

MINUTES

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 21 JANUARY 2010

2.00 PM



PRESENT

Councillor Bob Adams Chairman

Councillor Ray Auger
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing
Councillor Pam Bosworth
Councillor Christine Brough
Councillor Paul Carpenter
Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright
Councillor George Chivers
Councillor Michael Cook
Councillor Nick Craft
Councillor Alan Davidson
Councillor John Dawson
Councillor Mike Exton
Councillor Stuart Farrar
Councillor John Harvey
Councillor Robert Hearmon
Councillor Bryan Helyar
Councillor David Higgs
Councillor Trevor Holmes
Councillor Reginald Howard
Councillor Mrs Maureen Jalili
Councillor Sam Jalili
Councillor Kenneth Joynson
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown
Councillor Jock Kerr

Councillor Albert Victor Kerr
Councillor Reg Lovelock MBE.
Councillor Stuart McBride
Councillor Mrs. Linda Neal
Councillor John Nicholson
Councillor Alan Parkin
Councillor Mrs Margery Radley
Councillor Bob Sandall
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Trevor Scott
Councillor Ian Selby
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith
Councillor John Smith
Councillor Mrs Maureen Spencer-Gregson O.B.E.
Councillor Mike Taylor
Councillor Frank Turner
Councillor Tom Webster
Councillor Andrea Webster
Councillor Graham Wheat
Councillor Mike Williams
Councillor Avril Williams
Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Raymond Wootten

OFFICERS

Chief Executive (Beverly Agass)
Strategic Director (Ian Yates)
Corporate Head, Finance & Customer Services (Richard Wyles)
Corporate Head, Sustainable

OFFICERS

Service Manager, Planning Policy (Karen Sinclair)
Financial Team Leader (David Scott)
Legal Services Manager - Monitoring Officer (Lucy Youles)



"Listening Learning Delivering"

Communities (Teena Twelves) Corporate Head, Resources and Organisational Development (Paul Stokes) Service Manager, Assets and Facilities (Liz Banner)	Service Manager, Democratic Services (Lena Shuttlewood) Principal Democracy Officer (Paul Morrison) Democratic and Scrutiny Support Officer (Jenni Gibson)
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Before the formal start of the meeting, Members paid tribute to the late Councillor John Hurst, and held a minutes silence in his memory.

61. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Question 1 – from Mrs M. Patrick, to the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance and Housing, Councillor Paul Carpenter:

Is it SKDC's intention to get rid of the District Association and the Neighbourhood Groups?

Reply from Councillor Carpenter:

Not at all Mrs Patrick. Both fit firmly within the Housing Consultative Group structure.

Supplementary question from Mrs M. Patrick:

Why is the other district wide panel making the decision for tenants? It is like a secret society. Why are we not allowed names or area they represent? I don't want tenants to represent me if I don't know who they are. They have been selected not elected.

Reply from Councillor Carpenter:

Now I understand more as to why you are asking this question, I will investigate this for you.

Question 2 - from Mrs M. Patrick, to the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance and Housing, Councillor Paul Carpenter:

What pride is there in SKDC when it lets its tenants suffer?

Reply from Councillor Carpenter:

It would not be the intention of any council to let its tenants suffer, and it is certainly not the case with SKDC.

Supplementary question from Mrs M. Patrick:

Why has the council for four years let elderly tenants suffer bad placements at the hands of SKDC lettings?

Reply from Councillor Carpenter:

We are aware that there is an anti-social behaviour problem in the area you are referring to. Evidence is being gathered. We are aware of the situation, and rest assured our Anti-Social Behaviour team are working in conjunction with the police to combat the problems.

Question 3 - from Mr Klimes, to the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance and Housing, Councillor Paul Carpenter:

Regarding the Cabinet decision C054 – (i) Choice Based Lettings 4th January 2010, would the proposed agreement with Peterborough City Council to provide the Choice Based Letting scheme on behalf of SKDC result in residents on the Peterborough City Council housing list being eligible to apply for housing from SKDC's housing stock?

Reply from Councillor Carpenter:

Housing registers are nationally linked; anyone on a housing list can apply to any other authority. Choice Based Lettings will not change that. The difference is that people will have to bid for the properties; and they will still have to meet the required criteria.

