

Minutes of a meeting of the **SPALDING TOWN FORUM** held in the Meeting Room 1, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Wednesday, 2 October 2019 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors:

A C Cronin  
R A Gibson  
M Hasan  
A M Newton  
E Sneath

Community Representatives:

David Jones – Spalding Civic Society  
Megan Rangeley – Presenter for the Local Litter Presentation

Also in attendance:

Communities Manager, Deputy Head of Finance, Democratic Services Officer and Democratic Services Trainee.

12. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Councillor J D Mclean (Chairman), Councillor R Gambba-Jones, Councillor C J Lawton, Councillor G J Taylor, Pastor K Taylor (Churches Together) and Roger Perkins (Castle Sports Complex).

In the absence of the Chairman Councillor Gibson chaired the meeting.

13. **MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2019.

**AGREED:**

That the minutes be signed as a correct record.

14. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

There were none.

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

In respect of the drinking fountain in Item 10 of the last minutes of the previous meeting, Councillor Newton reported that information had been found and the findings had been presented to the Place Manager.

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**16. LOCAL LITTER PRESENTATION (QUEENS GUIDE AWARD)**

The Forum received a presentation from Megan Rangeley, a local resident and member of the Girl Guide community, who commissioned research as part of her Queens Guide Award submission on the effect of litter in the community on a local, national and worldwide scale.

Megan led a group of volunteers who on a number of occasions arranged a litter picking campaign to clean up trouble spots around Spalding. Through her research she found that over 50% of residents who had been surveyed were willing to participate in a litter picking event.

Members discussed the need to work together with the community to help deal with the issue of litter. Members suggested the possibility of contributing to the cost of new litter bins from Designated Councillor Budgets, and the potential to move bins in areas that were not being used to areas where there was a greater need. It was noted that the publicity for any litter picking events would need to be publicised correctly in order to get the best results. Members agreed that someone would need to be found to lead on the arrangements for litter picking and arranging dates throughout the year. Members congratulated Megan and her team of helpers and thanked them for their efforts in raising the issue.

**AGREED:**

That the presentation be noted.

**17. SPALDING SPECIAL EXPENSES UPDATE**

The Forum received a report from the Deputy Head of Finance regarding the Spalding Special Expenses forecast for 2019/20.

The Deputy Head of Finance reported that the outcome for 2019/20 was favourable. There was additional income from Spalding Cemetery of £6,000. It was noted that costs have increased in some areas which was due to utilities at some sites. There was a reduction in insurance costs. The Forum was informed that additionally £5,600 of surplus funds would go back into the Spalding Reserves

Councillor Newton expressed her disappointment in the arrangements for Christmas last year and felt that residents had been let down on all aspects of the celebration with not enough events taking place. Councillor Newton also stated that the arrangements around the switching on of lights was not adequate. Councillor Newton asked Officers if they were aware of a competition which was run in which a town council (Swaffham) won £1,000 towards its Christmas celebrations.

Councillor Newton stated that she was heartened to hear that there was a surplus. Councillor Newton asked the Deputy Head of Finance to explain what the £11,000 cost at Item 3.8 of the report was related to. The Deputy Head of Finance stated that the cost was in respect of the storage and taking down of the Christmas lights.

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The Forum discussed the issues regarding the Cemetery. Councillor Sneath stated that as the Cemetery plays an important role in the heritage of South Holland, money will soon need to be spent on repairing the roads around it. Councillor Sneath also stated that there needed to be more control on keeping the area looking its best. It was noted that the shrubbery and trees around the cemetery needed cutting down. Councillor Sneath also informed the Forum about a tree walk that would be taking place next year with Julia Knight, the Ayscoughfee Museum Manager.

It was noted that work was being carried out at the Halley Stewart site.

The Forum asked Officers about the Tulip lights by the riverside which were taken down a while ago and whether Officers knew if there were any plans to bring them back or provide a replacement. The Communities Manager stated that she would investigate the reasons why and report back to the Forum.

**AGREED:**

That the report be noted.

**18. PUMPKIN FESTIVAL**

The Communities Manager gave an update on the upcoming Pumpkin Festival being held on 11 October.

The Communities Manager informed the Forum that the event had been refreshed with renewed focus on celebrating harvest and focus on the importance of agriculture in the South Holland area. The Forum was informed that there would be activities on the day including a Harvest themed DJ set, fancy dress competition which would focus on harvest, live bands and fireworks and an all day market.

Members asked whether there would be a marquee for the stage area. The Communities Manager stated that the stage area would be covered.

David Jones (The Civic Society) asked whether shops would be encouraged to participate with window displays. The Communities Manager informed the Forum that there was a window dressing competition open to all shops in the Town Centre on the day.

The Forum asked regarding the placement of the live band area on the day, which the Communities Manager informed would be in the area of the South Holland Centre and the Red Lion. The Communities Manager informed the Forum that placement of all event infrastructure needs to be carefully managed given the expected crowd numbers.

Councillor Newton requested information regarding who would be providing the fireworks for the festival and the cost. The Communities Manager stated that she would provide the information to Councillor Newton.

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**19. CHRISTMAS PLANS**

The Communities Manager updated the Forum on the arrangements currently in place for Christmas. Events would be linked between the Town Centre and Ayscoughfee Hall Museum and Gardens. The switching on of lights would take place at 4.30pm.

The Communities Manager informed the Forum that there would be stalls and displays, arts and crafts and an Elves workshop at Ayscoughfee Hall. The Forum were also informed that arrangements for the Town Centre included music and entertainment, Candle lighting, nut cracker trails, window dressing competitions and there would be a mix between traditional and modern festivities.

Councillor Newton raised concerns that stall holders and Market reps had not been informed earlier in the year regarding preparations for Christmas. Councillor Newton noted that market traders were not aware that the Christmas Festival was being held on 8 December 2019. The Communities Manager informed the Forum that all businesses in the area are notified in writing, but that she would look into whether market traders had been informed and would report back to Members as this is a Sunday event and would not affect Saturday market traders.

Councillor Sneath asked Officers about the Christmas tree as it had been noted that for some years there had been problems with the tree. The Communities Manager stated that she would liaise with Councillor Sneath and the Chairman separately regarding this.

Councillor Newton asked whether there would be any fireworks at the Christmas Festival this year. The Communities Manager informed the Forum that there would not be any fireworks this year as there would be a living Nativity, which included live animals.

The Chairman and Councillor Hasan both indicated that they would like to be involved with the Christmas arrangements. The Communities Manager welcomed this.

**20. TRAFFIC CONGESTION UPDATE**

There were no traffic congestion updates to be noted, other than the works which the Council would be doing in Albion Street, which Councillor Newton hoped would have been picked up whilst it had been closed.

Councillor Newton also stated that Priory Road would be closed from the 21-25 October 2019 which might have been related to works currently being carried out.

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

The Chairman did not have any other business which were deemed urgent.

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Councillor Newton informed the Forum of a news item which ran in the Spalding Voice regarding Pilot Officer George Furniss who guided his jet towards Vernatts Drain to avoid it crashing in a built up area.

Councillor Newton asked the Forum about erecting a memorial for the pilots act around the Two Plank Lane area. The Clerk stated that she would make enquiries regarding who would deal with this.

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

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 4 March 2020 at 630pm.

(The meeting ended at 7.30 pm)

(End of minutes)