#### **EPWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**

# Minutes of a Meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023, at 7.00 pm, in the Small Hall of the Imperial Hall, Chapel Street, Epworth

## **Public Participation**

No member of the public expressed a wish to address Full Council prior to the start of the meeting.

#### 01/09/23 Record of Members Present

The following councillors were present: Councillors Finch (Chairwoman), Baker, Holt, J Whittaker, R Whittaker and Wilson.

## 02/09/23 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

There were apologies from Councillor Cooper - family commitments, Councillor Grantham - on holiday, and Councillor Stewart - other commitments.

## 03/09/23 <u>Declarations of Interest & Dispensations</u>

- (i) No declarations of interest were made.
- (ii) No dispensations had been granted.

## 04/09/23 Chairwoman's Report

(i) Extraordinary Meeting - The Chairwoman reminded councillors about a meeting due to be held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> September to discuss PA/2023/1381.

(ii) Shed on the Isle - The Chairwoman had accepted the kind invitation given to every councillor to pop in and see what was being done. She was shown around and was very impressed. (iii) Epworth Show - The Chairwoman attended Epworth Show on behalf of the Council on Bank Holiday Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023. (iv) Hanging Baskets - The Hanging Baskets would be taken down on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023, and volunteers with a ladder would be welcome. (v) Poppies - The Poppies would go up on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023, and then be taken down on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023, when the Christmas Lights would go up. Proposed by Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor J Whittaker - It was resolved the report be noted.

## 05/09/23 Ward Councillors' Report

(i) Highways - Further road resurfacing improvements to take place between A161 Tottermire Lane to Belton Picnic area, also off Station Road to the industrial estate. (ii) Rural Paths and Verges - A programme of remedial work has been agreed following complaints. (iii) Planning - Still waiting for a site visit with enforcement officers to visit the new development off Pashlev Walk, and will speak at a meeting of the Planning Committee about anti-social behaviour and noise concerns to do with the Epworth Fields Holiday Park planning application. (iv) Ward Surgery/ Resident Engagement - Monthly ward surgery held at St Andrews Church, other than concerns about the Epworth Garden Centre planning application, no other issues of wider significance were identified. (v) <u>Transport</u> - The additional Hornsby Travel 399 Isle service between Scunthorpe and Doncaster has started and a new Bus Passenger Charter launched - this is intended to improve bus standards and encourage greater public transport usage. (vi) Epworth Leisure Centre Construction Works - Concerns raised about parking and access during the construction of the new community hub - as a result, further parking will be

made available on the MUGA area for construction staff, and this will hopefully free up areas of the remaining car park for customer use. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Baker - It was resolved that the report be noted.

#### 06/09/23 Ward Councillors

It was suggested that perhaps it would be a good idea for the Chairwoman and Vice-Chairman to talk to the Ward councillors about future engagement with the Council. Proposed by Councillor Holt and seconded by Councillor J Whittaker - It was resolved that the Chairwoman and Vice-Chairman be allowed to talk to the Ward Councillors about future engagement with the Council.

## 07/09/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

- (i) <u>Extraordinary Full Council Meeting</u> At the last meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023, it was resolved that the minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023, be deferred to this meeting. The Clerk had since amended them and circulated them prior to the meeting. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch It was resolved that they be approved as a correct record.
- (ii) Ordinary Full Council Meeting The minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023, had been circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Finch It was resolved that they be approved as a correct record subject to the reference to Vice-Chairwoman be changed to Vice-Chairman in Minute 09/08/23 Correspondence (ii) f) North Lincolnshire Council Town and Parish Council Liaison Meeting, and also the addition of Steering Group to Minute 17/08/23.

## 08/09/23 Clerk's Report

<u>Minute 04/08/23 Planning</u> - The Clerk had passed onto North Lincolnshire Council the views expressed on the planning applications which had been considered at a meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

<u>Minute 06/08/23 Ward Councillors' Report</u> - The Clerk had contacted North Lincolnshire Council about the scheduled hedge cut and asked how often it was done and the extent of it, but not yet received a reply. In addition he had contacted Safer Neighbourhoods about the need for the CCTV to be used in support of the town council and its play / gym equipment at Kings Head Croft.