Supplementary question from Mr Klimes:

I understand that in the past, people on the housing waiting list in one area are required to remove themselves from that waiting list if they want to apply to go on a different housing list elsewhere. Is this the case?

Reply from Councillor Carpenter:

If someone wanted to move, there would be little point in remaining on the original list. I actually have been bit of a mystery shopper recently, and rung around different authorities to see if they would accept me on their housing lists. I was told I would be welcome on each of them, providing I met the specified criteria.

62. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Broughton, Channell, Martin-Mayhew, Moore, Russell, Stephens, Stokes and Thompson.

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Wootten declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – Civil Parking Enforcement – due to him being a member of the Grantham East

Neighbourhood Policing Panel, and also as a member of the National Association of Retired Police Officers.

64. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2009

The minutes of the meeting held 29th October 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

65. COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS)

Circulated with the agenda was a list of the Chairman's engagements for the period of 29th October 2009 to 21st January 2010. These were noted.

66. ALIGNING SKILLS AND RESOURCES TO DELIVER PRIORITIES

(2.15pm – the Corporate Heads and Service Managers left the meeting).

Members received a presentation from the Chief Executive with regards to her plans for the future.

A programme called Next Steps was being developed to help facilitate change. The purpose of the next steps programme was to ensure that the Council adds capacity in key areas and to ensure that the skills and expertise is available to support staff. With input from managers and staff over the next few weeks, plans would be firmed up to shape SKDC to move forward together.

Members congratulated Mrs Agass on her presentation and commended her on the positive changes brought about since she had been in post.

A debate took place and a number of issues were raised by Members. Councillors took the view that adding skills in-house in order to progress forward could only be a good thing. Mention was made of the potential savings made by the next Steps approach. Mrs Agass confirmed that although the Council was always looking for efficiencies, these particular plans had an emphasis on quality; to ensure that the right people with the right skills were in the right places to deliver. Councillors expressed the wish to be kept up-to-date with the progress of this programme.

A Member asked if consideration had been given to transferring some functions to the Parish Councils, especially those with Quality Status. Mrs Agass explained that this could certainly be explored in the future, but was not included within current plans. It was also noted that partnership working had been mentioned within the presentation. Mrs Agass accepted the need to work in partnerships, but that the Council must be clear about adopting a proactive and productive approach to partnerships.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Agass for her presentation and re-iterated Members' request that they be kept informed with the progress of the programme.

(3.00pm – the Corporate Heads and Service Managers re-entered the

meeting).

(3.00 pm – Cllr Mike Williams left the meeting).

67. SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL HOUSING STRATEGY DECISION:

To approve the content of the Housing Strategy, subject to minor typographical amendments.

Report CHSC0021 was introduced by the Corporate Governance and Housing Portfolio Holder. It was noted that some typographical errors were still to be rectified within the report. Councillor Carpenter advised Members of the different approach used to create the strategy; involving all stakeholders in the process rather than consulting them once it was complete. The recommendation in the report was then moved and seconded, subject to the typographical errors being rectified.

A debate took place and a number of issues were raised. Concern was expressed regarding the lack of mention of Stamford or the Deepings within the 'Good for Business' priority, the Deepings were not included within a graph depicting affordable housing delivery in South Kesteven, and Stamford appeared to have less than half the delivery of that in Grantham and Bourne. The Corporate Head of Sustainable Communities explained that Grantham was deemed a sub-regional centre of the East Midlands region, and therefore received more funding for affordable housing. Bourne was also seen as an urban centre and was taken by the Council to be a priority area. She explained that affordable housing was not led by a target of numbers. Developers might see opportunities, and the Council could not prevent them from applying. However, the Development Control team liaised carefully with developers before any applications for large developments were submitted.

(3.10 pm – Cllr Mike Williams re-entered the meeting).

A Member asked how much notice was taken of population growth. The Corporate Head of Sustainable Communities noted that population growth was considered within the planning framework. Another member questioned a lost opportunity to build new council houses. The Corporate Head explained that although the Council had not directed any builds recently, they were committed to investigating the idea, and the full financial implications.

Members discussed empty properties. It was confirmed by the Corporate Head that private properties were included within the strategy as well as Council stock. A Private Property Housing Policy was already in place, encouraging owners to bring properties back into use by using incentives.

