

Minutes of a meeting of the **SPALDING TOWN FORUM** held in the Meeting Room 1, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Tuesday, 22 January 2019 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors:

J McLean (Chairman)

G R Aley (Vice-Chairman)

D Ashby

G K Dark

R Gambba-Jones

A M Newton

G J Taylor

Community Representatives:

Roger Perkins (Castle Sports Complex) and David Jones (Spalding and District Civic Society)

In Attendance: Councillor J Whitbourn, Democratic Services Officer, Communities Manager and Strategic Finance and Compliance Manager

19. **MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Spalding Town Forum held on 3 October 2018.

AGREED

That the Minutes be signed as a correct record.

20. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

There were none.

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

There were none.

22. **REMEMBRANCE AND MILITARY PARADES IN SPALDING AND HOLBEACH**

The Chairman of South Holland District Council provided a presentation to inform the forum on his plans to have the Council be more involved in the organisation of remembrance parades.

The Chairman of South Holland District Council stated that the Conservative Group had asked him to create proposals for a change.

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The Portfolio Holder for Place stated that the proposals were only hoped to assist the Royal British Legion (RBL), many of whom were elderly or disabled, in continuing to provide the parades. It was not the intention to take full control of the parades.

The Chairman of South Holland District Council asked if there was anything that the forum wished to add in the attempts to assist the organisation.

Members suggested that Designated Councillor Budget balances could be used to assist.

The Chairman of the Spalding Town Forum asked The Chairman of South Holland District Council what had been planned already. He responded that nothing had been set in stone, and that he had been discussing potential ideas with officers and was waiting for them to present back to him.

The forum stated that it was not opposed to the idea of the Council providing assistance to the RBL in organising remembrance parades.

23. SPALDING SPECIAL EXPENSES BUDGET 2019/20

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Director for Commercialisation (S151) which Presented the Spalding Special Expenses (SSE) Budget for 2019-20 for feedback and comment.

The Strategic Finance and Compliance Manager introduced the report and introduced the New Strategic Business Partner.

Members asked if the Council was spending less on the cemetery per year. The Place Manager stated that this was correct. As part of the place review, staff and efficiency changes had meant that savings had been made, resulting in no loss of service.

Members, on Monkshouse playing field asked what fell under 'premises'. Knowles responded that this would be bills. For the playing field it would be ground maintenance costs. Members responded that they felt that this was a large sum for the field. The Strategic Finance and Compliance Manager responded that this sum was generated by calculating what amount of time the ground maintenance team spent on the field in relation to their overall cost. The Place Manager further stated that members needed to remember the value to the community and other facilities such as pavements and car parks.

Members asked if income included the charges. It was responded this was the case.

Councillors asked why the budget for bus shelters had been removed. The Strategic Finance and Compliance Manager responded that it was because there was no maintenance plans for the stock. The Portfolio Holder for Place stated that this was a mistake because if damage was caused to the stock, then there would be no budget to fix it.

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Roger Perkins of the Castle Sports Complex, asked, in relation to Section 5.3 of the report, where the additional £13,800 running costs for Ayscoughfee Hall were coming from. The Strategic Business Partner stated that there were now employees

The Chairman stated that there were a lot of clarifications which had been made both by the report and by Officers and that he was happy with what had been settled upon.

AGREED:

That the report be noted.

24. SPALDING TOILETS

Members wished to raise the matter of public toilets in Spalding. They stated that they had received multiple complaints about their condition and the issue of rough sleepers.

The Chairman of the Public Toilets task group stated that the district's toilets were well used and remained a popularly demanded service. The findings of the task group were that they were being mis-used and that cleaners were unable to appoint as much time to each facility as they would prefer to. He stated that the Public Toilet Task Group's report would make recommendations to improve the situation.

The Portfolio Holder for Place thanked members for highlighting the issue. He stated that the toilets were old and as a result, they were harder to maintain. The short-term plan was to supplement the workforce to afford for the increasing population and improve the offering for the current staff. A deep clean was also underway at the request of the Public Toilets Task Group. Longer term, Place was examining a replacement programme

25. AYSCOUGHFEE BAND CONCERTS

Members presented an update on future proposals for organisation of Sunday band performances at Ayscoughfee Hall. They stated that in the previous year there had been issues in processing the payment of bands. The Communities Manager stated that the member responsible for the payment of bands had faced these issues due to ill health within the Friends of Ayscoughfee. It was stated that he had addressed this by paying the bands out of his own Designated Councillor Budget.

26. TRAFFIC CONGESTION UPDATE

Members introduced the findings of the Community Speed Watch (CSW). First and second notices had been issued, but no-one in the district had gotten to the position of requiring a 3rd notification. It was stated that Spalding Town centre was an area of difficulty because there was no parish for Spalding to whom people could complain.

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The Chairman asked what powers or materials could be offered to the Spalding Town Forum to allow them to enforce the CSW. Members responded that they would gather this information and report back to members.

Members stated that the Forum had no budget and there was no time left to budget for this in 19/20.

Members stated that the forum could recommend the devolvement of powers to itself as an issue to Cabinet.

The Chairman stated that there was agreement in principle, but that the forum would require more information before any recommendations could be made.

Members asked what was being done to relieve traffic issues in Spalding. The Portfolio Holder for Place stated that traffic modelling had been undertaken, but that it was down to the highways department to schedule significant changes.

AGREED:

That the Traffic Congestion Update be noted

27. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

The Portfolio Holder for Facilities gave an update on Leisure Services Contracts. He stated that the new leisure contract, issued in November of 2018 was a positive move and that all of Parkwood's actions thus far in inheriting the contract had been indicative of the idea that they would provide a professional and fully satisfactory level of service. The new contract, it was stated, was generating a saving.

Members wanted to know why the Council were inheriting cost responsibilities for the facility. Officers stated that this had always been the case and the Council had always been obliged to fund a small amount of statutory duties.

Members wanted to know what was happening to catering at the facility. It was stated that there was no immediate plan to change current arrangements, but the choice of provider was ultimately at Parkwood's discretion as the service provider.

28. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Spalding Town Forum was scheduled to take place on 6 March 2019 at 18:30.

(The meeting ended at 8.33 pm)

(End of minutes)