

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the East Lindsey District Council held in the Council Chamber at Tedder Hall, Manby Park, Louth, on Wednesday, 14th May, 2003 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor P.N. Phillipson (Chairman)
Councillor B.P. Burnett (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors G. Allan, M.C. Anderson, W.J. Aron, S.M. Avison, D.J. Bolland, Mrs. J.P. Bradley, Mrs. I. Burnett, J.B. Byford, R.H. Caudwell, R.I. Charlton, N.D. Cooper, Ms. J.M. Crooks, J.L. Dodsworth, D.R. Edginton, G.O. Ellis, S.W. Eyre, C. Finch, A. Fletcher, A.F. Fox, G.M. Gooding, A. Grist, P.M. Harness, Mrs. J. Harrison, Mrs. S.D. Harrison, Mrs. C.E. Hart, H.D. Hill, J.D. Hough, P. Jackson, T.J. Knowles, Ms. L.M.A.W. Koumi, P. Leivers, Mrs. F.M. Martin, K. Milner, Mrs. R.N. Morrison, E.P. Mossop, N. Newby, S.W. Newton, B. O'Connor, R.J. Palmer, Mrs. J. Pears, N.L. Pimperton, Mrs. A.R. Pratley, J.V. Ranyard, J.G. Roy, Mrs. I.J. Simons, D.A. Simpson, R.B. Shields, M.B.E., Mrs. D.A. Stephenson, J.M. Swanson, Dr. L.D. Taffinder, J.W. Upsall, C.J. Webb and G.C. Wilson, B.E.M.

The Meeting opened with a prayer from the Chairman's Chaplain, Reverend Mark Holden.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was Moved by Councillor E.P. Mossop and Seconded by Councillor T.J. Knowles that Councillor B.P. Burnett be elected Chairman of the Council.

There being no further nominations, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Brian Peter Burnett be elected Chairman of East Lindsey District Council for the Year 2003/2004.

The retiring Chairman extended congratulations to his successor upon his election.

COUNCILLOR B.P. BURNETT IN THE CHAIR

The Chairman formally made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. He thanked Members for their support, and stated he was honoured to serve, as Chairman and that he would carry out his duties during the coming year to the best of his ability.

2. VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING CHAIRMAN

The new Chairman moved a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman for all the work he had undertaken in representing the District Council.

The Motion was Seconded, and it was

RESOLVED

That the thanks of the Council be placed on record to Councillor Phillipson for all the duties undertaken on behalf of the Council during the past year.

The Chairman then presented a plaque to the retiring Chairman as a memento of his term of office

Councillor Phillipson responded, stating that he would treasure the memory of his year in office; he expressed his thanks to Officers and Members past and present for their support; also to his Chaplain, the Reverend Mark Holden; he thanked the Chairman's Secretary – Mrs. Anne Clarke for all her help; and his Vice-Chairman – Councillor Burnett for all his help especially during the past four weeks – wishing him all the best for his term of office.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was Moved by Councillor P.M. Harness and Seconded by Councillor Mrs. F.M. Martin that Councillor G. Richards be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council

There being no further nominations, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Geoffrey Richards be elected Vice-Chairman of the East Lindsey District Council for the year 2003/2004.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd April 2003, were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN'S CHAPLAIN

The Chairman stated that the Rev. Leigh Goodwin, Minister for both Alford and Louth Christian Fellowship, had agreed to act as Chaplain during his year of office.

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. S.L. Cammack, R. Curtis, Mrs. J.E. Hill, Mrs. J. Pears and G. Richards.

7. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman extended a welcome to both re-elected and newly elected Members of the Council.

He also reminded Members of Council Procedure Rules relating to Rules of Debate.

The Chairman also invited Members to join him for light refreshments in the Members Room at 4.00 p.m.

8. 'WILDPLACE'- ACCESSIBLE GREEN SPACE

At their Meetings held on 19th February 2003 and 26th February 2003, both the Community and Environment Policy Forum and the Economic Policy Forum recommended that Council consider the benefits of publicly accessible green spaces and adopt the new district wide scheme, 'Wildplace'.

The Director of Planning and Regeneration presented a report to Members which outlined the benefits of open green spaces to people, wildlife and the environment; highlighted the success of Northamptonshire County Council in their 'Pocket Parks' Project and the principles of the proposed District Council's Scheme 'Wildplace'.

RESOLVED

1. That the cultural, social and environmental benefits of accessible green spaces managed and maintained by local people for wildlife be noted.
2. That the new district wide scheme, '*Wildplace*' promoting access to the countryside and urban green spaces; helping to protect and enhance local wildlife, heritage and landscape be adopted.

9. VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME

Note: Councillor M.C. Anderson declared a personal interest in this item, as a Non Executive Director of the United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust, and remained in the Meeting.

Councillors Ms. L.M.A.W. Koumi declared a personal interest in this item, as a Non Executive Director of the Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust, and remained in the Meeting.

