

SPILSBY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on 27th July 2017 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Franklin Hall, Halton Road, Spilsby.

Present: Cllr M Gale (Chairman)

Cllr Taylor, Cllr J Pears, Cllr Rymer, Cllr Hodgson, Cllr Magnion, Cllr Grant, Cllr Ironmonger, Cllr A Wright

Also present: Cllr Williams (ELDC) and 5 members of the public.

The meeting commenced at 7pm. Cllr Gale welcomed members of the public and invited questions for a 15 minute period. Matters raised included, grass cutting, appearance of the town, potholes in the roads and dog fouling. Cllr R Williams explained the district council's position on dog fouling enforcement and Boston road car park.

Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from and L Pears.

1. **Declarations of interest.** Cllr G Rymer declared her street light near her home, she has previously been advised to do so at each meeting and Cllr Pears regarding items 10 and 12 on the agenda and the fact that she has a business operating in the town.

2. **To receive minutes of the meeting held on the 29th June 2017.** Cllr P Grant pointed out that, 'declarations of interest' was repeated as two separate items (1 & 3) on the minutes, councillors agreed to delete item 3. Cllr D Magnion enquired if there was an update on resolving the towns CCTV issues and Cllr J Pears on filling the vacant position of a councillor. Minutes were accepted by councillors, Cllr J Pears proposed, Cllr Hodgson seconded.

3. **To receive reports from the Mayor/Chairman and other sub-groups and committees.** The Mayor attended the show and had an enjoyable four hours there, he extended his thanks to the show committee, all the volunteers and everyone else involved, he had great feedback and will write to the committee to thank everyone concerned. Cllr J Pears attended the Business Groups meeting they are emailing the council requesting what they intend to do in the town to use some of the councils funds. Most councillors attended the recent Public Open Meeting organised by the Community Plan Group and held in Franklin Hall and agreed that it was a constructive day and they eagerly await the findings of the public's comments survey. Cllr G Rymer presented the Police Crime Incident List for Spilsby.

4. **Councillors to discuss how to move forward with cutting grassed areas in Spilsby.** Cllr M Gale has requested and is waiting for, a map from ELDC showing all the official grassed areas, to enable contractor's to access and submit tenders. Cllr D Magnion made the point that the public's perception is, that the grass needs cutting despite who was previously responsible. Cllr R Williams (ELDC) interjected, that all town and parish council's will have to accept that in future, they will be responsible for grass cutting and increase the precept accordingly. It was resolved that once the maps showing grassed areas have been received, tenders will be sought.

5. **Councillors to discuss the forthcoming ROSPA inspection of the play area and equipment and its possible outcomes and working with volunteer groups to seek funding/sponsorship to develop the children's play area.** Cllr T Taylor reported that, all three quotes for providing a Basket Swing had now been received, all were around the same price and specification, but the Playdays quote did include providing an additional item of play equipment at a small additional cost. After inspecting the quotes and some discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Hodgson and seconded by Cllr J Pears to proceed with the Playdays quotation, but only after confirming their terms of warranty. It was also agreed that at least one councillor would accompany The ROSPA inspector during their inspection of the play area and equipment at an additional cost to the council.

6. To discuss planning matters, including open spaces. Cllr J Pears mentioned an application for 7 Church Lane, but councillors had not received details of it therefore it was deferred until the next full council meeting. Cllr J Pears also mentioned about the reconstruction of the fallen Church Wall and its progress, Cllr D Magnion expressed concern at the lack of progress, Cllr E Hodgson explained that he was waiting for an appointment with a Structural Architect. Cllr P Grant pointed out that a previous rebuild of the wall had collapsed, and therefore required careful consideration. Cllr E Hodgson confirmed that he will contact the Structural Architect as a matter of urgency. Cllr D Magnion was concerned that we should tender for three quotations and Cllr P Grant pointed out, that it is after the report has been received from the structural architect, that tenders will be sought. Cllr A Wright stressed the importance of having a paper trail of all transactions in anything the council does, to ensure it stands up to any external audit. Cllr E Hodgson assured councillors that there was no conflict of interest regarding his company and this matter, he had spoken to LALC and it is quite acceptable that he submits a tender for the work.

7. To discuss town centre parking. Cllr J Pears told councillors, that free town centre parking was a major point of discussion at the Public Open Day event and a major issue for the public that attended.

8. To discuss the Councils finances. Cllr J Pears spoke on behalf of Cllr L Pears on this matter. During a New Councillor training event, he learnt it was good practice for a list of payments and receipts to be passed round to councillors and for any cheques to be signed at the meeting. He also wanted to enquire why there was not a separate bank account solely for the allotments and why councillors were not given an up to date list of holders on a regular basis. Cllr T Taylor explained that the reason for these matters, is simply that the council does not currently have a clerk, but that payments are being made and recorded on a spread sheet, all paperwork concerning finances are kept in a single file box, which is at each meeting and kept in the office for scrutiny by any councillor. It was resolved that a record of receipts and payments should be passed round at each meeting.

9. To define committee roles. Cllr D Magnion pointed out that he had been appointed to the Tourism Committee but had no idea of its remit and couldn't be expected to actively participate without it.

10. To Discuss promoting tourism. Cllr D Magnion felt that there is need to make contact with all groups associated with tourism and was therefore asking permission for him to do that. It was proposed by Cllr Argy that Cllr D Magnion should contact these groups with a view to joining them as representative on behalf of the council, this was seconded by E Hodgson, councillors agreed. Cllr T Taylor reminded councillors, that the Community Plan Group which he and Cllr A Wright represents the council on, has representatives of various groups, including tourism as members and suggested that it would assist the council to have a closer relationship with this committee, as other important groups are also represented, such as, police, fire, church, businesses and many others. Cllr D Magnion pointed out **(Cllr J Pears did not participate in this item)**

11. Open Meeting update. It was agreed that the Open Public Meeting seemed to be very successful, it was well attended and the council looks forward to the responses from the public once they have been collated by the Community Plan Committee.

12. Forging links with the Business Community. Councillors agreed that it is important to have close links with business community and Cllr M Gale will be attending one of their scheduled group meetings. **(Cllr J Pears did not participate in this item)**

13. Reviewing the appointment of the Deputy Chairman. Cllr E Hodgson had requested this item for the agenda, but asked for it to be formally withdrawn. Councillors agreed to this item being withdrawn.

This part of the meeting finished at 8.29pm before moving on to agenda item 14 (closed session)