Minute 09/08/23 Correspondence (ii) a) ERNLLCA - Training Guide for Councillors, Chairmen & Officers. The Clerk had booked Councillor Finch on the Chairs Training Parts 1 & 2 due to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at a cost of £60 + VAT.

Minute 09/08/23 Correspondence (ii) c) West Butterwick Parish Council - Training. The Clerk had suggested Social Media and Planning as potential topics for future training.

<u>Minute 09/08/23 Correspondence (ii) e) Epworth Swimming Pool</u> - Parking. The Clerk had written to North Lincolnshire Council expressing concerns about the parking situation and the need for regular communication

and more signage, and also let the Manager of the Swimming Pool know this was being done and that one of the Ward Councillors had been made aware of the problem.

Minute 09/08/23 Correspondence (ii) f) North Lincs Council - Town and Parish Council Liaison Meeting. The date of the meeting had been changed from Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023, to Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023, at 7.00 pm, in the Conference Room, Church Square House, High Street, Scunthorpe.

Minute 09/08/23 Correspondence (ii) h) ERNLLCA - Good Councillor's Employment Guide 2023. The Clerk had purchased ten copies of the Good Councillor's Employers Guide 2023 from ERNLLCA at a cost of £5 per guide, plus postage and small handling fee.

Minute 09/08/23 Correspondence (ii) i) Haxey Parish Council - Dedication Invite for Haxey Halifax Memorial. The Clerk had informed Haxey Parish Council that the Chairwoman would be attending the Haxey Halifax Memorial Dedication Service due be held on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023, at 11.00 am, at the Haxey Pinfold.

<u>Minute 12/08/23 Finance (ii) Budget Report</u> - The Clerk had amended the report to take account of the rounding.

<u>Minute 13/08/23 Horse Warning Signs</u> - The Clerk had contacted North Lincolnshire Council to let them know that the Council supported a temporary horse warning sign.

<u>Minute 14/08/23 Dog Fouling</u> - The Clerk had responded to the answers given by North Lincolnshire Council about dog fouling after liaising with the Chairwoman and Vice-Chairman, and was now awaiting a response from North Lincolnshire Council.

<u>Minute 15/08/23 Kings Head Croft Plaque</u> - The Clerk had asked 'The Shed on the Isle' to refurbish the plaque at Kings Head Croft at a cost of £62.44, and they presented the refurbished plaque to the Chairwoman prior to the meeting.

<u>Minute 17/08/23 Dementia Steering Group</u> - The Clerk had informed the Dementia Steering Group that Councillor R Whittaker was the Council's representative.

<u>Minute 21/08/23 Personnel (i) Office Hours</u> - The Clerk was seeking a quote to amend the noticeboard to take into account the new office opening hours.

<u>Minute 21/08/23 Personnel (ii) Training</u> - The Clerk had asked if the Groundsperson could attend the annual inspection of the play / gym equipment, but it was not possible for him to do so.

<u>Minute 21/08/23 Personnel (iii) Additional Hours</u> - The Clerk had received payment for the additional hours he had worked in the last quarter.

Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Wilson - It was resolved that the report be noted.

## 09/09/23 Correspondence

- (i) a) Mr A Fleet / Coun T Mitchell / North Lincs Council Cutting of Footpaths
- b) HR Bright Handling Difficult Conversations
- c) North Lincs Council Code of Conduct
- d) Mr G Milnes / Water Management Consortium Turbary Road, Epworth
- e) Millea Group Limited Archaeology Trench Works
- f) Millea Group Limited Proposed Development Off Belton Road, Epworth
- g) Unity Trust Bank Plc FSCS Annual Review 2023
- h) VANL Event Bulletin
- i) Fields In Trust Survey 2023
- j) North Lincs Council Chains of Office for Parish Councils
- k) Millea Group Limited / Councillor T Mitchell / Royal Pilgrim Transparency
- I) Councillor T Mitchell HSBC Meeting
- m) VANL First Steps Forward Launch Event
- n) Peninsula Business Services Ltd Video on Basics of Managing Leave
- o) South Axholme Academy Sports Sponsorship
- p) BHIB Limited BHIB Councils Insurance to become Clear Councils
- q) ERNLLCA Investment Article
- r) Unity Trust Bank Plc Launch of New Post Office Counter Service
- s) Worknest Five New Employee Rights and Protections
- t) Better Housing Better Health Service Information
- u) ERNLLCA New Clerks Free Finance Training
- v) Microsoft Corporation Updates to Terms of Use
- w) PKF Littlejohn LLP Receipt of AGAR
- x) North Lincs Council Remembrance 2023
- y) North Lincs Council New 399 Monday-Friday Timetable
- z) North Lincs Council Childminder Briefing Advertisement
- aa) The Old Rectory Summer Crafts Posters
- bb) ERNLLCA Employment Support Section Updated
- cc) Microsoft Corporation Microsoft 365 Business Standard Price Increase
- dd) Epworth Bowls Club Quiz Poster
- ee) Epworth Times Best Kept Village Competition
- ff) Fields In Trust Notification of Fee Changes
- gg) Ms F Sahman Protected Tree to be Cut in Epworth
- hh) Millea Group Limited Website Link & Flyer for Development
- ii) Vitality Tips to Avoid Employee Burnout
- jj) The Old Rectory Posters
- kk) Mr C Wragg ROC Post

Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Holt

- It was resolved that the information be noted.
- (ii) a) <u>Humberside Emergency Planning Service</u> Community Emergency Plan Review. Email with a revised template for a Community Emergency Plan which can be produced after filling in a questionnaire to enable the necessary information to be obtained. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Baker It was resolved that the Community Emergency Plan should be reviewed by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee.
- **b)** Government Events Crisis Communications Planning. Details of a course due to be held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch It was resolved that the information be noted.

- c) <u>CPRE Northern Lincolnshire</u> Best Kept Village Competition. Notification of the results of this year's Best Kept Village Competition. The Council was highly commended and came fourth in the Small Town Group, and joint first in the Best Kept Cemetery. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Wilson It was resolved that the Chairwoman and Groundsperson attend the presentation due to take place on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023, at 7.30 pm, in the Community Pavilion, Newport Drive, Winterton.
- **d) ERNLLCA** Cemetery Management Training. Details of a training course due to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023, from 9.15 am to 12.30 pm at a cost of £75 + VAT. Proposed by Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Finch It was resolved that the information be noted.
- e) <u>ERNLLCA</u> Events Calendar Update. List of courses being offered by Breakthrough Communications and the Parkinson Partnership. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch It was resolved that the information be noted.
- f) Institute of Government & Public Policy Annual Local Government Event. Details of an event due to be held on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at The Royal Society of Medicine, London. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker & seconded by Councillor Baker It was resolved the information be noted.
- g) <u>Better Housing Better Health</u> Fuel Poverty Training Event. Details of an online event due to be held on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023, from 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch It was resolved that the information be noted.
- h) <u>Government Events</u> Race at Work Conference 2024. Details of an online conference due to be held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Baker It was resolved that the information be noted.
- i) <u>ERNLLCA</u> Annual General Meeting. Details of the AGM due to be held on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023, at 4.00 pm, at the Village Hotel, Henry Boot Way, Hull. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch It was resolved that the Chairwoman should attend ERNLLCA's AGM on behalf of the Council.
- j) <u>The Planning Inspectorate</u> North Humber to High Marnham EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation. A request for any comments about the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping process to be submitted by Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Proposed by Councillor Wilson and seconded by Councillor J Whittaker It was resolved that the information be noted.
- **k)** Government Events Allyship in the Workplace Conference 2023. Details of an online conference due to be held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor J Whittaker It was resolved that the information be noted.
- I) <u>ERNLLCA / Power for People</u> Energy Bill. A request to ask the MP to welcome the new Community Energy Fund but call on the Minister to do more to help community energy. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor J Whittaker It was resolved that the information be noted.

- m) <u>ERNLLCA / NALC</u> Consultation on Local Plans. Consultation questions on Local Plans with a deadline of Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor J Whittaker It was resolved that the Consultation on Local Plans be devolved to the Planning Committee to answer on behalf of the Council.
- n) <u>ERNLLCA</u> National Data Collection on 2023 Local Elections. A request to complete a survey on the council elections held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023, by 5 pm on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Proposed by Councillor Holt and seconded by Councillor Baker It was resolved that the Clerk in conjunction with the Chairwoman draw-up a draft response on behalf of the Council and this then be put before the next meeting of the Full Council.

