

# Council



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



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Thursday, 30 September 2021 at 1.00 pm  
Meres Leisure Centre, Trent Road, Grantham, NG31 7XQ

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**Members:** Councillor Breda-Rae Griffin, Chairman of the Council (Chairman)  
Councillor Ian Stokes, Vice-Chairman of the Council (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Bob Adams  
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing  
Councillor Phil Dilks  
Councillor Kelham Cooke  
Councillor John Dawson  
Councillor Jan Hansen  
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown  
Councillor Philip Knowles  
Councillor Annie Mason  
Councillor Charmaine Morgan  
Councillor Nick Robins  
Councillor Ian Selby  
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith  
Councillor Jill Thomas  
  
Councillor Dean Ward  
Councillor Amanda Wheeler  
Councillor Paul Wood  
Councillor Ray Wootten

Councillor Ashley Baxter  
Councillor Mrs Pam Bosworth  
Councillor George Chivers  
Councillor John Cottier  
Councillor Barry Dobson  
Councillor Graham Jeal  
Councillor Anna Kelly  
  
Councillor Matthew Lee  
Councillor Penny Milnes  
Councillor Dr Peter Moseley  
Councillor Penny Robins  
Councillor Adam Stokes  
Councillor Lee Steptoe  
Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew  
Councillor Hannah Westropp  
Councillor Mark Whittington  
Councillor Sue Woolley

Councillor David Bellamy  
Councillor Robert Broughton  
Councillor Louise Clack  
Councillor Helen Crawford  
Councillor Paul Fellows  
Councillor Gloria Johnson  
Councillor Ms Jane Kingman  
  
Councillor Nikki Manterfield  
Councillor Virginia Moran  
Councillor Robert Reid  
Councillor Susan Sandall  
Councillor Jacky Smith  
Councillor Judy Stevens  
Councillor Sarah Trotter  
  
Councillor Hilary Westropp  
Councillor Jane Wood  
Councillor Linda Wootten

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# Agenda

## 1. Public Open Forum

The public open forum will commence at **1.00 p.m.** and the following formal business of the Council will commence at **1.30 p.m.** or whenever the public open forum ends, if earlier.

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Published and despatched by [democracy@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@southkesteven.gov.uk) on Wednesday, 22 September 2021.

☎ 01476 406080

**Karen Bradford, Chief Executive**

[www.southkesteven.gov.uk](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk)

## **2. Apologies for absence**

## **3. Disclosure of Interests**

Members are asked to disclose any interests in matters for consideration at the meeting.

## **4. Communications (including Chairman's Announcements)** (Page 5)

## **5. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2021** (Pages 7 - 15)

## **6. Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 2 September 2021** (Pages 17 - 22)

## **7. Designation of Monitoring Officer** (Pages 23 - 25)

To consider the designation of the Council's Monitoring Officer.

## **8. Members' Open Questions**

A 45-minute period in which members may ask questions of the Leader, Cabinet Members, the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and opposition group leaders excluding the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, Licensing and Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committees and Governance and Audit Committee.

## **9. Membership of Committees**

To appoint Conservative Group Councillors to fill a vacant seat on the following Committees:

- Constitution Committee
- Planning Committee
- Rural Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## **10. Review of the Council's Constitution** (Pages 27 - 33)

To consider a proposed process for undertaking and implementing a comprehensive review of the Council's Constitution.

## **11. Notices of Motion given under Article 4.9 of the Council's Constitution:**

### **a) Councillor Graham Jeal**

"That the Council approves the commencement of a Community Governance Review in relation to the establishment of a Town Council for Grantham".

### **b) Councillor Charmaine Morgan**

"This Council believes that healthy high streets are essential for community cohesion, civic pride, employment, shopping, services and leisure. But many shops and businesses were struggling even before the Covid pandemic: high street retail employment fell in more than three-quarters of local authorities between 2015 and 2018 according to the Office of National Statistics and more than half of all UK consumers were shopping online before the pandemic.

This Council notes that retail is among the sectors most affected by the coronavirus pandemic and retail workers have been on the frontline of the crisis throughout. The almost complete shutdown of non-essential shops between March and June 2020 has hit businesses hard, and the need for social distancing has changed the way many businesses operate, reducing

footfall. The pandemic has accelerated what, in many cases, has been a longer trend of lower footfall and changing shopping habits. As the Portas Review a decade ago acknowledged, the form and function of many high streets needs to radically change if they are to adapt and survive. This Council welcomes the willingness of Government to acknowledge the problems and come forward with initiatives in response to these challenges such as the furlough scheme, the Covid support business loans, and the High Street Taskforce. However, as the Treasury Select Committee stated in 2019, the current system of Business Rates places an unfair burden on “bricks and mortar” businesses compared to online ones, and the Business Rate system needs radical overhaul.

This Council resolves to:

- Write to the Government to urge them to undertake an urgent review of business rates in order to support high street businesses recover from the pandemic and level the playing field between online and high street businesses, to make it fair and sustainable for all.
- Sign up to the Co-operative Party’s Unlock the High Street Campaign and explore what local action can be taken to revive our high streets now whilst business rates are reviewed.
- Sign South Kesteven District Council up to the Co-operative Party’s campaign to devolve the Towns Fund, Levelling Up Fund, UK Shared Prosperity Fund and other national funding pots, to give local communities, councils and regions the ultimate say in how it is spend in their area.
- Explore the creation of Community Improvement Districts to reconnect communities with the levers that drive economic development in town centres and create an equal partner-ship of business and community organisations to galvanise action at a local level.
- Make any data held by the council on ownership of high street properties public and in an accessible format, so that community groups seeking to buy empty shops through a community share offer have the information they need to do so.
- Make full use of S215 planning enforcement powers where empty units are attracting antisocial behaviour or creating an eyesore on the high street.
- Proactively contact landlords of vacant premises (and work with Chambers of Commerce, Landlord Associations and BID managers) to explore meanwhile use options and/or encourage alternative rental models (e.g. turnover rather than market rent) to enable new cooperatives, SMEs, social enterprises and community businesses to open their doors on the high street.”

**c) Councillor Ashley Baxter**

“Public Consultation regarding Planning Service Review and Action Plan

The Council has paid over £40,000 to a private consultancy (Cratus) to undertake a review of the SKDC Planning Service. The review has been presented to the Governance and Audit Committee and Planning Committees and contains 29 recommendations. It is said to recognise the importance of planning as a critical component in supporting economic growth and unlocking future prosperity of local communities.

The Planning Service Review has received a mixed and luke-warm response from Councillors. If implemented via constitutional and other procedural amendments, it will have a massive impact on the way in which planning applications are dealt with by the Council including a significant change in the level of involvement and influence that Councillors can have.

Recommendation

The Council instructs the relevant Cabinet Member co-ordinate a public consultation or residents and stakeholders before any further decision on Cratus is taken to Constitution Committee, Cabinet or Council.”

**d) Councillor Phil Dilks**

“The Deepings Leisure Centre

This Council welcomes the recent frank admission by the Leader that decades of failure have led to The Deepings currently having an unusable Leisure Centre.

Council resolves to launch an urgent independent inquiry to investigate all aspects of what led to the current situation including:

- Why proper maintenance was not carried out year-on-year
- Why the Deepings Leisure Centre lease was never signed
- Why County Council funding of £124,000 a year to support Deeping Leisure Centre was withdrawn in 2014 unlike similar funding for the North Kesteven Council facility at North Hykeham which was continued to be paid by LCC
- Why no site for the long-promised replacement Deepings Leisure Centre has been agreed
- To establish whether funding for a new-build Deepings Leisure Centre was ever available”