

EPWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 7th December 2021, at 7.00 pm, in the Small Room of the Imperial Hall, Chapel Street, Epworth

- 01/12/21** **Record of Members Present**
The following councillors were present: Councillors J Whittaker (Chairman), Cooper, Garner, R Whittaker & Woods.
- 02/12/21** **Apologies for Absence**
There were apologies from Councillor Brumby - ill, and Councillor Stewart, and Councilor Finch joined the meeting at this point.
- 03/12/21** **Northern Powergrid**
Due to Storm Arwen Northern Powergrid were unable to give a presentation about an investment scheme to upgrade two of its existing substations, one in Epworth and one in Haxey, as well as laying 6.6km of underground electricity cables between the two. Proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved that the presentation should be deferred to another meeting.**
- 04/12/21** **Declarations of Interest & Dispensations**
(i) Councillor R Whittaker declared an interest in Item 12 - Finance.
(ii) No dispensations had been granted.
- 05/12/21** **Chairman's Report**
The Chairman mentioned that Councillor Harm had sent an email resigning, and he thanked him for the work he had put in as a councillor, and it was noted that he had attended meetings for many months before actually becoming a councillor. He also thanked the Christmas Lights Committee for the fantastic job with the lights and poppies, and also the local businesses and Councillor Woods for the Christmas Market - which had been a busy and successful day. Proposed by Councillor Woods and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the report be noted.**
- 06/12/21** **Ward Councillors' Report**
(i) New South Axholme Community Hub - The project is moving forward to the next stages. The feedback was described as 'overwhelmingly supportive' and the negative feedback was almost exclusively related to a misunderstanding. **(ii) Epworth Christmas Events** - Well attended lights switch on event followed by a highly successful Christmas Market / Food Fest. **(iii) Highways issues** - The major A161 refurbishment is suffering further delays - mainly due to installation of upgraded utility infrastructure, but also availability of materials. **(iv) KCOM Installations** - Numerous complaints about the standard of footpath reinstatements by KCOM and their contractors, which have been reported to the NLC highways team. **(v) Footpaths** - A list of footpaths that require remedial action is being compiled. **(vi) Planning** - Written to Hutchison Telecom and requested that they take action to mitigate the impact on the street scene of the control boxes for the 5G mast at the junction of Tottermire Lane and Belton Rd. **(vii) PA/2021/1812** - Maws Mill planning application has been 'called in' to the Planning Committee. **(viii) Town and Parish Council Liaison Meeting - Updates on Green Future Plan**
Updates on Green Future plan, winter service plan, upcoming grants and next steps for devolution.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the report be noted.**

07/12/21

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 7th December 2021, had been circulated prior to the meeting. **Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Cooper that they were a correct and accurate record.**

08/12/21

Clerk's Report

Minute 07/11/21 - The Clerk had received a payment which represented a reimbursement payment for Turbary Road.

Minute 07/11/21 - The Chairman had replaced the two missing bolts on the roundabout in the lower playground.

Minute 20/11/21 - The Clerk informed councillors that new equipment had been bought for the Groundsperson.

Minute 22/11/21 - The Clerk had received a reply from Northern Railway about the train service between Scunthorpe and Doncaster, and will provide councillors with a copy.

Minute 23/11/21 - The Clerk had sent an email confirming the Council was prepared to accept the invitation of a Food Fest for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Minute 24/11/21 - The Clerk had had written to the resident including evidence from North Lincs Council about the boundaries of Turbary Road and advised that the town council were in not in position to change this.

Minute 26/11/21 - The Clerk had written to North Lincs Council stating that the council was not in a position to respond due to their refusal to consult with the Council.

Minute 29/11/21 - The Clerk was in the process of organising a Community Dementia Friendly training event.

Minute 33/11/21 - The Clerk informed councillors that a clock had been purchased for the Chapel of Rest.

