

Minutes of a meeting of the **SPALDING TOWN FORUM** held in the Meeting Room 1, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Wednesday, 29 November 2017 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors:

J D McLean (Chairman)  
G R Aley (Vice-Chairman)  
D Ashby  
G K Dark  
R Gambba-Jones  
A M Newton  
G J Taylor  
H Drury

Community Representatives: John Honnor (Spalding and District Civic Society), Roger Perkins (Leisure Interests), George Scott (Spalding Transport Forum), Kevin Mothers (Spalding Transport Forum), Pastor Kevin Taylor (South Holland Community Church).

In Attendance: Lead Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were received from, or on behalf of, Lord Porter and Councillor Lawton.

19. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 September 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

None.

21. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES.**

With reference to minute 17, the Chairman reported that he had not received any questions from Town Forum Members for Gareth Boxall, Community Police Officer and therefore he was not in attendance at the meeting. It was agreed that it was necessary to demonstrate need for the Inspector's attendance. Members were invited to send in questions for Inspector Boxall to the Chairman and if questions were received he would be invited to attend.

With reference to minute 16, discussion on the market place traffic order, Councillor Lawton was going to raise this with Lincolnshire County Council. As her apologies had been given for this meeting it would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

## 22. **SWIMMING POOL - PROGRESS**

The Forum received an update on the Swimming Pool from Councillor Taylor, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Facilities:

- In 2015 concerns had been raised about various aspects of the swimming pool's performance. The Performance Monitoring Panel had set up a Task Group which made recommendations to Cabinet for improvement, including more effective management of the contract with 1Life. Cabinet had agreed the recommendations.
- Since then a number of improvements had been made to the swimming pool including new flooring, improvements to changing rooms, toilets and grounds maintenance.
- More recently the swimming pool had experienced staffing issues which had resulted in a few occasions when the main pool had to be closed for short periods and alternatives offered. This had resulted in negative comments from the public.
- More robust contract management had been undertaken with three default notices being issued including one for failure to maintain adequate staffing levels.
- Feedback is received by 1Life from customers with positive comments focussing on customer service and improved cleanliness. Negative comments related to maintenance and programming.
- In 2014 there were 157,000 users of the facilities and this had risen to 167,000 in 2016. More schools were using the facility.
- Users of the pool were encouraged to give feedback.

In response to the update, Councillor Newton stressed the importance that a response was given to feedback if contact details had been left. Customers found it annoying to raise issues and then hear nothing in return. Councillor Taylor agreed that it was important that people received a response and he would follow this up.

## 23. **TRANSPORT FORUM UPDATE**

George Scott, Chairman of the Transport Forum, along with the Vice Chairman Kevin Mothers attended the meeting to give an update on transport related matters. It was agreed that this should be standing item on the agenda for future meetings.

- It was noted that the Transport Forum was concerned with all transport issues not just rail.
- He had attended a meeting in York with Virgin Trains about their new Azuma trains that will be using the east coast service
- Meetings of the Spalding and Peterborough Transport Forum were held every six months.
- A consultation response had been put in for the East Coast rail franchise. It had emphasised that the Sunday and late night services needed improvement.

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It had been acknowledged at a stakeholder event that these services were awful.

- With regard to railway heritage, there were plans to open up the derelict rooms at Spalding railway station for community and museum use. Meetings had taken place with conservation officers at the Council and negotiations were taking place with East Midland trains regarding the rental costs. Quotes were being obtained for electrical and other works. Once these were known then fundraising could begin.
- Thanks to lobbying a service was in place to Lincoln on 10 December for the Christmas market.
- There was a new member of staff at the railway station at it was hoped that the station office would now remain open.
- Station adopters had been assisting with improvements on the appearance of the station including the flower beds. A meeting was taking place with County Care to see if they could assist with litter picking.
- The Transport Forum AGM would be taking place on Thursday 7 December 2017 where they would be discussing whether the forum should become a community interest group.

**24. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

Peoples Parade

- Councillor Drury reported that he had been approached by the organiser of the People's Parade, John Atkinson. He wished to present to Councillors a traffic management plan for the parade next year. It was agreed that Councillor Drury would arrange a meeting date before Christmas. Councillors discussed whether there was a theme to the event, as if 'community' could feature then it may be possible to satisfy the Charity Commission requirements and use the Sir Halley Stewart field. Once details are known then Councillors may also wish to use their designated budgets to support the event.

Community Speed Check

- It was noted that a Community Speed Check initiative was now in operation whereby the police could work with Parish Council volunteers.

Traffic Congestion

- Councillor Newton agreed to pursue the issue of traffic congestion with officers at Lincolnshire County Council and update the next meeting.

**25. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Close – 7.05 p.m.

(The meeting ended at 7.05 pm)

(End of minutes)