

Minutes of a meeting of the **SPALDING TOWN FORUM** held in the Meeting Room 1, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Wednesday, 19 June 2019 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors:

A C Cronin
R A Gibson
J D McLean
A M Newton
G P Scalese
G J Taylor

Community Representatives:

David Jones – Spalding Civic Society
Roger Perkins – Castle Sports Complex Bowls Club
Kevin Taylor – Churches Together in Spalding

Also in attendance:

Strategic Finance and Compliance Manager, Deputy Head of Finance, Communities Manager, Democratic Services Officer and Lead Democratic Services Officer.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor McLean was appointed as Chairman for the period 2019-2023.

2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Gibson was appointed Vice-chairman for the period 2019-2023.

3. **MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2019.

AGREED:

That the minutes be signed as a correct record.

4. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

None.

SPALDING TOWN FORUM - 19 June 2019

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES.

Minute 33 – Speeding and Obstructions on Windsover Road, Pennygate and Adjacent Streets

It was noted that with regard to speeding in Windsover Road, Pennygate and adjacent streets, not many volunteers had come forward to take part in the Community Speed Watch.

A query was raised whether the cost of the public liability insurance for Community Speed Watch could be met from the Spalding Special Expenses budget?

The Communities Manager reported that an alternative way of delivering the project was being examined and that they would report back to the Forum.

6. SPALDING SPECIAL EXPENSES UPDATE

The Forum received a report by the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151) which set out the Spalding Special Expenses Outturn for 2018/19.

It was noted that the report provided a snapshot of the current position. There were only three areas where there had been an increase in expenditure. An additional £21,000 of reserve funding was required to offset the Halley Stewart re-wire, a water leak on Monks House Lane and Ayscoughfee garden costs. The Ayscoughfee garden costs related to a revised way of recording the expenditure and provided a true reflection of the costs.

With regard to the 2019/20 budget, the Communities Manager informed the Forum that there would be an update at the next meeting concerning maintenance work required at the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field. This work had been identified at a recent survey and it was proposed that it would be funded from Spalding Special Reserves.

In response to a question from Councillors, the Communities Manager explained that the works had been identified by a survey and identified short, medium and long term works needed. This includes work required to even out the steps on the stand, repair hairline cracks in brickwork, repair structural concrete posts and water damage. The works had come to light after the Council's budget had been set.

The Chairman questioned whether, as this was an unplanned expense; it could be met from Special Reserves? It was confirmed that it was in addition to the current maintenance budget and that dependent upon the amount, a decision could be taken either by Officers, Cabinet or Council. The Forum noted that a decision would not be taken until it had been considered by the Forum. However, any works required on health and safety grounds would be undertaken as required.

Councillors also noted that there was a 'Give it a Go' weekend at the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field on 22nd and 23rd June 2019. The event would promote and encourage the use of the facilities.

SPALDING TOWN FORUM - 19 June 2019

The Chairman thanked Officers for the production of the report and the level of detail provided.

7. POTENTIAL UPDATE TO JOHNSON HOSPITAL

The Chairman circulated a newspaper article that had been published in the Spalding and South Holland Voice in May 2019, which set out details of a consultation taking place proposing that the Johnson Hospital in Spalding could be upgraded from a Minor Injury Unit to an Urgent Treatment Centre.

He had invited Councillor Brewis as a County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee member to give an update to the Forum.

Councillor Brewis reported that the NHS in Lincolnshire was undertaking a public engagement exercise with local people prior to publishing a consultation document in early 2020. Open meetings had been held in Spalding and residents were invited to respond to the consultation. It was felt that this had been a successful event and that the NHS was making an effort to engage with the community.

Currently there were three urgent treatment centres in Lincolnshire and it was proposed that four more would be established, with one of them being located in Spalding. The Forum welcomed this development. There would be further sessions held in the autumn and Councillor Brewis would circulate the dates as they were known.

Councillor Scalese, who was also a member of the County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and worked as a nurse at the Johnson Hospital reported that it was a phenomenal hospital that needed the upgrade to an Urgent Treatment Centre.

In response to a question from a member of the Forum, Councillor Brewis reported that a dentist had not opened at the hospital as there had been problems with recruitment.

The Communities Manager informed the Forum that the Council was working with the Clinical Commissioning Group to arrange for a presentation directly to Councils. In the meantime, a blank questionnaire would be circulated to all Councillors for them to respond if they so wished.

8. RIVER WELLAND RAFT RACE

The Chairman reported that, as Councillor Drury was the lead on this item and he had given apologies for this meeting, the item would be deferred to a future meeting.

SPALDING TOWN FORUM - 19 June 2019

9. TRAFFIC CONGESTION UPDATE

Councillor Newton gave the following details of planned road works in Spalding:

- Refurbishment of clay lake bridge. Works will be taking place 22/06/19 - 06/09/19. Works information on this scheme can be found on the following link <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/news/clay-lake-bridge-to-be-refurbished-next-month/133619.article>
- Water main reinforcement works 05/08/19 - 06/09/19. Works will include the closure of the access road from Winfrey Avenue into Sainsburys/ Holland Market. Closure of Winfrey Avenue will also take place to allow the new main to cross from Chatterton water tower into the football stadium grounds between 11/09/19 - 01/10/19 (works will take roughly 3 days within this period)
- West Marsh Road sewerage repair scheme 30/09/19 - 04/11/19. Road closure to facilitate the repair of a collapsed sewerage pit in the centre of the road. Temporary works will take place, removing width restrictions at twin bridges to enable HGV's to access Bakkavor factory during the course of works.
- Works to commence on the new Lidl Access on Holbeach Road -as yet there were no confirmed dates for this but it would include the use of 3 way temporary signals on Holbeach Road junction of Queens Road.

10. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

David Jones from the Civic Society reported that it was looking at ways that it could make Spalding more special, given that High Street trends were moving away from retail.

It was looking at a number of projects, including artworks, celebrating markets and having bicycles that could be hired from Springfields to bring people into Spalding.

The Arts Council was being approached for funding for the figures and it was hoped that the other projects could be secured at o cost to the Council. It was however useful to the Civic Society if, when applying for funding, it was able to say it had the Council's support.

The Forum was pleased to see Springfields taking part in the ideas and appreciated the Civic Society leading the projects. The Forum would welcome opportunities to support future proposals.

Councillors also discussed the location of a drinking fountain that used to be in the town centre and plans involving Anglian Water to re-instate the fountain. It was agreed that the Forum wished to be involved in a future consultations on reinstating the water fountain.

SPALDING TOWN FORUM - 19 June 2019

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday 2nd October 2019.

(The meeting ended at 7.50 pm)

(End of minutes)