

SKEGNESS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held at 7:15pm on Wednesday, 1st August 2018

Present: Councillor S Dennis (Town Mayor) in the Chair.

Councillors: M C Anderson, Mrs S Blackburn, D Brookes, J Brookes, T Burnham, J Carpenter, D Cargill, N Cooper, M Dannatt, D R Edginton, G Ellis, Miss E Freeman, M Gabbitas, P Gaskell, M Gray (Deputy Mayor), D Kirk, S R Kirk and C Macey.

Invited: Rev M Holdershaw (Mayors Chaplain) and Inspector Matt Bennison (Police Representative), Andy Ratcliffe, LCC Highways Area Manager

Officers: Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk

Absent: Councillor R Hall

Seven members of the public were in attendance, one member of the press was present.

C 55. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Agenda Item 1)

It was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED: *That the minutes of the last Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th July 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.*

C 56. APOLOGIES (Agenda Item 2)

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Byford.

C 57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 3)

Cllr C Macey item 12 – Category B Health Scrutiny Committee member.
Cllr C Macey item 12 – Category B Trustee

C 58. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda Item 4)

No issues raised, or questions asked on items in the published agenda.

C 59. QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION WITH LCC HIGHWAYS REPRESENTATIVE
(Agenda Item 5)

Andy Ratcliffe, LCC Highways Area Manager answered questions that had been submitted by Councillors. He explained that the roads were not in the condition he would like due to lack of resources but that some extra funding had been made available. He reported that due to the extreme weather conditions in winter the roads had deteriorated, more faults had been reported and that there is a current backlog in responding to these. He also answered further questions and responded to comments from Councillors regarding the conditions of LCC Highways and problems with communicating with LCC.

C 60. THE TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE
(Agenda Item 6)

The Town Mayor informed Council that a list of Mayoral events has been posted on the Council website, Facebook and Twitter. The Mayor then made the following statement:

As you all know, there is a small number of people who use Facebook and other social media to criticise the Council and other organisations that operate in the town. We all know who they are and the positions they previously held. It seems to lead them to believe they have a special insight or right to comment about things they clearly have little or no knowledge about. Comments about organisational decisions or policies are fine, but these comments are becoming increasingly nasty and personal, directed at individuals rather than organisations.

In the last few weeks there have been comments about the Council, Councillors and others including employees and those managing or leading other organisations in the town. Some of these comments are at best insulting and malicious and may be libellous and damaging to people's reputations. It is difficult for those targeted, in their official capacity, to easily defend themselves. The people who make these comments seem to spend a disproportionate amount of their time on Facebook and often make these comments in closed groups where the target is not a member.

I think these people are damaging Skegness. Why would anyone want to invest money, time or effort to improve Skegness, when the result is constant personal criticism from a loud, nasty (albeit small) group. One way forward would be for the public to challenge the authors to ask what their source of information is or why they are saying it. They need to be held to account, but without giving them the spotlight they crave.

I know that some of those targeted are now considering taking further action. Although I am not making any formal proposal today, I feel that Council needs to be vigilant and ready to act if necessary.

And to finish I would like to add we are an open and transparent Council. All our meetings are open and transparent and we welcome the public to come along and see democracy at work.

As you can see I've put a copy of Statement in front of you all and would ask to post on your relative social media site"

Cllr Sid Dennis - Mayor

A discussion took place.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That:-*

a) the report be noted.

b) The issues raised in the statement be sent to Direction & Strategy Committee to look at how these could be tackled.

C 61. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL (Agenda Item 7)

The Town Clerk reported on a schedule of payments made between 28th June 2018 and 23rd July 2018 as shown in Appendix A to these minutes.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the schedule be approved.*

C 62. QUESTIONS TO AND COMMENTS FROM THE LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE REPRESENTATIVE (Agenda Item 8)

Cllr M Anderson submitted a question-

There are internet videos showing drug users in public spaces in Skegness that are completely out of control and in full view to the local residents both young and old. What are the Police doing to protect ordinary residents from these disturbing distressing scenes?

Inspector Bennison confirmed that the Police had seen an increasing trend of people using psycho active drugs and that they were using anti-social legislation to try and deal with the issues around this. He also reported that several extra officers were being trained at the moment.

Cllr D Cargill submitted a question-

From the Crime Commissioners Report: -

- 1. Is "Operation Galileo" ongoing? Is it proving effective?*
- 2. Are our officers using the new "TASER2"? How more effective a weapon is this against the older version?*
- 3. Are the crime statistics an accurate view locally? Or are we better or worse locally?*

Inspector Bennison advised that Operation Galileo runs from Autumn to Spring with a team of specials. That training is ongoing to reach 50% of front line staff being equipped to use the new TASER2 and that the crime statistics are an accurate view locally, with the crime figures in the East having increased at 11.6% compared to crime nationally that has increased by around 10%.

A discussion around volunteer Street Wardens took place.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That:-*

- a) a working group be set up to look at the feasibility of Street Wardens to support the Police.
- b) that Cllrs M Anderson, T Burnham, S Kirk and S Dennis and P Gaskell sit on the working group
- c) that a representative from the Police and the LCBID be invited to the working group meetings.

C 63. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES (Agenda Item 9)

a) Cllr M Gabbittas presented the Gibraltar Point Strategy report.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the report be noted.*

b) Cllr D Cargill presented the CCTV report.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the report be noted.*

c) Cllr P Gaskell presented the Coastal Access for All minutes.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the minutes be noted.*

C 64. REPORTS BY DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS (Agenda Item 10)

None received.

C 65. MOTIONS (Agenda Item 11)

Cllr P Gaskell proposed the motion-

Skegness Town Council supports the hard-working staff at Pilgrim Hospital but has no confidence in the United Lincolnshire Hospital Trust to resolve the

ongoing situation at Pilgrim Hospital and the distress this is causing the people of Skegness and all those who use the hospital.

