



**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Kirton in Lindsey Town Council
held on Wednesday 28th August 2024
at the Diamond Jubilee Town Hall, High Street, Kirton in Lindsey at 7pm.**

Members present: Cllr Hazel Fox (Chair), Cllr Billy Boyd, Cllr Pat Frankish (part), Cllr Karen Gunn, Cllr Joy Kofoed and Cllr Suzanne Stephenson.

Not present: Cllr Kathy Cooper, Cllr Adam Delsignore and Cllr David Garritt.

Also present: 4 members of the public (with two dependents) (part) and Town Clerk, Neil Taylor-Matson.

Before the meeting started, the Mayor welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

MINUTES

2408E/01

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Kathy Cooper, Cllr Adam Delsignore and Cllr David Garritt.

2408E/02

Declaration of Interests / Dispensations

a. Cllr Frankish declared an interest as a business owner and Trustee of the Diamond Jubilee Town Hall for item 2408E/05.

b. No dispensations were granted.

2408E/03

Public Participation

A member of the public highlighted the condition on the planning application decision notice for the proposed car park regarding the requirement for a gate which would need to be locked at 8pm each evening, a condition which would need removal to make the car park viable. The resident also stated that the traffic survey conducted by the Town Council was over a single six-day period and considered this was not long enough for representative data and would suggest a survey every other month over twelve months. The resident also noted that the proposal at item 5 on the agenda was problematic due to the wording that a car park project is to be free of any cost to the town residents. This wording would prevent any research or development works including but not limited to a further traffic survey.

Another member of the public asked the Council to remember why the car park project was explored in the first place and to think of the long-term enhancements a car park could provide for the town. The resident noted the current problems with parking provision such as for the disabled and the lack of electric vehicle charging points which were included in so would be resolved by the proposals drawn up for the proposed car park. The resident asked the Council to think about the expected growth of the town and the additional problems this is expected to bring and if alternative means were under consideration such as permits and cameras to monitor parking if the car park does not go ahead. The resident finished by asking what other sites in the historic zone could potentially be explored instead of the proposed site known locally as "Squatters".

A member of the Council spoke as member of the public and commented that their main business had had to move out of the centre of the town to Scunthorpe due to the lack of parking not making the business viable and that other businesses also suffer because people can't get parked. When the Town Hall was refurbished in 2010 a wedding licence was granted but bookings are not received because of the issue around parking close to the venue. For a public works loan the increase on the precept per household would be very small - those unable to afford are already exempt or on reduced rates. The proposed site known locally as "Squatters" is an eyesore in the town and a hotspot of anti-social behaviour, the car park project could improve the aesthetics and help regenerate the High Street. The member of the public concluded that if the Town Council don't do something the town which is already dying will die.

The Council thanked the members of the public for attending and putting forward their points.

2408E/04

Rescission Notice

The Council resolved the Rescission Notice dated 8th August 2024 submitted by Cllr Billy Boyd re minute number 2404E 2/04 (Extraordinary Full Council Meeting April 2024) "Cllr Gunn proposed that the Council shelve the entire project completely. This was seconded by Cllr Boyd. When put to the vote, three Councillors voted in favour of the proposal, four voted against the proposal and one Councillor abstained.

Regarding the above resolution pertaining to the proposed car park project, I have the support of fellow Councillors and would like to raise a special motion to rescind this resolution so that the Town Council can vote again as new information has come to light."

Cllr Fox asked Cllr Boyd if he wished to speak on this. Cllr Boyd explained that he felt that the project was costing too much money, it was too long winded and that the Council were spending too much time on it.

The Clerk advised that the Rescission Notice was valid as it was signed by five Councillors – Cllr Fox, Cllr Kofoed, Cllr Boyd, Cllr Gunn and Cllr Stephenson.

RESOLUTION: The Rescission Notice was resolved as valid.

ACTION: Town Clerk

Cllr Fox addressed the meeting noting that following the professional valuation instructed by the Town Council an

agreement could not be reached with the landowners in line with that market valuation. The Town Council cannot spend public money above the market value to make any purchases. The survey instructed by the Town Council had provided information that the parking in the Market Place is 'ten minutes or less' convenience parking, with a high turnover and is not long-term parking. North Lincolnshire Council had, to date, not offered any financial support to the project.

Cllr Frankish left the meeting.

2408E/05

Car Parking Provision

The Council received and agreed actions required to the proposal to the Council from Cllr Billy Boyd dated 14 August 2024:

All works associated with providing Kirton in Lindsey Town with a new Car Park are to be placed on hold until such time as:

1. Funding for the entire project^[1] (from conception to end user occupation) has been secured in full without any funding taken or planned to be taken from the Town precept and the project is free of any cost to the Town residents.
2. Potentially suitable land has been identified, is available for purchase and can be purchased for a sum not more than the market value^[2] of that land.

^[1] "project" is defined as Stages zero to seven (inclusive) of the RIBA Plan of Work 2020.

^[2] The "market value" shall be the average of 3 independent valuers appointed by KLTC.

All Councillors present put forward their points of view and concerns.

Cllr Gunn asked that it be recorded that she had always been against the provision of a car park because of the cost to the public. The Council had wasted money and time looking at this project. The Market Place is already nearly all residential and there is plenty of parking on side streets throughout the town which should be used. The issue of the condition on the planning application decision for the 8pm closure and ongoing maintenance work had not been taken into consideration. Cllr Gunn said that some Councillors have misled the public that this would all be free – nothing is free and so parishioners have been lied to.

Cllr Stephenson proposed an amendment to the proposal due to the difficulties experienced in obtaining market valuations to read *'The "market value" shall be the average of at least two independent valuers appointed by KLTC.'* Cllr Fox seconded this proposal.

RESOLUTION: That with the amended wording the proposal was approved unanimously.

A member of the public noted that a vote should be taken on the substantive proposal.

RESOLUTION: That the original proposal (as amended) was approved unanimously.

2408E/06

Exclusion of the Public & Press

The Council considered the exclusion of the public and press under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the matters to be discussed.

RESOLUTION: That the public and press be excluded.

Cllr Frankish returned to the meeting.

2408E/07

Staff payments

The Council considered payment of overtime worked by the Assistant Clerk/Venue Manager.

RESOLUTION: That the Assistant Clerk/Venue Manager is paid for the extra hours worked.

ACTION: Town Clerk

The meeting closed at 7:10pm