Councillor Mrs. D.A. Stephenson declared a personal interest in this item as a Non Executive Director of the East Lindsey Primary Care Trust, and remained in the Meeting.

At its Meeting on 26th February 2003, the Economic Policy Forum recommended that the Council implement the proposed interim guidelines.

The Director of Planning and Regeneration presented a report, which requested Members approve the changes to the Voluntary Car Scheme to reflect changes in the incidence of transport availability and to avoid future misuse of the scheme.

It was highlighted to Members that paragraph 5.1 of the report had been amended to read as follows:-

"In conclusion the following criteria will be followed when dealing with claims

- eligibility guidelines to only include doctors and dentists appointments within the district and hospital appointments at hospitals within Lincolnshire and Grimsby for emergency use only and/or where there is no other transport available. It is a last resort scheme for transport availability, not on the basis of affordability;
- advise voluntary Co-ordinators to introduce police and insurance checks for drivers to protect the passengers and volunteers;
- identification badges to be introduced for voluntary drivers; and
- monitoring meetings with co-ordinators at least every six months.”

Following a short discussion Members raised the following issues:-

- all voluntary car drivers should under go health checks to be included within the scheme;
- review the scheme in a years time; and
- liaison with the County Council.

Officers responded to questions raised by Members.

RESOLVED

1. That the findings of the review of the Voluntary Car Scheme be noted.
2. That the interim guidelines detailed as [Appendix A](#) to these Minutes be implemented with effect from 1st May 2003, as recommended by the Economic Policy Forum and paragraph 5.1 as amended above.
3. That the Voluntary Car Scheme be reviewed as part of both the Best Value Review into Transport and the Transport Strategy, to ensure a consistent approach to funding and support of community transport schemes.
4. That a further monitoring report concerning the Voluntary Car Scheme be presented to Council in a year's time.

10. EAST LINDSEY LOCAL PLAN 2001/2002-SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY

The Director of Planning and Regeneration presented a report requesting that Members agree to the revised settlement hierarchy, attached as Appendix C to the report for inclusion in the deposit draft of the East Lindsey Local Plan as recommended by the Economic Policy Forum at their Meeting held on 9th April 2003.

It was Proposed and Seconded:-

“That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.”

Following consideration of the report, officers responded to questions raised by Members.

A long debate followed with particular concerns being expressed by some Members at the inconsistency of the hierarchy. Other Members commented that the villages of Kirkby on Bain and Bilsby should be moved from the small villages group to the core villages group.

An Amendment was Moved and Seconded:-

“That the recommendations contained in the report be approved subject to the settlement hierarchy as attached at Appendix C to the report being amended to include the villages of Kirkby on Bain and Bilsby to the core villages group.

That a degree of flexibility be made available within the Settlement Hierarchy to allow for change, and that equal consideration be given to other factors as outlined at 1.5 of the report presented when assessing future development.”

RESOLVED

1. That the settlement hierarchy attached as [Appendix ‘B’](#) to these Minutes which includes Kirkby on Bain and Bilsby in the core villages group be approved for inclusion in the deposit draft of the East Lindsey Local Plan 2001-2021.
2. That a degree of flexibility be made available within the Settlement Hierarchy to allow for change, and that equal consideration be given to other factors as outlined at 1.5 of the report presented when assessing future development.

11. LOCAL PLAN REVIEW- FORMAT AND TIMETABLE

At its Meeting on the 9th April 2003, the Economic Policy Forum had considered the above issue and had recommended adoption of the plan format and plan time table.

A report was submitted by the Director of Planning and Regeneration setting out details concerning the format and timetable for the Council’s Local Plan 2001-2021.

RESOLVED

1. That the plan format described at paragraphs 1.3 – 1.6 and the plan timetable attached as Appendix B to the report be approved for the Council’s Local Plan 2001-2021.
2. That the Director of Planning and Regeneration be authorised to make any minor amendments to (1) above.

12. GOULCEBY AND ASTERBY CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

At its Meeting held on 9th April 2003, the Economic Policy Forum had considered the issues regarding the request for adoption of the Goulceby and Asterby Character Assessment as Supplementary Planning Guidance, and had recommended the report’s content and recommendations for the Council’s approval.

The Director of Planning and Regeneration presented a report requesting that Members consider the aforementioned request.

RESOLVED

1. That the Goulceby and Asterby Character Assessment be noted as a useful general character statement for the Villages.
2. That the contents of the Goulceby and Asterby Character Assessment be taken into account by the Council when preparing the replacement East Lindsey Local Plan,
3. That the Goulceby and Asterby Character Assessment be not adopted at this stage as Supplementary Planning Guidance.
5. That the Goulceby and Asterby Character Assessment be not approved for use alongside the current East Lindsey Local Plan in determining planning applications.
6. That the Group responsible for the Assessment's preparation be congratulated on their work; advised of the Council's decision, and asked if they wish to continue to develop the Assessment into a more formal status.

