

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

9 DECEMBER 2011

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

The agenda in the Green Book will be followed

Prayers will be led by the Reverend Colin Bowden

Councillor N D Cooper in the Chair

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

List of apologies to be read by the Chief Executive.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS**

Councillors to announce any interests.

(NB Councillors are reminded that there is no need to declare an interest unless he/she is being asked to take a decision on any matter in which he/she has an interest)

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2011**

The Chairman to state: -

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 September 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. **ELECTION OF A COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR THE SLEAFORD WEST AND LEASINGHAM DIVISION**

I would like to welcome Councillor Andrew Hagues, recently elected representative for the Sleaford West and Leasingham Electoral Division, who is attending the first meeting of the County Council since his election.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman to state as follows:

My civic engagements since the last Council meeting have been varied and have given me the opportunity to continue visiting places within Lincolnshire and some further afield.

I thank my wife Pauline for supporting me on these engagements and also Councillor Robert and Mrs Maureen Palmer, Vice-Chairman and Lady, for representing us at civic functions when we have been unable to attend.

I have attended a variety of events since we met as a Council. I am unable to list them all, but some of the most memorable are included as follows. I represented the Council at a very moving memorial service for Flight Lieutenant Jon Egging of the Red Arrows Aerobatic Team and the funeral of Flight Lieutenant Sean Cunningham, also of the Red Arrows Aerobatic Team at Coventry Cathedral – a tragic and shocking loss. On a brighter note, we attended a wonderful performance by the Lincolnshire Music Service at the String Celebration and I was delighted to have been given the opportunity to welcome Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall to the County.

It is with regret that I have to inform you of the death of former County Councillors Fred Gilchrist, who represented the Boston North West Electoral Division from 1997 to 2005, Maurice French, who represented the Gainsborough Rural North Electoral Division from 1981 to 2001 and who was the Deputy Leader of the County Council from May 1993 to May 1997, and Donald Fisher, who represented the Bourne Abbey Electoral Division from 1981 to 1989.

Can I invite Councillors and Officers to stand in silent memory.

I would now like to give Councillors an opportunity to pay tribute.

May I remind you that the Council meeting scheduled for 10 February next year will now be held on 17 February 2012 at 10.00 a.m.

A complete itinerary of civic engagements, since the last meeting of this Council, together with Councillor Development Events attended by County Councillors are on deposit in the Members' Foyer.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Chairman to state:

The statements/announcements are detailed as report reference 6.0 in the Green Book.

7. QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN, LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS, CHAIRMAN OF ANY COMMITTEE OR SUB-COMMITTEE AND THE NOMINEE OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY

The Chairman to state:

I am anxious to allow a good spread of questions across the Chamber within the time allocated. I intend to allow 45 minutes for questions. I am expecting Councillors to be focused because of the time available.

Would Councillors wishing to ask questions please indicate by pressing their button to join the queue and may I remind Councillors that once you have joined the queue you do not need to press your button when I invite you to speak, or when you sit down.

8. THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S VISION AND PURPOSE

A report by the Executive Director Performance and Governance has been circulated.

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

That the Council's Vision and Purpose be approved.

Councillor E J Poll to second.

9. NEXT GENERATION BROADBAND

A report by the Executive Director Resources and Community Safety has been circulated.

Councillor K J Smith to move:

That the proposed contribution of £10 million to the capital programme for the Next Generation Broadband be approved.

Councillor C E H Marfleet to second.

10. SOUTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE – CHANGE TO SUBSTITUTE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

A report by the Executive Director Performance and Governance has been circulated.

Councillor E J Poll to move:

That Councillor C N Worth be appointed as a substitute member to the South East Lincolnshire Joint Planning Committee.

Councillor I G Fleetwood to second.

11. LINCOLNSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – MEMBERSHIP

A report by the Chief Executive has been circulated.

Councillor Mrs C A Talbot to move:

That the nomination of Mr David Scoffield to serve on the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education under Group B of its membership, representing the Church of England, be approved.