In summing up, the Portfolio Holder of Corporate Governance and Housing

suggested that 'imitation is the sincerest form of flattery', and noted that another authority had already asked to use the strategy.

On being put to the vote, the motion was duly carried.

68. REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES

DECISION:

- 1. That the Chief Executive, as Returning Officer for South Kesteven, be granted delegated authority in consultation with Ward Councillors to determine Polling places in accordance with Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006.**
- 2. That Members are provided with location maps detailing the Polling Districts within their Ward and highlighting existing Polling Places for any views and comments.**

(This item was moved forward on the agenda at the request of the Chairman).

In introducing report DEM038 by the Chief Executive, the Portfolio Holder for Access and Engagement emphasised that ward Councillors would be consulted when any changes to Polling Places were proposed. It was moved and seconded to approve the recommendations as set out in the report. This was duly carried.

[The refreshment break took place between 3.27pm and 3.45pm]

(At the recommencement of the meeting, Councillors Gaffigan and Mike Williams were not present).

69. CIVILIAN PARKING ENFORCEMENT

DECISION:

To agree in principle that:-

- 1.1 Civilian Parking Enforcement is undertaken within the administrative boundary of South Kesteven District Council through partnership with the other seven authorities covering on and off street enforcement.**
- 1.2 Authorisation is given for Lincolnshire County Council's application to the Department for Transport for Civilian Parking Enforcement on behalf of the authority.**
- 1.3 South Kesteven District Council resolves to join 'The Joint Committee of England and Wales for the civil enforcement of parking and Traffic Regulations outside London' in accordance with the requirements of the Traffic Penalty Tribunal. This requires a member nomination and substitute nomination at an appropriate time.**
- 1.4 The level of differential penalty charge as stated in Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 3487, Road Traffic, England will be adopted. The**

Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (Guidelines on Levels of Charges) (England) Order 2007 be set at band 2 PCN level, discounted by 50% for payment within 14 days, and incremented by 50% for payment after the issue of a Charge Certificate.

- 1.5 Council delegate the authority to sign the partnership Memorandum of Understanding and any associated Service Level Agreement to the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council.**
- 1.6 That the Council considers going to external enforcement.**
- 1.7 That authorisation is given for South Kesteven District Council to use the central processing unit for the administration of the tickets and guarantee a minimum level of tickets per annum to be paid for.**

In introducing report AFM0132, the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development noted an amendment she wished to be made to recommendation 1.6 – to replace ‘proceeds with external enforcement’ with ‘considers going to external enforcement’. The recommendations contained within the report were then moved and seconded, subject to this minor amendment.

A debate followed and several issues were raised. Councillor Wootten expressed the view that the sooner the better for parking enforcement to come to fruition. He also suggested that the Portfolio Holder might consider writing to the new Superintendent of Lincolnshire Police. Mention was made of the Notice of Motion to be heard later in the meeting, and it was expressed that it would have been helpful to discuss these items together.

Members were in agreement that there was an on street parking enforcement problem in South Kesteven. However, some Members had strong reservations with regard to the implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement in its current format. It was felt by some that South Kesteven should retain more control as a district. Another concern expressed was that external contractors would be profit-driven and have targets for the number of Penalty Notice Charges issued. This could result in less democratic accountability, which would potentially be to the detriment of local residents and damaging to the Council’s reputation.

The Corporate Head of Resources and Organisational Development advised Members that he was on a working group that was party to the development of specifications for external contractors. He assured Members that there would be a level of quality of the enforcement conditioned within the contract. The Corporate Head, when asked, confirmed that certain vehicles could be made exempt from receiving Penalty Notice Charges, such as ambulances and hearses.

(3.49pm – Cllr Gaffigan re-entered the meeting).

(3.52pm – Cllr Mike Williams re-entered the meeting).

The Chief Executive was asked by a Member to provide all Councillors with the

methodology used for the consultation of this issue, as it was felt by some that the public would not be consulted widely enough or fairly. The Chief Executive advised that the County Council had the responsibility for consulting on changes to on-street parking; the district only had the responsibility to consult with regards to changes to off-street parking.