#### 10/09/23 Publications

The following publications had been received:-

Alliance Volunteer Hub - Newsletter	July 2023
ERNLLCA - Newsletter	July 2023
ERNLLCA - Newsletter	August 2023
Public Sector Network - Newsletter	August 2023
Rural Services Network - Rural Funding Digest	August 2023

ERPF - Employer Alert
Fields In Trust - News
ICCM - Member Newsletter

NALC - Chief Executive's Bulletin

NALC - Events NALC - Newsletter

North Lincs Council - Business Focus

Public Sector Executive - Online Newsletter

Rural Services Network - Rural Bulletin

SLCC - News Bulletin

VANL - Update

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

#### 11/09/23 Committee / Working Group Reports

i) Planning Committee - The minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023, were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Holt - It was resolved that they be approved as a correct record.

#### 12/09/23 Finance

(i) Accounts for Payment

#### **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - SEPTEMBER 2023**

#### Payments made before or since last meeting:-

09.08.23	BP	Epworth & District Agric Society	S144 Grant	500.00
21.08.23	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	1.00
	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	44.00
	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	234.00
23.08.23	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	34.00
25.08.23	DD	Vodafone	Mobile Phone Charges	17.16

29.08.23	DD	Plusnet	Telephone & Broadband Charges	34.92
30.08.23	BP	Equals	Transfer of Funds	200.00
	Equals	Londis	Fuel for Mower	23.47
31.08.23	BP	Wages / Tax & NI / Pension	Month 5	5,637.82
01.09.23	DD	Scottish Power	Electricity	35.83
	DD	North Lincs Council	Business Rates	62.00

Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker

- It was resolved that the action taken be approved.

#### Payments submitted at this meeting:-

05.09.23	BP	Torne Valley Ltd	Bin Liners / Plant Food / Cleaning Mats	16.91
	BP	Torne Valley Ltd	Water / Bin Bags / Oil / Battery Charger	73.67
	BP	Complete Weed Control	Weed Control of Paths & Car Park	108.00
	BP	ERNLLCA	Good Councillor Guide to Employment	58.18
	BP	Torne Valley Ltd	Bin Liners / Weedkiller / Cleaning Mats	27.79
	BP	MWQA Ltd	Monthly H&S Competent Person Fee	72.00
	BP	JB Rural Services	Grass Cutting	199.50
	BP	Mr S Quantrill	Mileage	8.10

Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch

- It was resolved that these accounts be paid.

## 13/09/23 Social Media Policy

Councillors had been provided with a draft Social Media Policy, which had been drawn-up after looking at guidance and policies issued by ERNLLCA, VANL, and other councils. It was pointed out that the old policy covered other areas, not just social media, such as the website and emails. It was felt that any new policy should also incorporate these forms of media. Proposed by Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Finch - It was resolved that the Social Media Policy be deferred and the Clerk in consultation with interested councillors draw-up a draft Media Policy.

#### 14/09/23 Highway Matters

At the last meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023, under public participation a member of the public complained about the ruts in the road and the footpath and a need for traffic lights / zebra crossing on Albion Hill, therefore councillors considered these concerns. Proposed by Baker and seconded by Councillor Finch - It was resolved that the Clerk contact North Lincolnshire Council about the ruts in the road and given it was stated earlier in the ward councillors' report that road resurfacing improvements were taking place in the area ask if it could be done at the same time, but if not could the ward councillor let the resident know when it would be addressed.

## 15/09/23 Planning

Councillors considered if there was any additional information which may be required prior to considering PA/2023/1381 at an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council due to be held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Baker - It was resolved that the Clerk contact North Lincolnshire Council and ask what the housing need for Epworth was.

#### 16/09/23 Defibrillator Training

There was a need to look again at defibrillator training because the previous offer had been withdrawn. The Clerk informed councillors that Community Heartbeat Trust who had supplied the defibrillator were also prepared to offer some free training - one session with up to a maximum of fifty people. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - It was resolved that the Clerk should take Community Heartbeat Trust up on their offer of free defibrillator training and arrange a convenient date for them and the local businesses, and also book the main hall of the Imperial Hall for it.

