

Minutes of a meeting of the **SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Wednesday, 28 November 2018 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

R Grocock (Chairman)  
H Drury (Vice-Chairman)

B Alcock	M G Chandler	M D Seymour
G R Aley	G K Dark	S-A Slade
D Ashby	L J Eldridge	E J Sneath
J R Astill	P C Foyster	G J Taylor
J Avery	R Gambba-Jones	A C Tennant
F Biggadike	C N Johnson	J Whitbourn
M D Booth	C J Lawton	P A Williams
C J T H Brewis	J D McLean	A R Woolf
P E Coupland	A M Newton	C N Worth
T A Carter	G A Porter	S Wray
A Casson	J L Reynolds	

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors A Harrison, J L King and J Tyrrell,

In Attendance: Shared Executive Director Commercialisation (S151), Executive Director Commercialisation, Licensing and Business Support Manager, Executive Manager Governance, Executive Manager People and Public Protection, Executive Manager Growth, Communities Manager, Place Manager and Democratic Services Officer.

**49. MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of South Holland District Council which was held on 12 September 2018.

**AGREED:**

That the minutes be agreed as a correct record

**50. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

There were none

**51. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Chairman read the results of Spalding in Bloom which had been provided by Councillor Newton.

Action By

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**52. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET.**

There were none.

**53. QUESTIONS ASKED ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 6**

**The following question was received from Councillor Foyster:**

*“Hallgate play area, Holbeach.*

*You will be aware that Holbeach is very short of green spaces, public leisure facilities and exercise areas. This needs correcting now, even before the proposed huge new residential developments arrive. About 18 months ago a Holbeach local fundraising charity, friends of Holbech Parks, who work closely with the Parish Council, approached SHDC regarding the installation of new play equipment in the Hallgate play area.*

*Since that time there have been various exchanges of correspondence and site meetings with officers, culminating in a proposal for SHDC to lease the area to the Parish Council for a minimum of 15 years, Parish would then take over maintenance of the site and any new equipment installed in it. Last summer the Parish were also told that 106 funding could be provided to help with equipment costs.*

*There appears to be little progress towards any lease. This is highly unsatisfactory and if it indicates the speed with which the council handles such requests from local groups or parish councils, it does not say much for the efficiency of the council and it's not surprising that such local initiatives appear infrequent.*

*Please explain the extraordinary delay in dealing with a relatively straightforward request, advise when Holbeach may expect an outcome and explain any policy issues that may be affecting the proposal. If officers are unable to agree a satisfactory deal very soon the Parish Council and the funding group will consider withdrawing from negotiations, the charity, parish councillors and our own parish officers have already wasted far too much time on this matter.*

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*Paul Foyster. Holbeach Town Ward.”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health has provided the following response:**

*“Following an approach by the parish, officers have been in discussions with Holbeach Parish Council concerning the potential for the installation of play equipment in the Hall Hill Road area of the town.*

*These initial discussions have focused on matters including the potential long-term leasing of council owned land to a third party.*

*Prior to making a long-term commitment concerning a council asset, such as the granting of a lease, it is standard practice for the council to give consideration to the potential short, medium and long term implications of such a decision.*

*Consequently, ahead of making any long term decisions, officers within the council’s strategic property team are exploring the potential future operational and strategic value of the site to the council. This work is underway and will be concluded by the end of February.”*

**54. QUESTIONS ASKED WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 7**

**Question to:** Portfolio Holder for Communities and Facilities, Councillor Taylor

**Question from:** Councillor Foyster

**Topic:** Remedial works for SHC

Councillor Foyster asked when the final figures for the cost of remedial works on the South Holland Centre would be provided. Councillor Taylor responded that he had already provided an answer but could send him an additional one

**Question to:** The Leader, Lord Porter

**Question from:** Councillor Brewis

**Topic:** Drainage Board Special interest group

Councillor Brewis wanted to know if the authority was any closer

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to having a group Drainage Board Special Interest Group created. The Leader responded that 10 signatures from separate Councils were required to create a Special Interest Group, and until that moment, a group could not be formed.

**Question to:** Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Governance and Transformation, Councillor Chandler

**Question from:** Councillor Biggadike

**Topic:** Chocolate Liqueur Licensing rules

Councillor Biggadike stated that he had seen chocolate liquors being sold in local shops and asked if they required a license. Councillor Chandler deferred to The Licensing and Business Support Manager who responded that it would depend on the alcohol content of the liquers.

**Question to:** Portfolio Holder for Place, Councillor Gambba-Jones

**Question from:** Councillor Biggadike

**Topic:** Low Lane, Holbeach

Councillor Biggadike stated that he was aware that one side of Low Lane in Holbeach had been renamed. The Portfolio Holder for Place stated that developers were not allowed to rename roads as they pleased, but that he had not been notified of this change. He stated that an investigation could take place by the Planning Team if Councillor Biggadike raised the matter with them.

