

Minutes of a meeting of the **SPALDING TOWN FORUM** held in the Meeting Room 1, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Wednesday, 3 October 2018 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors:

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

Community Representatives: Pastor Kevin Taylor (Churches together in Spalding and District), David Jones (Civic Society), Roger Perkins (Castle Sports Complex Bowls Club) and representatives of SOS Pilgrim.

In Attendance: Head of Finance, Place Manager and Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors Porter and Williams and George Scott (Spalding Transport Forum)

11. **MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Spalding Town Forum held on 20 June 2018

AGREED:

That the minutes be signed as a correct record.

12. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

There were none.

13. **SOS PILGRIM - CALL TO ACTION PRESENTATION**

The forum received a presentation from 'SOS Pilgrim – Call to Action' which covered the situation surrounding on the potential changes to services at the Pilgrim Hospital in Boston.

Following the presentation, the members of 'SOS Pilgrim – Call to Action' welcomed questions from the forum;

Members asked what the Group wanted from the forum as representatives of a District Council. They responded that they were hoping that they could garner the support of the council during potential public consultation. They further stated that it was hoped that councillors would put forward a motion of no confidence in the local trust.

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Members asked why they felt that there had been a lack of improvement to services. SOS Pilgrim responded that they felt that the issue was the lack and difficulty of gaining more sufficient employment.

Members stated that they felt that the information provided was too much to digest and as a result they could not form a full opinion on the matter yet. They stated that they would not yet support a blanket vote on denouncing a public body. But they stated that they would be able to support a motion that the Council was concerned for it's taxpayers over the potential downgrade of services.

Members suggested that the representative for Health Scrutiny could be called upon to provide an update or lend their support to the concerns.

AGREED

That contents of the presentation be noted.

14. SPALDING SPECIAL EXPENSES

The Head of Finance introduced the paper which was included in the agenda, that provided an examination of Spalding Special Expenses for Place

A special budget item had now been made for Spalding Special Expenses (SSE) rather than being spread out across service budgets.

It was stated that the cost of delivering SSE was to be around £250,000.

Members stated that there used to be a specific breakdown for Gas and Electric for the Sir Halley Stewart field. The Head of Finance stated that this breakdown did exist but was not included in the current update.

Members stated that they felt that separating grass cutting into 'special contributions' was burying the information and wanted this clarifying. The Chairman agreed and stated he felt the purpose of examining the SSE was for clarification, but that this document did not clarify enough information.

Members stated that they were concerned that the total sum for SSE was too high and therefore they wanted further clarification on what was being spent on what in order to ensure value for money.

Members suggested the idea of a finance sub-group to specifically examine SSE expenses could be a possibility in the future.

Members asked if more money could be provided for the cemetery in Spalding. Having recently held events within the cemetery it had been highlighted to members the need for more funds. They asked if officers could discuss the matter with them. The Place Manager stated she would be happy to discuss this matter and was aware of the need for an examination of the funding.

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The Chairman asked if the increase in the budget was due to work needed to be done. The Finance Manager stated that the budget increase had been the result of staff recharges.

Members stated that the Xmas lights in certain areas were in severe need of replacement.

The committee agreed that finance should brief a sub group of the forum on Spalding Special Expenses figures before full town forum meetings whenever a SSE update was expected.

AGREED:

- 1) That the contents of the update be noted
- 2) That the Finance department is asked to provide a selection of members of the Forum a briefing before SSE updates.

15. TRAFFIC CONGESTION UPDATE

Councillor Newton agreed to circulate her update to members. Part of Hawthorne bank was due to be closed. She stated that the County Council website included all detail of planned maintenance.

Councillors gave an update on enforcement of pedestrianised zones. They stated that the local Highways Manager had informed them that the pedestrianised zone could now be enforced, but that signage was not yet sufficient enough to provide justification for enforcement.

AGREED:

That the Traffic Congestion Update be noted

16. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES.

Councillor Dark, in relation to the Spalding WW2 memorial update of the last meeting, suggested that the names sponsors be included in a bound book to be kept alongside the memorial, instead of on the memorial itself. The Chairman stated he would forward opinions to Councillor Grocock.

17. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

18. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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The Democratic Services Officer stated that the date of the next meeting had, with the agreement of the Chairman, been moved to 6:30pm on 22 January 2019.

(The meeting ended at 8.30 pm)

(End of minutes)