

SKEGNESS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held via Video Conference

Held at 7 pm on Wednesday, 25th November 2020

PRESENT: Councillor M Dannatt (Town Mayor) in the Chair.

Councillors: M Anderson, P Barry, B Brookes, D Brookes, J Brookes, T Burnham, J Carpenter, S Claxton, R Cunningham, S Dennis, D R Edginton, A Findley, D Kirk, S Kirk, G Saxon, P Sutton and T Tye.

Officers: Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk.

Invited: Inspector Jacqueline Barnsley, Sargent G Harrison (Police representatives)

The meeting was live streamed on the Council's You Tube Channel to public and press.

A minute's silence took place in remembrance of Ray Clemence MBE.

C103. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Agenda Item 1)

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 7th October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.*

C104. APOLOGIES (Agenda Item 2)

An apology for absence was received from Councillors S Blackburn and S Emsen.

C105. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 3)

Cllr S Dennis Category A – Item 6 Payee.

C106. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda Item 4)

A letter regarding the trees on Coronation Walk was submitted by Ms Sparks of Wilfred Grove Skegness. The Town Clerk read out the letter which was part of item 13 of the agenda.

C107. THE TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE (Agenda Item 5)

The Town Mayor informed Council that a list of Mayoral events has been posted on the Council website, Facebook and Twitter. The Mayor also

informed Council that the Tower Gardens Pavilion was showcased at the previous night's RICS National Social Impact Awards and that the Pavilion project would be included in a future NALC publication researched by the Plunkett Foundation. The Mayor informed Council that an Extraordinary Planning Meeting would need to be called on 2nd December 2020 to consider a number of applications. The Mayor also advised that a meeting was proposed for Monday 7th December at 7pm with Lydia Rusling regarding the Connected Coast. Finally, the Mayor informed Council that the Christmas lights will be illuminated from 4pm on Saturday 28th November 2020.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the Mayor's announcements be noted.*

C108. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL (Agenda Item 6)

Cllr S Dennis declared a Category A interest and withdrew from the meeting for this item.

The Town Clerk reported on a schedule of payments made between 29th September 2020 and 13th November 2020 as shown in Appendix A to these minutes. The Town Clerk answered questions on the payments.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the schedule be approved, and the bank reconciliation be noted.*

C109. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR (Agenda Item 7)

None received.

C110. QUESTIONS TO/COMMENTS FROM THE LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE REPRESENTATIVE (Agenda Item 8)

The following questions were submitted by Cllr M Anderson:

1. *Have Skegness Police got a new strategy in place to deal with the high number of Hate Crimes that have been reported. How are they going to regain the confidence of victims of these disgusting crimes?*
2. *What powers have the Police got with businesses that are not using the Government guidelines on protecting their employees against COVID-19 and general public?*

Inspector Barnsley stated there were 11 hate crimes last year and 6 so far for this year. Sargent Harrison gave some context around how these are dealt with and how one of the hate crimes he dealt with was sampled for inspection and was commended and now used as an example of best practice.

Inspector Barnsley explained that Covid 19 breaches are dealt with in a partner agency approach, at that they work with Licencing, Trading Standards and the Health and Safety Executive. Cllr Cunnington asked for figures for penalty charges/fines for Covid Breaches. Inspector Barnsley explained that she did not have this information to hand but could bring it back to the next

meeting. The Councillors thanked the Police Representatives for their time and input.

**C111. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES
(Agenda Item 9)**

A report from the Environment Agency, minutes from the Connected Coast Board and CCTV statistics were provided. Cllr Burnham commented on how the statistic show that the CCTV is value for money.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the Environment Agency report, Connected Coast Board minutes and CCTV statistics be noted.*

**C112. REPORTS BY DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS
(Agenda Item 10)**

Cllr B Brookes gave a verbal report on his activities as a District Councillor and how proud he was to be involved in some of the Acts of Remembrance for Remembrance Sunday.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the verbal report be noted.*

C113. MOTIONS (Agenda Item 11)

Motion 1

We as town council ask the clerk to explore all avenues and the ability to use the new community hub as a venue to hold wedding including wedding ceremonies.

Background

By undertaking the above, we could generate income to help with budget costs. If we ask the clerk to explore the options and feedback to council, no later than the January meeting we could debate his findings and hopefully if all is good look to start offering this service for the spring. We could use the hall and offer buffets created and served by our café.

If we put together a list of what we are able to offer this would include the size of wedding at present this would have to comply with covid restrictions, the cost of the hall hire, the cost per head for the buffet cost of an external licensed bar we would outsource this, we could even ask and outsource the brass/silver band to play on the band stand.

