

EPWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 7th March 2023, at 7.00 pm, in the Chapel of Rest, Cemetery Lodge, Burnham Road, Epworth

Public Participation

Two members of the public expressed a wish to address the Full Council.

A resident expressed serious concerns about the Telecommunications Mast on Tottermire Lane and the potential danger of 5G. They were concerned about the impact on health, the structural integrity of the poles, and insurance cover for such masts. They were all over the country and believed they posed a health risk and therefore they should come down.

A member of the Parkrun Initiation Group explained that it would cost £4,000 to set up a parkrun locally. It would be based at Epworth Equestrian Centre and would be a private / off road course. The nearest park run was at Doncaster and it was a long way to go to run 5K. It would benefit runners and local businesses and even non-runners who could come along and walk - in other words no-one was excluded from taking part in a parkrun.

01/03/23 Record of Members Present

The following councillors were present: Councillors Finch (Chairwoman), Cooper, Garner, J Whittaker and R Whittaker.

02/03/23 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

There were apologies from Councillors Brumby & Richmond - work commitments, and Councillor Stewart - ill.

03/03/23 Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

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

04/03/23 Grants

The Clerk had received a request for financial assistance from Parkrun Initiation Group and provided each councillor with a copy of the information he had been sent. Originally they were seeking a grant of £4,000, however they had since managed to raise £2,150 so now only required £1,850 to set up a Parkrun. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved that the Council should make a \$137 grant of £1,176.50 to the Parkrun Limited to help towards the setting up of a Parkrun in Epworth.**

05/03/23 Turbary Road

Since the last meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 7th February 2023, the Clerk had telephoned Mr Gore's office to see if the legal advice to do with Turbary Road would be available for the meeting this evening, however he had been informed that Mr Gore had unfortunately been ill and therefore sent his apologies. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the update be noted.**

06/03/23 Chairwoman's Report

The Chairwoman had been asked to attend the Epworth Business Forum and was introduced to the new Chairman and talked about the King's Coronation and Competition. She also informed the Council that she had received lots

of invitations to attend civic events and asked for future consideration of an expense fund for the Chair because they were quite costly events to go to. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved the report be noted.**

07/03/23

Ward Councillors' Report

The Clerk had received no ward councillor's report, but an email to do with the trees at Kings Head Croft and Closed Churchyard and the King's Coronation Celebration Grant Fund. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Cooper - **It was resolved that the lack of a report be noted.**

08/03/23

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of a meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 7th February 2023, had been circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved they be approved as a correct record.**

09/03/23

Clerk's Report

Minute 13/02/23 Correspondence (ii) f) Mrs J Matthews - Axholme Drive Playground. The Clerk had been informed that the playground was in the process of being transferred to North Lincolnshire Council and it was hoped that this would be completed by Spring / Early Summer so it could be used.

Minute 13/02/23 Correspondence (ii) b) Ms J Shirley - Research on Youth Councils Survey The Clerk had forwarded this on for it to be completed, however the date had expired to participate in the survey.

Minute 13/02/23 Correspondence (ii) g) ERNLLCA - HR Problem Training. The Clerk had booked a place for Councillor J Whittaker to attend the training due to be held on Tuesday, 21st March 2023, at a cost of £35 + VAT.

Minute 13/02/23 Correspondence (ii) i) Dementia Group - Hire of Room. The Clerk had informed the Dementia Group that it could use the room free of charge.

Minute 13/02/23 Correspondence (ii) j) North Lincs Council - Curry Leaf Premises Licence Variation. The Clerk had informed North Lincolnshire Council that the Council supported the Licence Variation for the Curry Leaf.

Minute 13/02/23 Correspondence (ii) k) North Lincs Council - Defibrillator Grant & Shortfall. The Clerk had accepted the grant of up to £2,000 from North Lincolnshire Council and its conditions.

Minute 16/02/23 Planning - The Clerk had passed onto North Lincolnshire Council the views which had been expressed on the planning applications which had been considered at the last meeting of the Full Council.

Minute 18/02/23 Financial Regulations - The Clerk had amended the financial regulations to allow him to use the Equals card up to a sum of £600.

