

Minutes of a meeting of the **SPALDING TOWN FORUM** held in the Meeting Room 1, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Tuesday, 28 January 2020 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

J D McLean (Chairman)

A C Cronin

R A Gibson (Vice-Chairman)

G P Scalese

H Drury

M Hasan

G J Taylor

R Gambba-Jones

A M Newton

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors C J Lawton and G A Porter.

In Attendance: R Perkins (Castle Sports Complex Bowls Club), Property Asset Services Manager and Place Manager and Democratic Services Team Leader.

23. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2019.

AGREED:

That the minutes be signed as a correct record.

24. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

There were none.

25. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES.

Minute 19 – Christmas Plans

Members commented that planning for Christmas 2019 was much improved on the previous year but there were still improvements to be made and that planning for next Christmas should begin sooner.

Officers advised that funding has been earmarked from the Town Centre Improvement Plan and feedback will be used with regard to future plans.

26. DRAFT SPALDING SPECIAL EXPENSES BUDGET 2020/21

Action By

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Consideration was given to the proposed report of the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151) which provided information on the draft Spalding Special Expenses 2020-21. Members had requested that the Forum be able to review the proposed Spalding Special Expenses with a view to submitting comments/feedback to be included within the final budget report to be considered by Council on 26 February 2020.

The following issues were raised:

- Members commented on whether budget managers had incorporated growth into budgets. Officers advised that there was no growth and that budget had increased by £16000. Any savings would contribute to offset pressure on the Spalding budget.
- Members discussed improvements to Christmas lights and the possibility of extending them to Broad Street. Members agreed that this would require forward planning with regard to cost and infrastructure.
- Spalding Cemetery requires extensive work on pathways and roads. Councillor Sneath advised a new Friends Group is meeting on 8 February 2020 between 1pm – 4pm. Members agreed that additional funding will be required which could be achieved by prudent accounting.

DECISION:

That the report be accepted.

27. SPALDING SPECIAL EXPENSES ADDITIONAL WORKS UPDATE

Members received an update on the Spalding Special Expenses Additional Works.

Officers advised that there were 3 areas of additional works where funding will be requested from Spalding Special Reserves:

- 1) Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field
A structural survey was commissioned last year which identified several areas of work required including the base, stairs, bannisters and floodlights.
- 2) Monks House Lane Pavillion

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Officers identified Monks House Lane Pavillion as a strategic site as part of the Council's plans to promote healthy living. The site is in need of significant investment and officers are looking to engage external consultants' expertise.

3) Spalding Cemetery

Officers advised work is already being done to repair the cemetery wall and further funding is required to repair the roadway.

Officers advised that an additional amount of £28750 will be requested for the 3 sites.

Members were advised that officers are in discussion with County Council colleagues with regard to roadways and parking and potential funding could be available through a joint bid with the county. Members asked whether funding could be found through other means such as grants or donations. Members also commented on the restrictions and limitations on use of the playing field due to the Sir Halley Stewart Trust.

Officers advised that they would appraise each site and present members with options to go forward.

28. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

29. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 4 March 2020 at 6.30pm.

(The meeting ended at 7.35 pm)

(End of minutes)