Proposed by Councillor Woods and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the report be noted.**

09/12/21

Correspondence

(i) To note certain correspondence -

- a) Scribe - Budgeting Webinars
- b) North Lincs Council - Winter Maintenance 2021
- c) Rural Services Network - Rural Economies Seminar
- d) VANL - Annual General Meeting
- e) The Limes Dental Practice - Hedge
- f) North Lincs Council - Walking Poster
- g) Information Commissioner's Office - Change of Details
- h) VANL - Survey Results

- i) BHIB Councils Insurance - Ransomware Webinar
- j) North Lincs Council - Special Town & Parish Council Liaison Meeting
- k) North Lincs Council - New Walk Ideas
- l) Scunthorpe & North Lincolnshire Concert Society - Concert Poster
- m) North Lincolnshire Council - Mayor's Christmas Concert
- n) Mr. P Jackson - Blocked Drains
- o) ERNLLCA - Direct Elections to NALC Smaller Councils' Committee
- p) ERNLLCA - Employment Support
- q) VANL - Annual Report 2020 / 2021
- r) Steel FM - Community Radio for Scunthorpe & North Lincolnshire
- s) Worknest - Employment Law Update
- t) Northern Powergrid - Storm Arwen
- u) North Lincolnshire Council - Household Support Fund

Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the information be noted.**

(ii) a) North Lincs Council - Bulk Salt Deliveries. North Lincolnshire Council sent an email proposing of a return to bulk deliveries of salt rather than filling parish green bins. However some Councils had already expressed concerns about storing the salt and filling the bins themselves, therefore North Lincs Council were prepared to provide an initial fill of any green bins, however any further refills would be done after their own yellow bins and also as resources allowed. Proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that North Lincolnshire Council should be asked to fill them.**

b) VANL - Emergency First Aid at Work Training. Details of training taking place on the 17th, 24th & 31st January 2022, and also on the 7th & 14th February 2022, from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm. Proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved to allow members of staff to attend the Emergency First Aid at Work Training at a cost of £85 per person.**

c) North Lincolnshire Alliance Volunteer Hub - Chatty Benches. Invitation to discuss a Chatty Bench Scheme in the Isle of Axholme area by attending a meeting due to be held on Thursday, 9th December 2021, at 10.00 am. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Cooper - **It was resolved that Councillor Brumby should be allowed to attend the meeting about the Chatty Bench Scheme on behalf of the Council.**

d) North Lincs Council - Exploring Opportunities for Devolution. Email from Mr Andy Tate, Principal Neighbourhoods Officer at North Lincolnshire Council seeking a meeting to discuss opportunities for devolution. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Woods - **It was resolved that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk be allowed to attend a meeting on behalf of the Council with North Lincolnshire Council.**

e) VANL - Merger Consultation & Focus Group Consultation. A request to complete a questionnaire to do with a potential merger between VANL and ERVS. Proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that it be noted, however councillors could complete it individually if they wished to do so.**

f) **North Lincs Council** - New Road Name Off Battle Green. Suggestion from the builder of Sycamores Close or maybe just Sycamore Close, because it is believed the house that was there previously was called the Sycamores Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Cooper - **It was resolved that the Council would prefer the new road off Battle Green to be called Sycamore Close.**

10/12/21

Publications

The following publications had been received:-

Rural / Market Towns Group - Newsletter	November 2021
Volunteer Hub - Newsletter	November 2021
North Lincs Council - Forthcoming Meetings	December 2021
ERNLLCA - Newsletter	
NALC - Chief Executive's Bulletins	
NALC - Newsletters & Events	
North Lincs Council - Business Update	
North Lincs Council - News Direct	
Public Sector Executive - Online Newsletter	
Public Sector Network - Online Newsletter	
Rural Services Network - Rural Bulletins & Newsletter	
VANL - Newsletter	

11/12/21

Committee / Working Group Reports

i) **Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee** - The minutes of a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Monday, 29th November 2021, were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Woods and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that they be approved as a correct record subject to clarification that the Spring in Bloom Grant would cover the staining of other planters.**

12/12/21

Finance**(i) Financial Report & Bank Reconciliation Statement for October 2021**

- The financial report and bank reconciliation statement was unavailable. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Cooper - **It was resolved that the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Full Council.**