The Leader of the Council spoke to provide some clarity on what members were voting on. She emphasised the recommendation was to approve the scheme 'in principle'. If the scheme was agreed in principle today, then SKDC's carparks would be included in the application submitted to the Department of Transport. If the Council opted to not agree the scheme in principle, then the whole scheme in Lincolnshire would fall. The Leader advised that she had also had concerns about the scheme, but assured Members that further negotiations would continue to take place.

After further clarification as to the responsibility to consult residents, the motion was put to the vote and duly carried.

**70. CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT - AMENDMENT TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY (H3)
DECISION:**

1. To agree the amendments to Policy H3 set out in Appendix B of report PLA 804; and
2. Following consultation, the amendments be submitted to the Core Strategy Examination.

Report number PLA 804 was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development. It was noted that the Core Strategy was required to be updated. It was proposed and seconded that the recommendations contained within report PLA 804 be approved. In being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

**71. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE
DECISION:**

1.1 Delegation of powers currently vested with the Director of Tenancy Services

a.) That the following amendments to the delegations be approved to those officers listed including the addition at 5a & 5b of Section 128 Housing Act 1996:

No.	DETAILS OF DELEGATION	DELEGATED TO
1.	To exercise the general management, regulation and control of the Council's housing stock under Section 21 of the Housing Act 1985	Service Manager, Tenancy &

		Neighbourhood Services, Tenancy Services
2.	To take all such action as is required of the Council to prepare, maintain and administer the housing register under Sections 159 and 166 of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002	Service Manager, Tenancy & Neighbourhood Services, Tenancy Services
3.	Subject to any policy directions given by the Council, to take all such action as is required of the Council to prepare, maintain and administer a housing allocation scheme under Sections 161, 167 to 168 of the housing Act 1996 and Section 106 of the Housing Act 1985 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002	Service Manager, Tenancy & Neighbourhood Services, Tenancy Services
4.	To allocate housing to the homeless applicants to whom the Council owes a duty under Part V11 of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002	Service Manager, Tenancy & Neighbourhood Services, Tenancy Services
5.a	To sign and serve and to authorise officers to serve notice seeking possession and take action for possession of any Council dwelling, land or garage, authorised under Schedule 2 of the Housing Act 1985 (as amended by the Housing Act 1996) due to rent arrears and Section 128 Housing Act 1996	Corporate Head Finance and Customer Services
5.b	To sign and serve and to authorise officers to serve notice seeking possession and take action for possession of any Council dwelling, land or garage, authorised under Schedule 2 of the Housing Act 1985 (as amended by the Housing Act 1996) due to breach of tenancy and Section 128 Housing Act 1996	Service Manager, Tenancy & Neighbourhood Services, Tenancy Services
6.	To publish information about secure tenancies under Section 104 of the Housing Act 1985	Service Manager, Tenancy & Neighbourhood Services, Tenancy Services

7.	To maintain arrangements for consultation with tenants on matters of housing management which are likely substantially to affect them (Section 105, Housing Act 1985)	Service Manager, Tenancy & Neighbourhood Services, Tenancy Services
8.	To issue reports to all housing revenue account tenants each year containing information determined by the Secretary of State about functions of the Council as housing authority (Sections 167, Local Government and Housing Act 1989)	Service Manager, Tenancy & Neighbourhood Services, Tenancy Services
9.	To prepare and implement, with resources provided by the Council, programmes for the refurbishment, repair and maintenance of Council dwellings	Corporate Head of Resources and Organisational Development
10.	To exercise the powers of the council relating to tenants' right to have repairs carried out and pay compensation for improvements under Sections 121 and 122 of the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 and Section 96 of the Housing Act 1985 (Tenants Right to Repair)	Corporate Head of Resources and Organisational Development
11.	To implement and ensure compliance with Tenancy & Neighbourhood Services Tenancy Agreement (April 2002)	Service Manager, Tenancy & Neighbourhood Services, Tenancy Services
12.	To serve and to authorise officers to serve notices under Section 17 of the Public Health Act 1961 relating to drainage	Corporate Head of Resources and Organisational Development
13.	To serve, and to authorise officers to serve notices under Section 35 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to unblock private sewers	Corporate Head of Resources and Organisational Development
14.	To serve, and to authorise officers to service notice under Sections 59 and 60 of the Building Act 1984 relating to drainage	Corporate Head of Resources and Organisational