13. EXECUTIVE BOARD – CALL IN AND URGENCY

Note:- Councillors R.J. Palmer N.L. Pimperton, and Dr. L.D. Taffinder each declared a personal interest at sub paragraph (i) of this item, as Justices of the Peace, and remained in the Meeting.

Councillor Ms. J.M. Crooks also declared a personal interest at sub paragraph (i) of this item, because of employment connections, and remained in the Meeting.

The Chief Executive submitted a report to advise Members of a number of urgent decisions taken by the Executive Board which were not subject to the Call In procedure.

Following a short debate, it was

RESOLVED

1. That the reasons for urgency for sub paragraph (i) and (iii) of the report be accepted and that the Executive Boards view that the Horncastle Magistrates Court be retained be endorsed.
2. That clarification be sought from the Executive Board concerning sub paragraph (ii), on which of the decisions detailed at Minute No. 382 from the Meeting held on 8th April, 2003 were urgent and which should have been subject to Call In.

14. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was Moved by Councillor A. Grist and Seconded by Councillor H.D. Hill that Councillor C.J. Webb be elected Leader of the Council.

It was further Moved by Councillor D.J. Bolland and Seconded by Councillor M.C. Anderson that Councillor J.D. Hough be elected Leader of the Council.

A secret ballot was taken and it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Charles Jeremy Webb be elected Leader of East Lindsey District Council for the year 2003/2004.

15. ELECTION OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was Moved by Councillor C.J. Webb and Seconded by Councillor P.M. Harness that Councillor H.D. Hill be elected Deputy Leader of the Council.

It was further Moved by Councillor A.F. Fox and Seconded by Councillor J.L. Dodsworth that Councillor Mrs. F.M. Martin be elected Deputy Leader of the Council.

A secret ballot was taken and it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Harold David Hill be elected Deputy Leader of East Lindsey District Council for the year 2003/2004.

16. APPOINTMENT OF 7 MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Seven Members of the Council were Proposed and Seconded for appointment to the Executive, and it was

RESOLVED

That Councillors D.J. Bolland, Mrs. J.P. Bradley, A. Grist, J.D. Hough, P.J. Leather, Mrs. F.M. Martin and Dr. L.D. Taffinder be appointed to the Executive Board for the year 2003/2004.

17. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

A report was presented by the Chief Executive to agree the allocation of places on Committees in accordance with the Political Groups Regulations.

RESOLVED

1. That the five Review Groups be comprised of eleven Members on each Group.
2. That the allocation of places be approved as set out in [Appendix 'C'](#) attached to these Minutes, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
3. That the appointments to the Standards Committee be approved as follows – Councillors Mrs. S. L. Cammack, R. Curtis, S.W. Eyre, Mrs. S.D. Harrison, Ms. L.M.A.W. Koumi and P. Leivers.
4. That the appointment of the Parish/Town Council representatives and the vacant Independent Member position for the Standards Committee be considered at the Meeting of the Council to be held on 25th June, 2003.
5. That the Groups' appointments to the various Committees as set out in [Appendix 'D'](#) attached to these Minutes be noted.
7. That an Appointments Panel be constituted to deal with the current appointment of a Chief Officer, the Panel to comprise of the four Group Leaders plus five members appointed on a proportionate basis.

18. OUTSIDE BODIES

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive to consider the Council's appointment of Members to serve on Outside Bodies. Members were informed that appointments to Outside Bodies in accordance with the Council's Constitution needed reviewing annually.

Members were further informed that the Constitution specified that responsibility for appointing Members to Outside Bodies should be divided between the Council and the Executive Board, this division to be on the basis of responsibility for functions.

RESOLVED

That the Council's appointment to Outside Bodies be deferred to the next Council Meeting to be held on 25th June 2003 to allow expressions of interests to be received.

19. DELEGATION BY THE COUNCIL

Further to the adoption of the Constitution of the Council in September 2001, the Chief Executive presented a report to confirm the Council's delegation of functions to the various Committees and/or the Executive Board; which were categorised in the legislation as 'local choice' functions and 'Council' functions, all other functions being the responsibility of the Executive Board.

RESOLVED

That the scheme of delegation of Council functions be approved as set out in [Appendix 'E'](#) to these Minutes.

20. COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF REVIEW GROUPS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive to consider the Terms of Reference and operation of the Five Review Groups established by the Council at its Meeting held on 23rd April, 2003.

RESOLVED

1. That Article 6 of the Council's Constitution be amended as set out in [Appendix 'F'](#) to these Minutes.
2. That the Scope of the Review Groups be considered at the next Meeting of the Council following the first Meeting of each Group.
3. That a quorum for a Meeting of a Review Group be 5 and Schedule 1 to the Council's procedure Rules be amended accordingly.
4. That the Chief Executive be authorised to make the necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution following the adoption of the Review Group structure.

The Meeting closed at 4.45 p.m.