

MINUTES

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2010

2.00 PM



PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Margery Radley (Chairman)

Councillor Bob Adams
Councillor Ray Auger
Councillor Paul Carpenter
Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright
Councillor Elizabeth Channell
Councillor George Chivers
Councillor Michael Cook
Councillor Nick Craft
Councillor Alan Davidson
Councillor Mike Exton
Councillor Mrs Joyce Gaffigan
Councillor John Harvey
Councillor Bryan Helyar
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 Reg Lovelock MBE
Councillor Peter Martin-Mayhew
Councillor Stuart McBride
Councillor Mrs. Linda Neal
Councillor Benjamin Newcombe-Jones
Councillor John Nicholson
Councillor Alan Parkin
Councillor Mrs Margery Radley
Councillor Bob Russell
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Ian Selby
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith
Councillor John Smith
Councillor Peter Stephens
Councillor Ian Stokes
Councillor Mike Taylor
Councillor Frank Turner
Councillor Graham Wheat
Councillor Mike Williams
Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Raymond Wooten

OFFICERS

Chief Executive (Beverly Agass)
Strategic Director (Ian Yates)
Interim Strategic Director (Tracey Blackwell)
Head of Finance (s151 Officer) (Richard Wyles)

OFFICERS

Head of HR & Customer Services (Jacqui Chapman)
Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) (Lucy Youles)
Communications Officer (Chris England)
Committee Support Officer (David Lambley)

38. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Question 1 from Mrs Mary Patrick to the Leader of the Council:

Reading SK Today, Mrs Neal, it is full of praise for Grantham and Bourne Festival. Where is the report and praise for Stamford Festival?

Reply from the Leader:

Through the pages of Sktoday we try to cover as many different events as possible in every issue to ensure that we provide a breadth of coverage throughout our district. In the space permitting, this can only be a 'snap shot' of all the events that take place. Earlier in the year we included reports on community events held in Stamford, Grantham and Bourne, and in the July issue included coverage on Stamford International Music Festival based on information provided by one of the organisers. We welcome reports and contributions from the public and endeavour to use these where possible. However we also have to recognise timelines and with the Bourne Festival and with the Grantham Festival they actually took place earlier in the year than the Stamford Festival and therefore there has been an opportunity for them to be included in Sktoday after the event has taken place. Because of the timelines of the publication of the magazine there hasn't been an opportunity for Stamford Festival to be in there since it actually took place and therefore it may now be too old news to get in to the next edition that is being written.

We do try and cover general aspects of the whole of the district, but in this instance it may be that the actual festival to which you refer will not be covered, but other things that have happened in Stamford have been and will continue to be covered.

Supplementary Question from Mrs Mary Patrick:

Mrs Neal, there's only two things in here relating to Stamford and that is where the office is and what goes on at the Arts Centre. That is the coverage in the whole of that magazine and I think it's despicable.

Reply from the Leader:

I don't know which particular copy you're referring to as I don't have the copy in front of me but what I would say is the vast majority of the content in that magazine relates to the whole of the district and therefore includes Stamford. Things that are Stamford specific like the Arts Centre won't relate to anyone else in the district, won't relate to people in Grantham at all, but most of what is in that content is generic to the whole of the district, so therefore Stamford is not just mentioned once because it will be included numerous times in the

generic reports contained within it.

Question 2 from Mrs Mary Patrick:

Reading SK Today “SKDC scoops Silver”. What communications?

Reply from the Leader:

The Communications Team received a silver award at the 2010 LG (Local Government) Communications Reputations Awards. These are national awards which seek to recognise local authorities that have demonstrated outstanding communications work with residents. SKDC picked up the silver award in the category for providing the best example of the way councils communicate with residents.

A question was raised by a Member relating to the cost of providing Sktoday and it was agreed that this would be provided to Members.

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bisnauthsing, Mrs Bosworth, Christine Brough, Broughton, Dawson, Hearmon, Moore, Scott, Mrs Spencer-Gregson, Thompson, Andrea Webster, Webster and Avril Williams.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

41. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 17TH JUNE 2010 AND 5TH JULY 2010

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 17 June 2010 were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting. It was noted that the last line of minute 26 should have stated that “The Council went into recess between 3:40 and 4:00 pm” rather than “The Committee went into recess between 3:40 and 4:00 pm”.

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 5 July 2010 were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting. It was noted that Councillor Russell had sent his apologies for this meeting.

42. COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS)

A list of engagements undertaken by the Chairman since the last Council meeting was noted.

43. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

DECISION:

That the Constitution be amended:

- 1) to delegate the power to instigate prosecution proceedings for offences under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the local byelaws relating to hackney carriages to the Corporate Head of Healthy Environment, and any officers authorised in writing by the Corporate Head, in consultation with Legal Services, and
- 2) That reports on the results of any prosecutions carried out under this delegation are reported back to the next scheduled Licensing Committee meeting.
- 3) Members note the changes in posts relating to the scheme of delegation approved by the Chief Executive as part of the Next Steps programme and the appointments to those posts as follows:

Head of Finance (151 Officer)	Richard Wyles
Head of Assets	Paul Stokes
Head of HR & Customer Services	Jaqui Chapman
Head of Development & Growth	Mark Williet
Head of Housing and Neighbourhoods	Teena Twelves
Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)	Lucy Youles
Head of Environmental Services	David Botwright (interim)

The Chairman of the Constitution Committee introduced report number LEG060 and moved the recommendations in the report which had been made by the Constitution Committee at its meeting on 19 July 2010, which were duly seconded.

A debate took place and comments were made by Members expressing some concern that elected Councillors were losing power through the delegation of authority to officers. Other Members expressed the view that without the delegation of some authority Members would be required to attend significantly more meetings. Members also noted that the point of the delegation of authority to instigate prosecutions was to allow officers to act quickly and that any decision to prosecute would only be made after considering the seriousness of the situation and any past history. Members noted the need to put public safety first. It was also noted that the result of any decision to prosecute would be reported to the Licensing Committee at its next meeting.

A question was raised as to whether all delegation of powers should be subject to review after a certain period of time and it was noted that this already happened as the Constitution was regularly reviewed.

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

44. MEMBERS' REMUNERATION

DECISION:

- 1) Having considered the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for which this Council is extremely grateful – this Council agrees no change to the current remuneration scheme for the period from April 2011 to March 2012 as set out in the Council's Constitution, and;**
- 2) In order to make full use of the work already carried out by the Independent Remuneration Panel, this Council agrees to instruct the Panel to carry out a full review of its remuneration scheme for consideration by this Council for the period from April 2012 until further review is required within the next four year period.**

Report number LDS003 was introduced by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services. The Council was required to review its remuneration scheme for Members every four years by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

The recommendations in the report were then moved and seconded.

An amendment was moved and seconded to alter the recommendation to state:

- 1) "Having considered the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for which this Council is extremely grateful – this Council agrees no change to the current remuneration scheme for the period from April 2011 to March 2012 as set out in the Council's Constitution, and;**

- 2) In order to make full use of the work already carried out by the Independent Remuneration Panel, this Council agrees to instruct the Panel to carry out a full review of its remuneration scheme for consideration by this Council for the period from April 2012 until further review is required within the next four year period.

A debate then followed and it was stressed by Members that the Council wished to thank the Independent Remuneration Panel for their work, and the help provided to them by Service Manager for Democratic Services. Members noted the changes proposed were not significant, but, in the present economic climate, it was felt that it would not be appropriate to consider making any changes to the Council's remuneration scheme. A question was raised as to whether the present Members should be able to make recommendations concerning future remuneration when they may no longer be Councillors, but this was not a problem. The issue of whether it would be appropriate for Members of the Executive to receive greater remuneration than ordinary Members due to the extensive workload was also raised.

The amendment was then put to the vote, was duly carried, and the amendment became the substantive motion. On being put to the vote, this motion was duly carried.

45. THE BUILDING (LOCAL AUTHORITY CHARGES) REGULATIONS 2010

DECISION:

To approve the introduction of the building control charges with effect from 1 October 2010 in accordance with the Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 2010 as attached as tables A to D of report number PLA840, subject to safeguards being put in place as to how any reduction will be applied consistently.

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder introduced report number PLA840. It was noted that the top of page three of the report should have stated that "there is a risk of not achieving the level of the income the service is budgeted to receive" rather than "there is a risk of achieving the level of income the service is budgeted to receive". The recommendation was amended to include the words "subject to safeguards being put in place as to how any reduction will be applied consistently", and this was then proposed and seconded.

A debate then took place. It was noted that the report contained provision for the charges to be amended when the VAT rate increased to 20% on 4 January 2011. It was confirmed to Members that the list referred to in table c of the report would be available to customers if the charges were approved and that this list would also be available to Councillors. A question was raised as to how the uplift in charges would affect the Council's income levels and it was noted that the charges were calculated on a cost recovery basis. Some charges had

increased, and others decreased, based on the level of usage of a service. The charges were set at a level for cost recovery.. It was noted that the charges were based on expected levels of service use and that it would be expected that charges would need to be reviewed after six months. Members noted that the Council had to compete with the private sector in building control and the proposed charging scheme would make it easier for the Council to compete.

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

46. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

One question on notice had been submitted by Councillor Williams and referred to the Engagement PDG.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 2:51 pm.