

Minutes of a meeting of the **SPALDING TOWN FORUM** held in the Meeting Room 1, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Wednesday, 10 December 2014 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors:

G R Aley (Chairman), D Ashby, G K Dark, R Gambba-Jones, H R Johnson, C J Lawton, A M Newton, R Perkins and G J Taylor

Community Representatives:

H Drury (Chamber of Commerce), J Honnor (Spalding and District Civic Society), Pastor K Taylor (Churches Together in Spalding and District) and Inspector J Tyner (Lincolnshire Police).

In attendance:

Mr Dennis Hannant (Town Centre Manager), Shelley French (Democratic Services Support Officer), and the Press.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G A Porter, G Allmand (Town Centre Traders), D Foreman (Ivo Day Care Centre) and P Scarlett (Spalding and District Chamber of Commerce).

25. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Spalding Town Forum held on 23 October 2014 were approved as a correct record.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were none.

27. TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

Mr Dennis Hannant, the newly appointed Spalding Town Centre Manager was in attendance at the invitation of the Chairman to discuss with the Forum his proposals and business plans.

Mr Hannant had been in the role for four weeks and was very much enjoying all that there was to learn, and working with the various different businesses in the Town Centre.

The Town Forum was presented with proposals for a business plan, which included proposals for marketing and promotion, business support, annual activities and events, commercialisation of the market place, funding for events, measurement of success/failure and Springfields Outlet Shopping Centre.

SPALDING TOWN FORUM - 10 December
2014

Members of the Forum welcomed all of the ideas presented to them and agreed that they would be supportive of the post, which would hopefully bring great benefit to the town centre. The Chairman requested that Mr Hannant keep the lines of communication open with the Forum and that they work closely together, and requested that he provide regular updates, members were very mindful to avoid any duplication of work.

(Harry Drury (Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce) entered the meeting at 6.40p.m. during consideration of the above item).

(Dennis Hannant (Town Centre Manager) left the meeting at 8.05p.m. after consideration of the above item).

28. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Chairman advised that he had been contacted by a business owner who was keen for there to be more Christmas Lights down the 'Hole in the Wall' passage. They were keen for the addition as they felt it would improve the over all look of the Crescent at Christmas time.

Some members had raised concerns over the safety of lights being added in that area, due to the fixings that were required and that may not be possible on the buildings that were there.

Members requested that the railings that were placed around the Christmas Tree could be altered to make them much more attractive, it was felt that it would further add to the look of the town at Christmas.

AGREED:

That Harry Drury (Chamber of Commerce) agreed further investigate the possibility of lighting down the 'Hole in the Wall' passage and improvements to the railings which protected the Christmas Tree.

29. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The Chairman reminded members of the Forum that at a previous meeting it had been requested that the Traffic Order relating to Spalding Town Centre be discussed. Some members had raised concerns over vehicles using the town centre during the day, when it was thought that they were prohibited from doing so.

Inspector Tyner had obtained a copy of the Order and had raised various points within it with the Chairman. Members agreed that the order was not completely clear and requested that the Order be put into plain speech, in order for it to be better understood, for the benefit of the Forum.

SPALDING TOWN FORUM - 10 December
2014

AGREED:

That the Traffic Order for the Spalding Town Centre be interpreted into plain speech, for the benefit of clearer understanding, and be presented to a future meeting of the Forum.

(Harry Drury (Chamber of Commerce), left the meeting at 8.19p.m. during consideration of the above item).

(Councillor A Newton left the meeting at 8.14p.m. during consideration of the above item).

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

Traffic Management throughout Spalding

The Chairman advised that he would be writing to Lincolnshire County Council Highways regarding traffic management in the Town Centre. Although the information and the proposals provided by Jonathan Wickham, Senior Project Leader Lincolnshire County Council, had been helpful, the Chairman thought more action needed to be taken sooner rather than later.

Defibrillator Spalding Town Centre

The Chairman informed members of the Forum that he had been approached by Nick Kendrick, Health and Safety advisor at South Holland District Council, regarding the possibility of funding for defibrillators to be situated throughout the town centre. It was explained that there was a nationwide campaign to get more defibrillators in town centres as they could provide vital help in the first minutes of a critical situation.

Both Councillors Aley and Perkins agreed to help fund further defibrillators, from their Councillor Designated Budgets, and other members agreed to give it careful consideration.

Update on Ayscoughfee Bandstand and Aviary

Members of the Forum requested that an update on the progress of the Bandstand and Aviary at Ayscoughfee Gardens be provided at the next meeting.

(Councillor G J Taylor left the meeting at 8.43p.m. during consideration of the above item).

31. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Spalding Town Forum was scheduled to be held on 11 March 2015, in meeting room 1, commencing at 6.30p.m.

(The meeting ended at 8.46 pm) (End of minutes)