		Development
15.	Authorise and to authorise officers to arrange for repair where drainage is inadequate under Section 59 of the Building Act 1984	Corporate Head of Resources and Organisational Development
16.	To serve and authorise officers to serve requisitions for information under Section 16 of the (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	Corporate Head of Resources and Organisational Development
17.a	To sign, serve and authorise officer to issue Notice to Quit and take action for possession of any Council dwelling or garage occupied under licence, non-secure tenancy as a result of rent arrears	Corporate Head of Finance and Customer Services
17.b	To sign, serve and authorise officers to issue Notice to Quit and take action for possession of any Council dwelling or garage occupied under licence, non-secure tenancy as a result of breach of tenancy or trespass	Service Manager, Tenancy & Neighbourhood Services, Tenancy Services
18.	To sign, serve and authorise officers to sign and serve anti-social behaviour contracts drawn up and served under the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998	Service Manager, Tenancy & Neighbourhood Services, Tenancy Services
19.a	To sign, serve and authorise officers to make any application to the County Court in connection with rent arrears under the Housing Act 1985	Corporate Head Finance and Customer Services
19.b	To sign, serve and authorise officers to make any application to the County Court in connection with the general housing management regulation and control of the Council's stock under the Housing Act 1985, Housing Act 1996, Homelessness Act 2002, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003	Service Manager, Tenancy & Neighbourhood Services, Tenancy Services

b) That the Constitution be amended to permit the Chief Executive to authorise officers in appropriate posts who are suitably trained and qualified to carry out the delegations where authorised posts become vacant or cease to exist and to authorise

the change in the Constitution to bring into effect the changes to the scheme of delegation.

1.2 Review of Scheme of Delegation (Enforcement Service)

- a) That the policy approach set out in report CHSC020 is endorsed by the Constitution Committee.
- b) That the Scheme of Delegation is amended so that the Corporate Head of Sustainable Communities in consultation with the Lead Professional or any officer delegated in writing by her or him and Legal Services be authorised to issue the following notices:
 - Enforcement Notice
 - Breach of Condition Notice
 - Section 215 Notice
 - Listed Building Enforcement Notice
 - Hazardous Substance Notice
 - Stop Notice and
 - Temporary Stop Notice
- c) That the Corporate Head of Sustainable Communities and the Lead Professional are authorised to delegate to other officers in writing who have the necessary training and qualifications those delegations made to the Corporate Head of Sustainable Communities and the Lead Professional as shown in the Scheme of Delegation.

1.3 Delegated Authority relating to the administration of Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit

That the delegated authority held by the Corporate Head of Finance and Customer Services as the Section 151 Officer is amended to allow him to authorise other appropriately qualified and trained officers, in writing, the delegated powers relating to Council tax, Non Domestic Rates, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Administration and Enforcement.

1.4 Members Allowances – audit inspection

That under the Members Allowance Scheme the following paragraph is added at page 293:

Where Members are utilizing their own private domestic broadband

connection for access to SKDC systems there is a monthly allowance of up to £21.99.

1.5 Polling Places

The Council agrees with the recommendations contained in report DEM038, and approves the amendments necessary to the scheme of delegation within the Constitution.

Report LEG060 was introduced by the Vice-Chairman of the Constitution Committee. The recommendations contained within the report were proposed and seconded.

A debate followed, and several matters were raised. A Member questioned the need for amending the Constitution to include Members' broadband allowance. The Monitoring Officer advised that Members were already entitled to receive this as part of the Members' Allowance Scheme, and for clarity purposes it was required to be published in the Constitution. This particular matter had been raised through an internal audit. Another Member was of the opinion that the Constitution was too large, and support officers had an arduous task in keeping it constantly up to date. He suggested that the Members' Allowance Scheme should not be contained within the Constitution.

In responding to a query by a Member, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that guidelines for the Constitution Committee were contained within article 11 on page 52 of the Constitution.

