr Fleming proposed that the matter be deferred, seconded by the Chairman. Majority agreement.

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

None received.

The Chairman then moved Council into Closed Session instead of Public Session due to a Personnel issue.

131. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2015 to be approved as the minutes

Proposed by Cllr Rymer Seconded by Cllr Iremonger. Agreed

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes

132. Matters arising from the minutes of 23rd July 2015 not covered in the agenda.

Para 107-Lloyds Bank Ramp-The Chairman said that she had met a person at the NHS Annual Meeting who had experience of making portable improvements for access to buildings.

Cllr Rymer said that the pavement is wide outside the bank.

ACTION- Clerk to contact the individual for further information.

Para 122- Simpson Street-The house has not been sold and has now gone under enforced sale by ELDC and is at present with their legal team

133. Town Clerk's report and Action Points follow-up.

The Clerk tabled a report of her activities and updates

The Clerk reported that there had been some problems on the allotments with inappropriate spraying. Photographs had been taken of the damage. The matter has been reported to the police.

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134. To approve payment of accounts.

Proposed by Cllr Fleming and seconded by Cllr Rymer. Agreed

RESOLVED: Payment of accounts be made.

135. To accept the Employment Policy, Annual Report format/allocate Reporting Officers and to set a date for Annual Review.

The Clerk is to work flexitime with a maximum of 5 hours overtime as required.

The Employment Policy Proposed by Chairman Seconded by Cllr Rymer. Agreed

RESOLVED: To accept the Employment Policy.

Cllr Fleming thought every councillor has the right to see the Clerk at any time. The Clerk had sent out a communications protocol to all Councillors asking that an appointment be made to discuss Council matters.

The Annual Review is to be conducted by Cllrs Pears, Grant and Odling as soon as possible.

136. To consider the following planning applications;-

- a. S/165/01618/15-11- 11 Church Street-Supported
- b. S/165/01608/15-12 Hundley Road-Supported
- c. S/165/01302/15-41 Halton Road-Supported providing drainage dealt with.

137. To formulate a timetable for review of Council Policies and to appoint a working party.

Working Party for Standing Orders, Health and Safety, -Cllr Argy, Cllr Rymer and Clerk
Working Party for Safeguarding, Finance and Finance Reserves, Freedom of Information Act-Cllr Argy, Cllr Pears, Cllr Rymer and Clerk

138. To approve the office move of the Town Clerk's office to adjacent to the Council Chamber

Cllr Fleming said that the office was downstairs for the benefit of the residents and not the clerk. People would not like to go upstairs. Cllr Grant said that the clerk used to be upstairs. If there was a fire then the stair lift could not be used. He felt it was a retrograde step. The Chairman said there is a working disabled access and is disabled friendly. In terms of a fire, then the council should not be in the chamber either. Cllr Wright said that if a resident came in with a buggy then they would not be able to get upstairs.

The Chairman proposed the move however there was no seconder. The motion FAILED.

139. To allocate the Extra Duties for Councillors

The extra duties were allocated and the list updated.

140. To receive update from the Community Lincs Good Neighbour Scheme Meeting held 7th September 2015.

The Chairman said that she had attended the meeting and that another had been planned to get the scheme started. She said that she would update at the next meeting as necessary.

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141. To receive LALC News updates and to discuss training opportunities

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the LALC News was in the office and everyone was issued with a list of training opportunities. She confirmed that 3 new Councillors had been booked onto the New Councillor Training.

Cllr Grant is to attend the LALC Annual Meeting in place of ex Cllr Willis.

142. To formulate a reply to the Town and Parish Council Consultation from ELDC.

The Council agreed that

1. It did not work in partnership with any other Town/Parish Councils locally,
2. It did not have an appetite to take on the running of some service in their area
3. It would find it useful if District Council arranged training of important local matters

143. To receive feedback from the external audit carried out by Grant Thornton

The clerk feedback the findings. The audit was good overall however there were still figures to be set for the assets for next year when all the deeds had been located. It was hoped that the War Stock is sold in the coming year.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for all her hard work.

144. To receive report from Spilsby Recreation Ground Committee Meeting, update on playground equipment and southern side boundary problems.

Cllr Grant said that there were thorned bushes on the playing fields' side. Cllr Fleming said that he had no problem with it and asked what it they were within their boundary. Cllr Grant said that letters had been sent to ask residents to keep their hedges tidy and that it was the Council's responsibility for the boundary.

The Chairman said that the Council need to check legally where it stands according to the lease and the hedges.

ACTION- Chairman and Clerk to write to residents and check the lease.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.34pm

The next meeting is 22nd October 2015