

Minutes of a meeting of the **SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Wednesday, 19 November 2014 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

R Clark (Chairman)

F Biggadike	R J H Creese	P S Przyszlak
B Alcock	G K Dark	M D Seymour
G R Aley	R Grocock	S-A Slade
D Ashby	A Harrison	E J Sneath
M D Booth	M Howard	A C Tennant
S M Booth	H R Johnson	D J Wilkinson
C J T H Brewis	J L King	S Wilkinson
G J Taylor	C J Lawton	A R Woolf
A Casson	A M Newton	C N Worth
M G Chandler	R Perkins	
P E Coupland	G A Porter	

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors J Avery, R Gambba-Jones, A Miller, A Puttick and R M Rudkin,

In Attendance: The Chief Executive, Democratic Services and Legal Manager, Finance Manager, Planning Manager, Legal Services Co-ordinator and Principal Member Services Officer.

69. MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 October 2014. Councillor S Booth informed the Council that he had been in attendance and had not given his apologies as stated in the minutes.

DECISION:

That, subject to the minutes being amended to show Councillor S Booth being in attendance, the minutes be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

Action By

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71. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairman announced that he had attended a number of civic events and thanked Councillor Seymour for attending an event on his behalf.

72. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET.

Councillor Porter announced that he would be asking the Planning Committee to look at the implications of the Conservative Party's proposals that, should they be re-elected, they would introduce a scheme whereby first-time buyers under 40 years old could buy a house at 20% under the market rate. The houses would be built on brownfield land already identified for development.

Councillor Porter also announced that he was disappointed to learn that a newsletter had been circulated by a Councillor criticising the energy switching scheme 'i-choosr Ltd' with which the Council was working. 'i-choosr Ltd' was a Dutch company that was supported by the Government and was not connected to the comparison sites that had been mentioned negatively in the national press. Councillor Porter asked for an apology for the factual errors in the leaflet, and stated that he did not know what action 'i-choosr Ltd' may take.

73. COMMITTEE MINUTES

Planning Committee – 22 October 2014

DECISION:

That the minutes be received.

Licensing Committee – 28 October 2014

DECISION:

That the minutes be received.

74. QUESTIONS ASKED WITH NOTICE UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.2.

There were no questions asked with notice under Council Procedure Rule 10.2.

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**75. QUESTIONS ASKED WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER COUNCIL
PROCEDURE RULE 10.8.**

<u>Question to:</u> Councillor Porter	<u>Question from:</u> Councillor Newton	<u>Subject:</u> Planning
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Councillor Newton referred to Councillor Porter's previous announcements about the Planning Committee being asked to look into the Conservative's groups plans for first time buyers, and asked whether Planning Officers would be asked to give this work precedent over the Local Plan?

Councillor Porter replied that he had only asked the Planning Committee to look at the implications and that it would be for the Planning Committee to direct this piece of work.

<u>Question to:</u> Councillor Chandler	<u>Question from:</u> Councillor D Wilkinson	<u>Subject:</u> Hygiene Ratings
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Councillor D Wilkinson referred to recent press stories about food hygiene and asked what the food hygiene ratings figures were for South Holland.

Councillor Chandler replied that the Council participated in the Food Hygiene rating System and had rated 725 premises. Publicising the score was voluntary, but the Council rated the properties regardless. As at 10 November, 75% of premises had been awarded 4/5 stars, 20% had 3 stars, 2.5% had 2 stars, 2.4% had 1 star and 3 premises did not have any stars. If a premises received 3 stars or below then it was offered coaching from the hygiene team to help them improve. An enforcement notice could be issued if there was no improvement. One case had been taken to court. Environmental Health ran training courses on food hygiene and to date 2600 candidates had accepted training. There was a high level of compliance with food safety guidance and South Holland performed well compared to other authorities.

<u>Question to:</u> Councillor Chandler	<u>Question from:</u> Councillor Newton	<u>Subject:</u> Taxi Rank
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Councillor Newton asked for an update on plans to relocate a taxi rank to by the library in Spalding.

Councillor Chandler replied that he had received comments from Lincolnshire Legal Services and it was proposed to adopt the

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proposal on 12 December 2014, with the road marking and signage being completed on 15 December 2014 (subject to weather conditions). Enforcement action would follow if necessary.

Question to:
Councillor Porter
Monkie Site

Question from:
Councillor Newton

Subject:
Bull and

PJ

Councillor Newton congratulated those involved with tidying up the Bull and Monkie site in Spalding and queried which budget had been used for the work and whether the new sign at the site had planning permission?