The Chief Executive suggested that recommendation 1.3 of the report be amended to include the words 'appropriately qualified and trained' officers. This amendment was accepted by the proposer and the seconder. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

72. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF COUNCIL, COMMITTEE, AND OTHER MEETING DATES 2010-2011 FOR CONSULTATION

Report DEM 037 was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Access and Engagement. He advised that this report was just for noting, and that any comments should be made to the Service Manager of Democratic Services as soon as possible, in order for the report to come back to full Council on the 23rd April for final approval.

It was noted that in July and August there were three Development Control Committee meetings scheduled close to each other. It was suggested that this was an error and would be amended.

A Member urged all Chairmen to keep to the scheduled dates for meetings once they had been approved, as Members had busy diaries and sometimes found it impossible to attend if meetings were moved. Another Member noted

that it was not always the Chairman who moved meetings; sometimes, particularly with quasi-judicial committees, meetings had to be moved due to time restrictions allowed by legislation.

The Leader of the Council noted the May cabinet meeting was scheduled for 10th May. She apologised as she had booked leave for that week, assuming that the Cabinet meeting would be held on the first Monday of the month as usual. She reserved the right to reschedule and confirm a new date when the report came back to Council.

The Chairman of the Engagement PDG queried why the Engagement PDG had been scheduled for Tuesday 4th May, when they usually met on a Thursday. He was advised that this was due to the probability of a General Election being called for that week.

A Member queried why there seem to be quite a gap between some Council meetings on the proposed calendar. The Chief Executive advised that a Council meeting had been scheduled for December 2010 rather than January 2011, as there was a strong probability of the Council needing to consider new legislation before the New Year. She felt it sensible to schedule a December meeting rather than having to arrange an extra-ordinary meeting for December as well as having a scheduled meeting in January.

The Portfolio Holder for Access and Engagement re-iterated that the calendar was up for consultation with Members, and that Members should speak to the Service Manager of Democratic Services with any other queries and / or amendments.

73. LEADER'S REPORT ON AN URGENT NON KEY DECISION

Report number CAB014 by the Leader was noted.

74. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

There were no questions on Notice.

75. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 DECISION:

This Council acknowledges the lack of parking enforcement has a detrimental impact on the district's towns in relation to tourism, trade and the desirability as a destination of choice and therefore resolves to endeavour to address the issues within the Council's capability and available resources.

Councillor John Harvey presented the following motion:

"This Council acknowledges the significant parking problems in each of our major towns. The lack of an up to date car parking strategy to reflect the needs of all the main user groups, exacerbated by insufficient parking enforcement

results in illegal and inconsiderate parking which has a direct impact on tourism, trade and the desirability of our towns as destinations of choice.

This Council resolves to design and implement a car parking strategy that will meet the needs of all users (shoppers, tourists, workers and residents) and that will encompass civilian parking enforcement in an acceptable form, working in conjunction with all the other key stakeholders including Lincolnshire County Council and using the knowledge and expertise available through the District Councillors associated with each town.”

In support of his motion, Councillor Harvey emphasised he considered this a serious issue. He felt that a one-size-fits-all attitude was not helpful to moving the district forward, but that each town should be looked at individually. Councillor Harvey felt that local knowledge was key to revitalise the vibrant historical towns.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mrs Jalili, who fully supported the idea of addressing problems in a coherent and consistent manner. She referred to a presentation received from Stamford Chamber of Trade and Commerce, where they had stated they were so confident in their proposals that they were willing to underwrite their scheme if the Council would only agree to trial it.

Councillor Ray Wootten then proposed the following amendment to the proposal:

“This Council acknowledges the lack of parking enforcement has a detrimental impact on the district’s towns in relation to tourism, trade and the desirability as a destination of choice and therefore resolves to endeavour to address the issues within the Council’s capability and available resources”.

This was seconded by Councillor Tom Webster. In opposition to the amendment, Councillor Harvey expressed concern that the Council would not give enough commitment to residents to deal with parking problems. He felt that his original motion was in line with the priorities outlined by the Chief Executive earlier in the meeting. Councillor Mrs Jalili, also in opposition to the amendment, felt that the amendment was too generalised, and lacked specific detail.

In support of the amendment, Councillor Neal emphasised the Council could not do anything not within its powers.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was duly carried. The amendment now became the substantive motion. On being put to the vote the motion was also carried.

76. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting concluded at 4.56 pm.