Minute 20/02/23 King's Coronation - The Clerk had applied for a £250 grant from North Lincolnshire Council for the King's Coronation.

Minute 22/02/23 Boot Scrapers - The Clerk had been unable to purchase the two boot scrapers but only one from Doidge Limited at a cost of £29.16 + VAT.

Minute 23/02/23 Mole Control - The Clerk had asked Axholme Pest Control to deal with the mole problem at a cost of up to £84 + VAT.

Minute 24/02/23 Lawnmower - The Clerk had ordered a Stihl RM 4 RT lawnmower from Torne Valley Ltd at a cost of £487.50 + VAT.

Minute 25/02/23 Cemetery Lodge - The Clerk had asked Roy W Robinson to carry out the decoration of the stairway area at a cost of £695.

Minute 26/02/23 Heater - The Clerk had asked Skidmore Electrical (UK) Limited to try and repair the heater, however it could not be fixed, therefore he then asked them to fit a new radiator at a cost of £690 + VAT.

Minute 28/02/23 Items Raised By Councillors (i) R-evolution Flower Bikes - The Clerk had accepted two Blooming Bikes from R-evolution for Epworth.

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

10/03/23

Correspondence

- (i) a) North Lincs Council - Civic Dinner
- b) Government Events - Social Media Content & Marketing Communications
- c) Kirton in Lindsey Town Council - Civic Dinner
- d) The Shed on the Isle - Open Day
- e) North Lincs Council - King's Coronation Grants
- f) Ongo - Proud to Care
- g) North Lincs Council - Commercial Waste Duty of Care, Terms & Conditions
- h) Millea Group Limited - Screening Opinion Letter
- i) ERNLLCA - Publications
- j) ERNLLCA / Mr R Dixon - VAT on Sports Fees & Procurement Thresholds
- k) Mr D Street - Lack of Regular Buses
- l) Lindsey Lodge - Care for a Cuppa
- m) ERNLLCA - Buckingham Palace Garden Party
- n) VANL - Free Funding Fair
- o) North Lincs Council - Road Closures for King's Coronation
- p) Worknest - Managing Performance Issues
- q) VANL - Free Funding Webinar
- r) ERPF - New Contribution Rates
- s) ERPF - Employer Training Alert
- t) Isle of Axholme Short Mat Bowls Club - Photo of New Equipment
- u) Northern Powergrid - Preparing for Very Strong Winds
- v) North Lincs Council - Briefing Session for Candidates / Agents / Clerks
- w) Bright HR - Statutory Minimum Rights Compliance
- x) North Lincs Council - Short Breaks+
- y) Ms L Howard - Proposed Garden Centre Building Development
- z) Alliance Volunteer Hub - Volunteer Voice Survey
- aa) North Lincs Council - Upcoming A161 Road Closure
- bb) Councillor T Mitchell - Trees at Kings Head Croft & Closed Churchyard
- cc) North Lincs Council - Reclaim the Night Poster
- dd) Everflow Water - Update on 2023/24 Tariff Charges
- ee) North Lincs Council - Public Footpaths Near Epworth Primary Academy
- ff) Barton Upon Humber Town Council - Mayor's Civic Service

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

(ii) a) Mr & Mrs Durdy / Mr & Mrs Britton - Telecommunication Mast. Mrs Durdy had spoken earlier in the meeting under public participation and also written a letter along with others to the Council about the Telecommunications Mast on Tottermire Lane. They expressed serious concerns about the impact on human health due to the use of 5G technology and the safety of such a tall structure and queried if there was any insurance in place to cover this.

Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved that:- (i) The Council notes the concerns raised. (ii) Let it be known that Epworth Town Council objected to the telecommunications mast and North Lincolnshire Council failed to deal with the application in the appropriate way. (iii) The Clerk query the insurance aspect of the telecommunication mast.**

b) Government Events - Social Media Strategy & Analytics. Details of an online training course due to be held on Tuesday, 4th April 2023. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the information be noted.**

c) Government Events - Shaping the Future of Women in Work. Details of an online conference due to be held on 21st March 2023. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved that the information be noted.**

d) ERNLLCA - Events Programme. Details of various training courses being held from April 2023 to February 2024. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that the information be noted, however any new councillors in May could be interested.**