Councillor Porter replied that the work had been undertaken using money from reserves. This money, plus interest, would be recouped from whoever was responsible for the site. With regard to the issue of planning permission for the signage, this would be examined and a response circulated to Councillors.

76. REPORT FROM THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2014

Members noted that the Cabinet meeting due to be held on 11 November 2014 was cancelled and therefore there were no recommendations to Council.

77. KEY DECISION PLAN

Members gave consideration to the Key Decision Plan. Councillor Taylor informed the Council that the item on the proposed Communications Strategy had been withdrawn from the Key Decision Plan. Work on communications was ongoing and would be progressed through the Corporate Planning Process.

DECISION:

That the Key Decision Plan be received.

78. ITEMS CALLED-IN FROM CABINET

There were no items called in from Cabinet.

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79. OTHER ISSUES ARISING FROM THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANEL (COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES 14.1 – 14.5 (RULE OF DEBATE) DO NOT APPLY TO THIS ITEM).

There were no issues arising from the Policy Development Panel and Performance Monitoring Panel.

80. NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEES AND OTHER SEATS

There were no nominations for changes to Committee memberships or other seats.

81. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2014

The Council received a report by the Democratic Services and Legal Manager, seeking approval for the polling districts and polling places within the South Holland area.

Members noted that Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a requirement for local authorities to undertake a review of their Parliamentary polling districts and polling places every 4 years. The last review of the South Holland area was completed in the autumn of 2011. Subsequent amendments to this legislation by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 meant that all local authorities must undertake a review of all polling districts and polling places by 31 January 2015. Subsequent reviews must then take place every five years.

A review of the polling districts and polling places used for elections within the South Holland area had commenced on 11 August 2014 with the publication of the Notice of Review.

In carrying out this review, the Council had sought to ensure that:-

- All the electors in the area had reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- So far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place was accessible to electors who were disabled and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.
- The polling place was within the area of the polling district, unless special circumstances made it necessary to designate somewhere else.

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All members had been consulted on the proposals.

DECISION:

That the Polling Districts and Polling Places within the South Holland area be approved as set out in Appendix A of the Democratic Services and Legal Manager's report.

82. UNSIGHTLY AND DERELICT SITES AND LAND

Members received a report by the Executive Director of Place/Planning Manager updating members on progress on dealing with unsightly and derelict sites and land along with ongoing actions.

Ensuring South Holland District was clean, safe and well-kept was one of the Council's highest priorities. It was important that it did all it could to ensure this priority was met. The Council had limited direct control over privately owned land. However, the Council took seriously its role as custodian of standards and had a range of measures at its disposal to enforce such standards when the need arose.

The Council had identified a number of sites requiring attention and these were set out in the appendix to the report. Although members had been consulted previously, further sites could be nominated during the coming week. These sites would be considered against agreed criteria to determine whether they could go on the list of sites.

Members were invited to give consideration to which of the sites in the report the Council should address next. It was agreed that Site 3, the Red Cow at Donnington would be examined next followed by Site 7, Former Butchers Shop, Bull lane, Long Sutton. Councillor Porter also invited the press to run a campaign to identify which site after that should be considered.

DECISION:

That:

- 1) The content of the report and the actions taken to date are noted;
- 2) A further 7 days were available for Councillors to nominate additional sites that would be considered against agreed criteria;

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- 3) Consideration was given to Sites 1-8 in Appendix One of the report and it was agreed that site 3 (The Red Cow, Donnington) and site 7 (the former butchers shop, Bull Lane Long Sutton) be the next sites to be addressed;
- 4) Delegated Authority be granted to the Executive Director of Place to take such of the following actions as she considers appropriate in respect of each of the properties listed in this report:
 - a) Action under sections 79 and 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990
 - b) Action under sections 76, 77 or 79 of the Building Act 1984
 - c) Action under section 29 Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982
 - d) Action under sections 215 or 225-225K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990
 - e) Any powers in default that may exist and are associated with any of the above, including default works, imposing legal charges and realising legal charges relating to any costs incurred in such default action
 - f) Acquisition of land by agreement in accordance with existing delegations
 - g) Commencement of a process of acquisition by use of powers of compulsory purchase, subject always to compliance with all legal requirements and all further approval that may be required
 - h) Use of Empty Dwelling Management Orders under Part 4 Housing Act 2004

83. REPORTS BACK FROM MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Lincolnshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire

Members considered a report by Councillor Brewis.

DECISION:

That the report be received.

NABMA (National Association of British Market Authorities)

Members considered a report by Councillor Newton.

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DECISION:

That the report be received.

84. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

(The meeting ended at 7.10 pm)

(End of minutes)