It is proposed that this Council, through the Mayor and Town Clerk, work with and support our local MP in taking these concerns to Government, the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board and the United Lincolnshire Hospitals Trust.

The motion was seconded by Cllr D Brookes.

A discussion took place and an amendment was put forward which the proposer and seconder were happy to adopt.

It was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED: *That Skegness Town Council recognises and supports the hard-working staff at Pilgrim Hospital. However, after years of mismanagement by United Lincolnshire Hospital Trust, it has no confidence in the Trusts ability to resolve the ongoing problems at the hospital. These problems are not only causing distress to the people of Skegness and surrounding areas but they are also proving detrimental to the quality of the healthcare the Trust is delivering. It is proposed that this Council, through the Mayor and Town Clerk, work with and support our local MP in taking these concerns to Governments, the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board and the Trust itself.*

**C 66. PLANNING & PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
(Agenda Item 12)**

It was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED: *That That the Minutes of the Planning & Planning Policy Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 17th July 2018 be approved and the resolutions within be adopted.*

C 67. CLARIFY THE USE OF THE COMMON SEAL (Agenda Item 13)

It was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED: *That where Council authorise the entering into or the signing of contracts, and where that contract is required by law to have the common seal of the Council applied, that the use of the common seal is implicit within that authorisation pursuant to Standing Order 23a.*

C 68. RATE RELIEF SUPPORT REQUESTS (Agenda Item 14)

A rate relief support request from Seathorne Methodist Church was considered.

Cllr C Macey declared a category B interest and did not partake in discussion or voting for this item.

It was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED: *That Skegness Town Council supports the rate relief request from Seathorne Methodist Church.*

C 69. PROPOSAL TO GO INTO PRIVATE SESSION (Agenda Item 15)

Proposal that under the public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960 due to the matters to be discussed relating to commercially confidential information, that Council go into private session to discuss the next item.

It was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED: *That the public be excluded for item 16.*

C 70. CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS (Agenda Item 16)

A confidential report was tabled which Cllr S Blackburn presented to consider recommendations made by the illumination working group in relation to the Christmas Illumination tenders.

It was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED: *That:-*
a) *a 3-year Christmas Illuminations contract be awarded to Lumalite in the sum of £53,259 to be paid by regular instalments throughout the period.*
b) *The Town Clerk be authorised to make the necessary arrangements.*

As a result of the decision the restriction on the confidentiality of the report was lifted.

The meeting closed at 9.06pm

Current Account**List of Payments made between 28/06/2018 and 23/07/2018**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Detail</u>
28/06/18	Amazon	CCMAY18	109.99	Coffee Machine
28/06/18	Amazon	CCMAY18	37.99	Fridge Lock
28/06/18	Fuelgenie	DD	626.92	Petrol and Diesel
28/06/18	O2	DD	54.91	Mobile Phone
28/06/18	Anglian Water	DD	16.50	Water Rates Unit 1B
28/06/18	Anglian Water	DD	17.00	Water Rates Unit 1A
28/06/18	TalkTalk	DD	23.82	Office Broadband
28/06/18	Lloyds Bank	4	29.77	Bank Charges
30/06/18	Cllr M Anderson	EB202	100.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr D Brookes	EB202	125.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr J Carpenter	EB202	100.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr N Cooper	EB202	125.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr S Dennis	EB202	180.00	Councillor & Mayors Allow
30/06/18	Cllr D Edginton	EB202	100.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr S R Kirk	EB202	125.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr C Macey	EB202	62.50	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr M Gray	EB202	125.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr T Burnham	EB202	100.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr J Byford	EB202	125.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr D Cargill	EB202	100.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr D Kirk	EB202	125.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr M Dannatt	EB202	100.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr M Gabbitas	EB202	125.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr S Blackburn	EB202	125.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr J Brookes	EB202	188.00	Councillor Allow & Mileage
30/06/18	Cllr E Freeman	EB202	100.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr G Ellis	EB202	100.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr R Hall	EB202	100.00	Councillor Allowance
30/06/18	Cllr P Gaskell	EB202	100.00	Councillor Allowance

05/07/18	Charles H Hill Ltd	EB203	68.90	Mower parts
05/07/18	Tudor Environment	EB203	364.50	PPE and strimmer heads
05/07/18	Screwfix	EB203	105.96	Public Property Materials
05/07/18	Screwfix	EB203	36.99	Work boots
05/07/18	East Lindsey District Council	EB203	816.67	units rent
05/07/18	Sid Dennis & Sons Ltd	EB203	25.45	Waste Disposal
05/07/18	Eastern Shires Purchasing Org	EB203	31.56	Blue roll and stationery
05/07/18	HM Customs & Excise	EB203	4,203.69	PAYE month 3
05/07/18	Lincolnshire County Council	EB203	3,374.07	LCC Pension Fund mth 3
09/07/18	Charles H Hill Ltd	EB204	204.66	Ride on mower service
09/07/18	LALC	EB204	81.00	LCR Magazine Subscription
09/07/18	Screwfix	EB204	23.99	Public Property Materials
09/07/18	Travis Perkins	EB204	113.81	Public Property Materials
09/07/18	East Lindsey District Council	EB204	374.00	Office accommodation costs
09/07/18	East Lindsey District Council	EB204	410.83	Office Rent
09/07/18	East Lindsey District Council	EB204	816.67	Rent - Industrial Units
12/07/18	Fuel Genie	DD	692.73	Petrol & Diesel
18/07/18	O2	DD	58.56	Mobile phone contracts
24/07/18	TalkTalk	DD	23.64	Office Broadband

Total Payments 15,175.08