## 17/09/23 Communication & Engagement

The Clerk had sought a quote to turn the notice board round and put copies of the town council's minutes in the library, and in addition obtained the following quotes for a regular article in the Arrow:-

Full Page £105 + VAT Smaller Page £65 + VAT

It was suggested that a full page article be placed in the November edition and it would contain brief information about councillors and the Council. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Baker - It was resolved that the Clerk take out a full page article in The Arrow at a cost of £105 + VAT.

#### 18/09/23 Tablet

There was a need for a new tablet to replace one which could not be accessed, and the Clerk had managed to obtain the following quotes:-

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Samsung Galaxy Tab A8 10.5"	3GB RAM / 32GB Storage	£169
Currys		

Samsung Galaxy Tab A8 10.5" 3GB RAM / 32GB Storage £169
Samsung Galaxy Tab A8 10.5" 4GB RAM / 64GB Storage £189

Ebuyer

Samsung Galaxy Tab A8 10.5" 2GB RAM / 32GB Storage £205.96

It was suggested the Council purchase two tablets and have one as a spare.

Proposed by Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - It was resolved that the Clerk should purchase two Samsung Galaxy Tab A8 10.5" tablets from Curry's at a total cost of £378.

## 19/09/23 Telephone & Broadband

There was a need to review the Council's telephone and broadband supplier because Plusnet were going to stop providing such a service to its business customers, therefore the Clerk had managed to obtain the following quotes:-

BT	24 months - Fibre Broadband & PAYG 24 months - Fibre Broadband & UK Unlimited Calls	£23.95 + VAT £30.95 + VAT
Talk Talk	24 months - Fibre Broadband & PAYG 24 months - Fibre Broadband & Unlimited Calls	£21.95 + VAT

Sky 24 months - Fibre Broadband & PAYG £27.95 + VAT 24 months - Fibre Broadband & Unlimited UK Callls £37.95 + VAT

Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Holt - It was resolved that the Clerk should take out on behalf of the Council a 24 month contract for Fibre Broadband & PAYG with Talk Talk at a cost of £21.95 + VAT per month and £9.95 for P&P of new router.

## 20/09/23 Window Cleaning

The Clerk had managed to obtain the following quote for the cleaning of the windows at Cemetery Lodge:-

R Wilkinson Window Cleaning

£60

Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - It was resolved that R Wilkinson be asked to clean the windows inside and out at Cemetery Lodge at a cost of £60.

## 21/09/23 Mole Control

There was a problem with moles at the Cemetery and the Clerk had managed to obtain the following quote:-

Axholme Pest Control

£84-96 + VAT

Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - It was resolved that Axholme Pest Control be asked to carry out mole control at the Cemetery at a cost of up to £96 + VAT.

#### 22/09/23 Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee

Councillor R Whittaker no longer wished to remain a member of the Combined Cemetery Environment Committee, so there was a need to elect a new member onto the Committee, otherwise it was inquorate. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor J Whittaker - It was resolved that Councillor Willson be a member of the Combined Cemetery and Environment Committee.

#### 23/09/23 Town Walks

At the last meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023, it was agreed that councillors should carry out town walks within the parish, however a date had not yet been agreed. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor J Whittaker - It was resolved that councillors should carry out a Town Walk on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023, at either 4 pm or 6 pm, starting at Kings Head Croft.

## 24/09/23 Facebook

Councillors considered items for Facebook and suggested the following: Bus Timetables / Dementia Friendly Dates / Planning Applications / New Office Hours / Introduction to Councillors / Photo of Groundsperson & Cemetery. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker

- It was resolved that the Clerk post the above items on the Council's Facebook page.

## 25/09/23 Date, Time & Place of Next Meeting

There is an Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council due to be held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023, in the Main Hall of the Imperial Hall, Chapel Street, Epworth, and an Ordinary Meeting of the Full Council due to be held on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023, at 7.00 pm, in the Small Hall of the Imperial Hall, Chapel Street, Epworth. In addition, there is also a meeting of the Planning Committee due to be held on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023, at 5.30 pm, followed by a meeting of the Personnel Committee on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023, at 7.00 pm, both are in the Chapel of Rest, Cemetery Lodge, Burnham Road, Epworth.

## 26/09/23 Closure of Meeting

The Chairwoman declared the meeting closed at 9.33 pm.