



## WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL

26 September 2016 – 7.30 pm

### MINUTES OF MEETING

**Present:** Councillor Tibbs, Chairman (and Town Mayor); Councillors Balsevics, Bucknor, Mrs Bucknor, Mrs Cox, Hill, Miss Hoy, Human, Lay, Mrs MacRae, Oliver, Miss Oliver, Schooling and Tierney.

**Apologies:** Councillors Hodgson and Mrs Lay.

**Public participation:** None requested.

#### **62/16 Circle Roddons Housing Association**

Sue Stavers and Jon Fox attended the meeting to give an update and responses regarding their previous presentation to Wisbech Town Council (minute 177/15 refers).

Members were informed that anti-social behaviour had been an issue but is being dealt with in a robust way. There had been re-structuring of the organisation, putting more resources into staffing and training regarding anti-social behaviour and taking action (re-possession). It was acknowledged that there is co-operation between several agencies - Fenland District Council, Police and Circle Roddons - and such final decisions are not taken lightly.

There had been a stock-condition survey plus a planned-works programme. This had highlighted the insulation issues at JFK Court and there had been a budget bid for the next financial year. Overall, there is a 2-18 years replacement programme.

Councillor Lay stated that he had been told by tenants that there are still ongoing issues at JFK Court: appointments had not been kept, and works had not been carried out, or were inappropriate. A report would be handed by him to Sue Stavers at the end of the meeting.

Councillor Tierney praised the councillor hotline e-mail system but hoped for a similar telephone system. Mould and anti-social behaviour are still high concern issues. Ms Stavers responded that mould had been part of the stock condition survey and tenants had been requested to raise issues direct with Circle Roddons in the usual way, and due process would be followed.

Councillor Human expressed concern that he had received no response to the dossier of issues that he had handed over at the previous meeting. In response, Mr Fox stated that contractors had visited the property several times but some repairs had only been carried out in recent days. Circle Roddons would write to explain the process followed.

Councillor Tierney stated that he welcomed the attendance by the representatives of Circle Roddons and would hope that such attendance could be a regular occurrence. Dates of forthcoming meetings would be forwarded to Circle Roddons to enable further attendance to be arranged.

The Mayor thanked Ms Stavers and Mr Fox for their attendance.

Members decided that the information presented be noted.

*(Councillor Mrs Bucknor declared a non-pecuniary interest on this item by virtue of her being a member of the Circle Roddons Board)*



## **63/16 Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

PC Dave Stevens reported that at the last community forum meeting (August) the issues raised had been speeding, parking and street drinking. The future of the forum is changing, as the New Horizons Outreach Vehicle is no longer available. Initially, an online survey using Survey Monkey would be used.

In terms of current trends etc, PC Stevens mentioned that

- 250 parking tickets a month are being issued to incorrectly-parked vehicles. The County Council had been requested to re-paint lines and improve signage for clarity; also to make cycle routes clearer
- crime figures had reduced slightly, even though the public are being encouraged more to report incidents
- additional PCSOs are being trained
- a CCTV camera is to be placed on Ghost Passage, with the aim of addressing issues of anti-social behaviour
- a number of tickets had been issued for cycling offences.

Members were reminded of the play Chelsea's Choice regarding sexual exploitation to be shown at the Queen Mary Centre on 27 September 2016.

Councillor Mrs MacRae stated her wish that the County Council would increase the number of cycle paths or improve the sides of roads from potholes.

Councillor Lay expressed the opinion that there needs to be more education regarding cycling road rules.

Councillor Tierney raised issues regarding anti-social behaviour in the early evenings at Tillery Fields and an issue which had been raised earlier that day on social media of a child being attacked but a dilatory Police response. He was assured that patrols do take place at Tillery fields and that safeguarding children issues are usually handled speedily and, therefore PC Stevens would check the situation.

Members decided that the information reported be noted.

## **64/16 Fenland District Council**

### **(1) Information**

The Clerk had been sent, by e-mail, information in respect of CCTV performance, Section 106 Planning Obligations details and the council's Environment newsletter and that he had forwarded, last week, the e-mail and attachments to all members of the council.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

### **(2) Environmental Services**

Members received a presentation from Mr Trevor Darnes, one of the Environmental Health Officers at Fenland District Council, who has specific responsibilities for Wisbech, on recent activities within his area of service.



Mr Darnes, after reminding members of his role at Fenland District Council (FDC), informed the council that the Environment Health Service at FDC had received 230 requests for service since April of this year.

With regard to food safety issues, Mr Darnes mentioned that FDC had taken Court action in relation to one takeaway premises in relation to hygiene issues and that formal notices had been served upon another takeaway premises and one mobile food van. He commented that the majority of food outlets are of a good standard, rated 4 or 5 (5 being the maximum score).

Mr Darnes commented that joint agency work – with Social Services, Circle Roddons and Police etc – is undertaken to address Issues such as noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour. He mentioned that the range of infectious diseases had increased across Fenland; there had been two cases of dysentery (but this had been contracted abroad).

Mr Darnes responded to members' questions.