**55. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Governance and Audit Committee – 26 July 2018

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be received

Performance Monitoring Panel - 31 July 2018

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be received

Planning Committee – 5 September 2018

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be received

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Policy Development Panel – 19 September 2018

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be received

Performance Monitoring Panel – 26 September 2018

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be received

Special Meeting of the Licensing Committee – 1 October 2018

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be received

Joint Performance Monitoring Panel and Policy Development  
Panel - 4 October 2018

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be received

Planning Committee - 10 October 2018

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be received

Governance and Audit Committee - 18 October 2018

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be received

**56. REPORT FROM CABINET MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER  
2018**

Consideration was given to the Report of Cabinet which sought approval for recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of;

- a) Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2019/20 (Cabinet minute 45/18) (Cabinet agenda item 12)
- b) Finance Report Quarter 2 2018-19 (Cabinet minute 46/18) (Cabinet agenda item 13)

Local Council Tax Support Scheme

The Portfolio Holder for finance introduced the scheme which was in line with changes made by DWP and introduced a new

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category for care leavers aged 18-21.

A consultation exercise had taken place between 14 September and 2 November, the result of which had been largely positive and was set out in the Cabinet report.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance felt that the introduction of Universal credit would make changes necessary in the future

Finance Report Quarter 2 2018-19

The Portfolio Holder for finance introduced the report and asked members to note the following:

The General fund was forecasted to have an underspend of £290,000 by the end of the year.

The Housing Revenue Account had a forecasted reduction of £87,000 in its surplus budget.

The Housing Revenue Account general reserve had increased from £12.8 million to £15.8 million.

It was proposed in the report that the Council buys 12 CSU vehicles.

**DECISION:**

a) Local Council Tax Support Scheme

1. That the current Council Tax Support Scheme be continued for 2019/20 with uprating in line with the DWP's annual update of allowances and premiums for housing benefit.
2. That a new class for Care Leavers, aged 18-21 years be introduced.
3. That delegated authority to the Executive Director Commercialisation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance be agreed, to approve the final scheme policy in line with the report.

b) Finance Report Quarter 2 2018-19

4. That the HRA Capital Programme be increased by £260,000 to the Major Repairs Service.

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**57. KEY DECISION PLAN**

Consideration was given to the Key Decision Plan.

**DECISION:**

That the Key Decision Plan be received.

**58. EXTERNAL FUNDING OFFICER**

Consideration was given to the report of the Deputy Leader which sought the Council's agreement to create a shared External Funding Officer post as a means of supporting the council's activity in relation to identifying, applying for and securing external funding to support delivery of Key Council Objectives.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Governance and Transformation presented the report on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Growth and Commercialisation. He stated that the Council was committed to delivering the corporate plan which supported local communities.

Members asked whether the proposed salary would be sufficient to attract suitable candidates and whether the post was suitable to be shared. The Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Governance and Transformation was confident that both the budgeted remuneration figures and the decision to have the post be shared, were appropriate.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Governance and Transformation reported that performance would be measured and would likely also be reported to scrutiny.

Members agreed that the additional resource was needed, but paid tribute to the success of existing officers who had already been very successful in securing grant funds.

**DECISION:**

That members approve the creation of a new shared External Funding Officer post.

**59. GAMBLING ACT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection which sought approval of the draft revised Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles). The draft Policy had been through a process of consultation, the results of which were

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set out in the report..

The Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Governance and Transformation stated that the update covered safeguarding in greater detail and also was in line with legislative changes.

**DECISION:**

That Council approve the revised Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles) as shown at Appendix A of the report.

**60. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**

Consideration was given to the report of the Performance Monitoring Panel and the Policy Development Panel which updated members on the work of both scrutiny panels throughout 2017-2018.

The Chairmen of both the Performance Monitoring Panel and the Policy Development Panel offered their thanks to all those who had supported the panels over the last year.

**DECISION:**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017-2018 be received.

**61. GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**

Consideration was given to the report of the Governance and Audit Committee which updated members on the work of the Governance and Audit Committee throughout 2017-2018.

The Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee wished to thank those who had supported the committee in the previous year.

**DECISION:**

That the Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2017-2018 be received.

**62. MID TERM TREASURY REPORT 2018/19**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151) which provided the Council with an

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update of the treasury management position of the Council as at 30 September 2018.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance introduced the report and stated that no major concerns were highlighted. Budget investment return for 18/19 was £250,000, but by the end of the year it would be £367,000.

**DECISION:**

That the Council receives and approves the Mid Term Treasury Report 2018/19, the economic update from Link Asset Services at **Appendix A** and the treasury activity as detailed in **Appendix B** as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2017.

**63. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Consideration was given to the report of Councillor Brewis which updated the Council after the latest meeting of the Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire Committee, and also to seek approval from members for a letter of protest to be written in respect of the omission from reports of the Lincolnshire East Clinical Commission Group of any provision east of Stamford or South of Boston.

Councillor Brewis stated that the most recent meeting was concerning to him, in that it did not make provision for the South Holland Area

Members stated were concerned that the survey sent to all Spalding residents about the closing of the Pennygate surgery appeared to be leading. Members noted that they could write to their health representative on this matter.

**DECISION:**

That, in relation to Section 2.1 of the report, the Council write in protest of the omission from reports of the Lincolnshire East Clinical Commission Group of any provision east of Stamford or South of Boston, concerning urgent treatment and emergency care.

**64. NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEES AND OTHER SEATS AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION.**

There were none

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

There were none

**66. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**DECISION:**

That, under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12 (A) of the Act.

**67. AWARD OF LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Deputy Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Facilities which proposed the awarding of a contract for the operation and management of the Castle Sports Complex, Spalding and Peele Leisure Centre, Long Sutton.

**DECISION:**

In advance of a formal Leader decision to award the Leisure Management Contract, Full Council approves the recommendations as detailed in the report.

(The meeting ended at 7.55 pm)

(End of minutes)