People would have the chance to use the gardens children would be able to play in the park the scenery for the photos would be great

Proposer: Cllr R Cunnington

Seconder: Cllr M Anderson

Questions were asked and a short discussion took place.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That motion be approved.*

Motion 2

Skegness Town Council are extremely disappointed and concerned with the statements made on Look North by Lincolnshire County Cllrs Colin Davie and Cllr Martin Hill regarding the extending the holiday season for Caravan Parks to January 5 by ELDC if they wish to.

Many Skegness residents work in the hospitality industry in Skegness which is the largest industry which has been hit hardest with the Government lockdown and restrictions in tackling coronavirus,

meaning that residents working in this sector, have had huge pay reductions of 20% if they were furloughed or more if they were unemployed.

The hit on our local economy is huge not only in the hospitality and tourism sector but all sectors as there is less money circulating in our Town for all businesses and residents alike.

Proposer: Cllr M Anderson

Seconder: Cllr D Brookes

Cllr Anderson spoke on his motion.

It was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED: *That motion be approved.*

Motion 3

Skegness Town Council is extremely concerned to protect services at Skegness Hospital. Following the temporary removal of urgent care facilities overnight until March 2021, there is now speculation that Consultant led outpatient services for Surgical Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, Respiratory cardiology, Podiatry and Visual fields are also to be withdrawn.

The Council appreciates that the Covid-19 Pandemic is stretching NHS services, but the impact of such a withdrawal of services from Skegness would have similar far reaching consequences to both the physical and mental wellbeing of Skegness residents as the short term impact of Covid.

Can ULHT confirm if it does intend to withdraw some or all of the outpatient services from Skegness Hospital? If it does, then can it please provide details of the recovery plan it will put in place to manage the consequential long term impact on the health and wellbeing of Skegness residents?

Proposer: Cllr M Anderson

Seconder: Cllr A Findley

Cllr Anderson spoke on his motion, a short discussion took place and the following amendment was proposed:

That Skegness Town Council write to ULHT explaining it is extremely concerned to protect services at Skegness Hospital. Following the temporary removal of urgent care facilities overnight until March 2021, there is now speculation that Consultant led outpatient services for Surgical Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, Respiratory cardiology, Podiatry and Visual fields are also to be withdrawn.

The Council appreciates that the Covid-19 Pandemic is stretching NHS services, but the impact of such a withdrawal of services from Skegness would have similar far reaching consequences to both the physical and mental wellbeing of Skegness residents as the short term impact of Covid.

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It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the amended motion be approved*

Motion 4

The motion is that the council are to apply for my councillor community grant to allow a Christmas tree and decorations to be put up in tower gardens, The reason I have decided this would be a worthy spend of the grant is that in a time where people aren't going to be having a normal Christmas and have never been further apart, it is hoped that this will help bring the community together, and hopefully make this dreadful time easier.

The details of the proposals are be delegated to the Town Clerk to action, to enable the tree to be put up in time for Christmas.

Proposer: Cllr B Brookes

Seconder: Cllr A Findley

Cllr B Brookes spoke on his motion and a discussion took place.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That motion be approved*

C114. DRAFT BUDGET 2021/22 (Agenda Item 12)

The Town Clerk went through the Budget report to provide an update on the 2021/22 draft budget position and for Council to use this as the basis for the precept setting meeting in January or alternatively for Council to guide the Town Clerk as to changes they wish to make. A lengthy discussion took place and the Town Clerk answered questions.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the draft budget set out in Appendix A be approved.*

C115. TREE SURVEY (Agenda Item 13)

The Town Clerk went through a report on a recent tree survey in Vine and Coronation to seek approval to undertake the works recommended.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That:*

- a) *The report be noted.*
- b) *The Town Clerk be authorised to proceed to set out a programme of work required by Skegness Town Council and to seek competitive quotations for both the immediate work and for the selection of a preferred contractor for future works over the next 5 years.*
- c) *The Town Clerk be authorised to agree communications with ELDC.*
- d) *The resident's letter be responded to as per Council policy and the arboriculturist survey.*

C116. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) (Agenda Item 14)

The Town Clerk presented a report to seek approval to commission a further piece of work following East Lindsey District Council's (ELDC) response to the NDP submission.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the additional NDP works at a cost of £4216 plus disbursements and VAT be approved.*

C117. GENERAL REPORT (Agenda Item 15)

The Town Clerk presented a report to update Council on recent activities to adopt the decision made.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the report be noted and the decisions made by the Town Clerk be adopted.*

C118. RESPONSES TO LETTERS SENT FOLLOWING PREVIOUS MOTIONS (Agenda Item 16)

A letter from Matt Warman MP and the Clinical Commissioning Group was presented.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the letter from Matt Warman MP and the Clinical Commissioning be noted.*

C119. CLIMATE SURVEY (Agenda Item 17)

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: *That the survey be noted, and that Council looks at how future decisions affect the environment.*

The meeting closed at 9:45pm