Mr Darnes undertook to meet with Councillors Miss Hoy and Tierney to discuss certain issues at Malt Drive.

Councillor Hill raised concerns regarding the smell of waste at Boleness Road/Algores Way. Mr Darnes responded that there is an Environment Agency approved premises at this location. However, there is an ongoing issue and the status of this would be investigated.

Councillor Hill also raised the issue of a collapsed drain on Princes Road/Alexandra Road and standing water. This would be investigated by Mr Darnes.

Councillor Tibbs raised concerns regarding vermin at the old football ground at Lerowe Road. This would be investigated by Mr Darnes.

An update was given on the water leak at Constantine House; it appeared that there was a burst water pipe under the floor within the building. Anglian Water is aware of the issue and if the owner does not take action, Anglian Water has the power to enter the property and undertake the repair. Anglian Water had also stated that as the water had been cut-off to the property, further investigation is needed.

Members decided that the information reported by Mr Darnes be noted.

### **65/16 Cambridgeshire County Council**

Further to minute 49/16 (3), members considered the submission of an application for a scheme under the Local Highway Improvements initiative for 2017/18.

Councillor Tierney proposed a scheme for traffic calming along South Brink (Malt Drive to Tesco). This was seconded by Councillor Miss Hoy.

Councillor Mrs Cox proposed a scheme for parking restrictions (yellow lines) along Little Church Street. This was seconded by Councillor Schooling.

Members took a vote on the two proposals and the result was:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
South Brink	11	1	2
Little Church Street	3	0	11



Members, consequently, decided that

- (1) an application be made to the County Council, under the Local Highway Improvements initiative 2017/18, for a scheme of traffic calming (in a manner deemed appropriate by the Local Highway Authority) on South Brink;
- (2) the Chamber of Commerce be approached regarding the submission of an application to the County Council, under the Local Highway Improvements initiative, for parking restrictions (yellow lines) along Little Church Street.

#### **66/16 Minutes of 22 August and 5 September 2016**

Members decided, on a proposal by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Balsevics, that the minutes of the meetings of Wisbech Town Council held on 22 August and 5 September 2016 be confirmed and signed.

#### **67/16 Minutes of committees**

Members received, for information, the minutes of committee meetings held since the last meeting of the Town Council, as follows:

- (1) Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee – 22 August 2016
- (2) Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee – 12 September 2016.

Members decided that the contents of the minutes reported, including the decisions made by those committees, be noted.

#### **68/16 Mayor's Report**

The Mayor informed members of the civic events that he had attended and activities in which he had participated since the last meeting of Wisbech Town Council.

The Mayor informed members that it had been a busy month and he had attended a number of events since the last meeting of the council, including:

- Heritage Open Days – he had been especially impressed with the displays and events at St Augustine's Church
- People and Places: Heritage Festival – Mayor's Walk and other events organised by Octavia Hill Birthplace House
- The raising of the Red Ensign event at Fenland District Council, where he had been accompanied by his father, who is ex-Merchant Navy
- RAF service at Sutton Bridge
- RAFA Brew for the Few at Astral House
- Last Night of the Proms at St Peter and St Paul's Church, where the Mayor was given the opportunity to conduct
- Wisbech Statute Fair – he was especially pleased to see so many councillors attending to support the Showmen's Guild
- Fenland Business Awards – it was good to see so many Wisbech businesses winning awards for entrepreneurial endeavours.

Members decided that the information reported by the Mayor be noted.



**69/16 Leader of the Council’s report**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Oliver, informed members that he had two matters which he wished to draw to the attention of the council, as follows:

Chelsea’s Choice - he recommended that members attend this play, which highlights the issues of child sexual exploitation. This is a very useful and innovative way of raising awareness of the issues relating to sexual exploitation and reaching young people, giving them some skills and knowledge to be able to protect themselves from this form of abuse.

Jody Cundy – he informed members that the Council is awaiting information from Jody before planning any event or activity in relation to his recent success at the Rio Paralympic Games.

Members decided that the comments of the Leader be noted.

**70/15 Reports from representatives on outside bodies**

No member of the council had attended the meeting of an outside body during the period since the last meeting of the council.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

**71/16 Correspondence**

**Wisbech Castle**

The Deputy Clerk reported, further to minute 61/16, that there had been an informal response from the Strategic Asset Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council regarding ongoing processes.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

**72/16 Noticeboard/Information update**

The Deputy Clerk reminded members of forthcoming events, as follows:

- Assets Management Committee members visit to Wisbech Castle on 27 September 2016 at 3.00pm.
- Wisbech Castle “brainstorming” meeting on 10 October 2016 at 7.30 pm
- Installation of Matthew Bradbury at St Peter and St Paul’s Church on 19 October 2016.

Members decided that the information reported be noted.

**73/16 Date of next meeting**

Members were reminded that the next meeting of Wisbech Town Council is scheduled for 24 October 2016, to commence at 7.30 pm, at the offices of Wisbech Town Council.

**Meeting finished at 8.20 pm.**

Signed .....

Date .....