e) ICCM - Training Courses. Details of various online courses and on-site courses being held from April to October 2023. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that the information be noted.**

f) Keep Britain Tidy - Great British Spring Clean 2023. Information about the Great British Spring Clean 2023 due to take place from 17th March 2023 to 2nd April 2023. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved that the Great British Spring Clean should be promoted on the Council's Facebook page and website.**

g) Epworth & District WI - Commemorative Tree in Epworth Cemetery. An email asking for permission to plant a tree in Epworth Cemetery to help commemorate the coronation of King Charles III. Advice would be sought on protocol, the type of tree and the exact location, and it would be planted either by North Lincs Council or local reputable landscaper. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Cooper - **It was resolved that the Council should accept this offer subject to it being in a suitable location and an appropriate type of tree.**

11/03/23

Publications

The following publications had been received:-

Alliance Volunteer Hub - Newsletter	February 2023
ERNLLCA - Newsletter	February 2023
Public Sector Network - Newsletter	February 2023
Rural Services Network - Rural Funding Digest	February 2023
Unity Trust Bank - Newsletter	February 2023
Civility & Respect - Newsletter	March 2023
Clerk & Councils Direct - Magazine	March 2023
North Lincolnshire Council - Forthcoming Meetings	March 2023
RSN - Rural Funding Digest	March 2023
ERPF - Employer Bulletin	
Fields In Trust - News	
ICCM - Member Newsletter	
NALC - Chief Executive's Bulletin	
NALC - Newsletter	
North Lincs Council - Business Focus Newsletter	
North Lincs Council - Weekly Roadworks	
Public Sector Executive - Online Newsletter	
Rural Services Network - Rural Bulletin	
SLCC - News Bulletin	
VANL - Newsletter	

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

12/03/23

Committee / Working Group Reports

i) Planning Committee - The minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday, 15th February 2023, were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved that they be approved as a correct record.**

(ii) Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee - The minutes of a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Monday, 20th February 2023, were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor J Whittaker - **It was resolved that they be approved as a correct record.**

13/03/23

Finance**(i) Accounts for Payment****ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - MARCH 2023****Payments made before or since last meeting:-**

14.02.23	BP	Equals Money PLC	Transfer of Funds	648.00
16.02.23	Equals	X2 Connect Limited	Panes for Telephone Box	648.00
20.02.23	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	10.00
	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	16.00
	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	35.00
21.02.23	Equals	eBay (UK) Limited	Bunting	5.59
	Equals	eBay (UK) Limited	Bunting	6.59
	Equals	Party Packs Limited	Bunting	23.80

	Equals	Doidge Limited	Boot Scraper	34.99
22.02.23	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	34.00
27.02.23	DD	Vodafone	Mobile Phone Charges	15.00
	DD	Plusnet	Telephone & Broadband Charges	34.92
	DD	Everflow Water	Water Rates	72.60
28.02.23	BP	Wages / Tax & NI / Pension	Month 11	3,035.68
01.03.23	DD	Scottish Power	Electricity	1.00
06.03.23	BP	Epworth Music Day	S145 Grant	961.00

Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch
- It was resolved that the action taken be approved.

Payments submitted at this meeting:-

07.03.23	BP	Epworth Imperial Hall	Room Hire	157.50
	BP	Epworth Imperial Hall	Room Hire	27.50
	BP	ERNLCA	Training Course - Web Accessibility	18.00
	BP	MWQA Ltd	Monthly H&S Competent Person Fee	60.00
	BP	Axholme Pest Control	Mole Control	86.40
	BP	Torne Valley Ltd	Bin Liners / Can / Gloves / Mower	606.72
	BP	Mr S Quantrill	Expenses - Mileage & Elastic	19.50
	BP	Community Heartbeat Trust	Defibrillator	3,054.00

Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Cooper
- It was resolved that these accounts be paid.