(ii) Accounts for Payment**Payments made before or since last meeting:-**

20/10/2021	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	23.00
	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	112.00
	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	48.00
01/11/2021	DD	North Lincs Council	Trade Waste Disposal	61.23
	DD	North Lincs Council	Business Rates	71.00
	DD	Scottish Power	Electricity	11.00
	DD	Scottish Power	Electricity	11.00
20/11/2021	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	23.00
	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	112.00
	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	48.00
22/11/2021	DD	HSBC	Bank Charges	20.90
25/11/2021	DD	Vodafone	Mobile Phone Charges	23.31

26/11/2021	DD	Everflow Water	Water Rates	25.76
29/11/2021	DD	Plusnet	Telephone & Broadband	39.60

It was resolved that the action taken be approved.

Payments submitted at this meeting:-

07/12/2021	CHQ	Mrs J Canning	Bedding Plants and Compost	37.98
	BACS	Mr S Robinson	Cover for Watering of Hanging Baskets	400.00
	CHQ	Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	25.00
	BACS	Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	Playground Repairs	165.83
	CHQ	Cllr R Whittaker	Bedding Plants & Clock	40.94
	BACS	MKS Groundcare Ltd	Grasscutting	240.00
	BACS	Epworth Imperial Hall	Hire of Hall	22.50
	BACS	Torne Valley Ltd	Purchases & Repairs to Equipment	278.54
	BACS	Mrs C Boyall	Expenses - Mileage & Stationery	4.43
	BACS	Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	Playground Repairs	273.46
	BACS	ERNLLCA	Training - Cllr Brumby	72.00
	BACS	MWQA Ltd	Monthly H&S Competent Person Fee	50.00
	BACS	Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	Playground Repairs	8.28
	BACS	MKS Groundcare Ltd	Grasscutting	240.00
	BACS	Mr P Barker	Expenses - Mileage	13.50
	BACS	Mr S Quantrill	Expenses - Mileage & Fuel for Mower	37.83
	BACS	Wages / Tax NI / Pension	Month 8	3,987.79

It was resolved that these accounts be approved for payment.

13/12/21

North Lincolnshire Council's Waste Bin Consultation

At a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Monday, 29th November 2021, it discussed if there was a need for more bins, and if so where in Epworth. It resolved to make a recommendation to Full Council that it asks North Lincolnshire Council to:- (i) Move the bin outside Cemetery Lodge to the car park at the bottom of the Cemetery. (ii) Provide a bin on Fieldside, because there is currently no bin on the whole of Fieldside. (iii) Move the bin at the top of Hollingsworth Lane to the bottom of the tarmac road which leads to the Church. (iv) Provide a bin on Station Road near to where they used to be a phone box and nursery, and another bin on High Street between traffic lights and Tottermire Lane.

Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Woods - **it was resolved that North Lincolnshire Council should be asked to:-**

- (i) Move the bin at the top of Hollingsworth Lane to Fieldside - next to the footpath on the school side between 57 & 81 Fieldside.**
- (ii) Provide a post bin near the sewage pumping station near Hollingsworth Lane.**
- (iii) Provide a floor bin outside Oceans 52 on High Street.**
- (iv) Provide a post bin outside the HSBC Bank in the Market Place.**

14/12/21

Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016

At a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Monday, 29th November 2021, it discussed proposed changes to the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016.

The consultation affects councils which are burial authorities and has specific regard to amending the regulations around activities which affect groundwater - it will affect all burial authorities and existing cemeteries / burial grounds.

Whilst the proposals include an exemption from the permitting scheme for small cemeteries i.e. those with fewer than a hundred burials per year, in order to qualify as an 'exempt facility' a cemetery will have to comply with the General Binding Rules, one of which is that the minimum size of a grave plot will be no smaller than five square metres.

This would have a detrimental effect on the space available for future burials as a result of a grave size having to be a minimum of five square metres, which would reduce the capacity of a cemetery when space may already be limited and land at a premium.

Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that Full Council should agree with the answers given by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee in response to the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016 Consultation and it should be sent to DEFRA, NALC and the MP.**

15/12/21

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grant

At a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Monday, 29th November 2021, it discussed about applying for a grant for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to plant a tree with a small plaque to commemorate the occasion - maximum grant of £250. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that Full Council should agree with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee and the Clerk should apply for a grant for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**

16/12/21

Spring in Bloom Grant

At a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Monday, 29th November 2021, it discussed about applying for a grant from Spring in Bloom to move some planters, and buy compost, plants and woodstain. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Cooper - **It was resolved that Full Council should agree with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee and the Clerk should apply for a grant from Spring in Bloom.**

17/12/21

Amey

At a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Monday, 29th November 2021, it discussed offers of help from Amey to work within the local community. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Woods - **It was resolved that Full Council should agree with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery and Environment Committee that Amey should be asked to help with:- (i) Lighting of the Beacon for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. (ii) Litter picking of the main roads into / out of Epworth with the Ecoists. (iii) Tidying-up of the Market Place.**

- 18/12/21** **Tables for Chapel of Rest**
 At a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Monday, 29th November 2021, it discussed the need for new tables in the Chapel of Rest, and it was thought folding tables would make best use of the space. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Woods - **It was resolved that Full Council should precept £400 for new tables in the Chapel of Rest.**
- 19/12/21** **Gravel for Cemetery Paths**
 At a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Monday, 29th November 2021, it discussed the need for more gravel on the cemetery paths. The Clerk had obtained quotes for the gravel. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Woods - **It was resolved that Full Council should agree with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee and the Clerk should be asked to purchase three tonnes of gravel for the cemetery paths from Axholme Landscapes at a cost of £140 + VAT.**
- 20/12/21** **SLCC**
 Council had to consider whether to renew the Clerk's membership of SLCC, which provided help and advice which benefited the Council. **It was resolved that the Council should renew the Clerk's membership of SLCC at a cost of £215.**
- 21/12/21** **Information Commissioner's Office**
 The Council needed to pay the data protection fee and if it was paid by direct debit the cost was reduced by £5. **It was resolved that the Council should ask the Clerk to set up a direct debit to pay the data protection fee at a cost of £35 for the year.**
- 22/12/21.** **Items Raised By Councillors**
 (i) **Council / School Visits** - Councillor R Whittaker said the Head of the Primary School had asked about the Council, and the School had its own council too. It would be good for children to know how the Council works, either for them to visit the Council office or for the councillors to visit the school, so children could learn what a councillor does and how the children could play a part in the local community. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Woods - **It was resolved that the Clerk should make contact with the School with a view to providing a greater link between the Primary School and the Council.**
- (ii) **Cemetery Lodge** - The Chairman wondered if the Council was interested in offering other Council's who didn't have their own office an opportunity to have some space within Cemetery Lodge and share the facility for a small charge. It would allow people who worked there to bounce ideas off one another, it would also mean the building would get used, and encourage the interlinking of councils. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Cooper - **It was resolved that the idea should be further explored.**
- 23/12/21** **Questions to the Chairman**
 The Chairman was asked some questions, however they were not Items of an immediate urgency.

- 24/12/21** **Date, Time & Place of Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Tuesday, 11th January 2022, at 7.00 pm, with the venue to be announced in due course. There is also a meeting of the Planning Committee due to take place on Monday, 20th December 2021, at 6.45 pm, followed by a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee at 7.00 pm, both in the Chapel of Rest, Cemetery Lodge, Burnham Road, Epworth. **It was resolved that the information be noted.**
- 25/12/21** **Land**
Land had become available on the outskirts of Epworth, and given there would be a need for more burial land in the future, perhaps the Council should consider the purchase of some land. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Woods - **It was resolved that the Council should tender for land on the outskirts of Epworth, and the Clerk to be asked to submit an offer for Lot 1 of £15,000 and an offer for Lot 2 of £45,000 to be potentially funded by a government loan.** A recorded vote was requested:
For - Councillors Cooper, Finch, J Whittaker, R Whittaker, Woods. Against
- Councillor Garner.
- 26/12/21** **Closure of Meeting**
The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.18 pm.