14/03/23

Fountain Court

The Clerk had received a complaint about the block paving sinking in a certain part of Fountain Court and went up to have a look at it and thankfully someone filled in what appeared to be potentially the start of a sink hole, however he said the current surface was far from ideal. Initially he contacted North Lincolnshire Council to see if they were in any way responsible for the footpath area, however it was not part of the public footpath. He also spoke to one of the businesses and it looks as though the original builder / developer may have sold off the businesses and flats either leasehold or freehold, and perhaps the communal area was left to the developer. However if the developer was no longer in business or alive, it begged the question who was now responsible for maintaining the paved area in Fountain Court? Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the Clerk contact the person who raised concerns about the state of the pavement in Fountain Court and if they were prepared to call a meeting of interested parties then the Council would offer to Chair and supply a room for such a meeting.**

15/03/23

CCTV

At the last meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 7th February 2023, Mr Chris Woollas of Woollas Security was unfortunately not able to attend to give a presentation on CCTV, however he was later able to do so to a group of councillors on Wednesday, 15th February 2023. He would supply three CCTV cameras at Kings Head Croft and monitor them and come out to any incidents which occurred if any intervention was required. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Cooper - **It was resolved that the Clerk should:- (i) Ask Woollas Security to put up three CCTV cameras at Kings Head Croft at a cost of £300 and monitor it for twelve months at a cost of £100 per month. (ii) Agree to the purchase of a sim card for internet connection at a cost of up to £20 per month.**

Note - All of the above was subject to the appropriate documentation / agreement being provided and agreed for the use of the CCTV.

- 16/03/23** **Standing Orders**
 The Clerk had provided each councillor with a copy of the Council's Standing Orders, which needed to be amended as a result of new procurement thresholds for public contracts with an estimated value of over £213,477 for goods or services, and over £5,336,937 for public works. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the Clerk should amend the standing orders to take account of the new procurement thresholds for public contracts.**
- 17/03/23** **Shed**
 Each councillor was provided with photos of a second-hand metal shed which had become available, it was 8ft by 6ft and would cost £200 (including delivery) to buy. It was suggested that items which were currently stored in Cemetery Lodge could be stored in it, however concerns were expressed about how secure it would be and if it would also fit in with what was currently there and the additional costs of providing a base upon which to put it. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Cooper - **It was resolved not to purchase the Metal Shed but to thank Mr P Finch for bringing its availability to the attention of the Council.**
- 18/03/23** **Strimmer**
 At a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Monday, 20th February 2023, it discussed the disposal of a strimmer which did not work and had already been replaced with a new strimmer. 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 be allowed to dispose of the strimmer and it be removed from the asset register.**
- 19/03/23** **Internal Auditor**
 The Council had to appoint an internal auditor for 2022 / 2023, and the Clerk had therefore obtained a quote from the Council's current internal auditor. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the Council should appoint Mr Richard Dixon of Public Sector Audit as the internal auditor for 2022 / 2023 at a cost of £865.**
- 20/03/23** **Electricity**
 The Clerk had received no prices from the electricity broker. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Cooper - **It was resolved that the item should be deferred to the next meeting of the Full Council.**
- 21/03/23** **Items Raised By Councillors**
(i) Local Radio Station - Councillor J Whittaker thought it would be a good idea for someone from the Council to go on TMCR - the local radio station Perhaps do a monthly stint, where the Chair or Vice-Chair could report on what was discussed at the Council's previous monthly meeting. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Cooper - **It was resolved that the Chairwoman should go and visit the radio station and talk about Epworth and whilst meeting with them explore more regular contact.**

- 22/03/23** **Annual Town Meeting**
The Clerk informed Councillors that the date of the next Annual Town Meeting was due to be held on Monday, 17th April 2023, at 7.00 pm, in the Small Hall of the Imperial Hall, Chapel Street, Epworth, however there was a regular booking in until 7.30 pm. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was noted that the Annual Town Meeting would take place on Monday, 17th April 2023, at 7.30 pm.**
- 23/03/23** **Questions to the Chairwoman**
There were no questions.
- 24/03/23** **Date, Time & Place of Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Tuesday, 4th April 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 Thursday, 16th March 2023, at 7.00 pm, in the Chapel of Rest, Cemetery Lodge, Burnham Road, Epworth. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor J Whittaker - **It was resolved the information be noted.**
- 25/03/23** **Closure of Meeting**
The Chairwoman declared the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.