Councillor Mrs C M H Farquharson to second.

12. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING AND REGULATION

Councillor I G Fleetwood to move:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning and Regulation Committee of 5 September 2011, 3 October 2011 and 31 October 2011 be received.

No recommendations.

(b) AUDIT

Councillor B Young to move:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee of 26 September 2011, 31 October 2011 and 14 November 2011 be received.

No recommendations.

(c) PENSIONS

Councillor C Farrar to move:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Pensions Committee of 13 October 2011 be received.

No recommendations.

13. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

The Chairman to state:

Members are reminded of the Rules of Debate. These are set out below:

(i) Rule 13.5 (When a Councillor may speak again)

A Councillor who has spoken on a motion may not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except:

- (a) In exercise of a right of reply;
- (b) on a point of order or information and
- (c) by way of personal explanation.

(ii) Rule 13.9 (Right of reply)

- (a) The mover of a motion has a right to reply at the end of the debate on the motion, immediately before it is put to the vote;
- (b) if an amendment is moved, the mover of the original motion has the right of reply at the close of the debate on the amendment, but may not otherwise speak on it; and
- (c) the mover of the amendment has no right of reply to the debate on his or her amendment.

(1) Motion by Councillor R A Shore

Councillor R A Shore to move:

This Council is extremely disappointed that the Executive of Lincolnshire County Council has chosen to ignore the strength of feeling amongst teachers, parents and friends of Queens Park Special School, Lincoln as well as the well-researched arguments in favour of its continued existence and has decided to close a very 'special' school.

We are also perplexed that, during this challenging time where Academisation is eroding many County Council schools, we are pursuing such a proposal in the first place, namely to close another one ourselves.

The process adopted to close this school has left a very bitter taste in the mouths of many residents of this County. The second and more important consultation process could and should have been much more vigorous. The fact that call-in has been denied on two occasions, may appear to the public that the administration has no interest in listening to the people.

The closing of an Outstanding School, according to Ofsted is an unprecedented move by this authority and must surely distress even Members of the ruling group as well

We implore the Executive to re-consider this decision to close Queens Park School before it is too late.

Councillor J R Marriott to second.

(2) Composite motion by Councillors R B Parker and Mrs M J Overton

Temporary Amendment to Council Procedure Rules (Rule 13.4)

The Chairman to state:

Notice was given of two motions in relation to Youth Services, as detailed under paragraphs A and B below. A composite motion on Youth Services has since been submitted and this will be debated.

The Chairman to move:

That the mover and seconder of the composite motion in relation to Youth Services both be allowed to speak for five minutes.

The Vice-Chairman to second.

Vote on the Temporary Amendment to Council Procedure Rules

The Chairman to state:

I wish to remind Members about the Rules of Debate as set out in Rules 13.5 and 13.9 of the Council Procedure Rules which have not been suspended. These are set out in paragraphs (i) and (ii) on page 5 of this Order of Proceedings.

Councillor R B Parker to move:

This Council asks the Executive, in preparing the County Council budget for 2012/13 to look again at the level of spending on Youth Services to ensure that this vital service is viable and regularly and easily available to young people all across Lincolnshire.

The aim is that, notwithstanding the current economic problems facing local government, that there is continued provision of long term help to our many communities with little or no youth service and that communities which indicate a desire to engage to provide such facilities will receive serious ongoing assistance and help.

Councillor Mrs M J Overton to second.

A) Original motion by Councillor R B Parker (for information)

This Council notes the reduction in spending in 2011/12 (down from £2,815,249 to £1,881,660) on Youth Services of £933,589, a cut of 33%.

This Council also notes the 2012/2013 estimate of spending on Youth Services, which indicates a reduction of £994,099 (down from £1,881,660 to £887,561) which would amount to a further cut of 52%.

Over 2 years this would amount to a reduction in spending on Youth Services of £1,927,688 (down from £2,815,249) to £887,561), or a cut of 68%.

It is recognised that the Council has access to funds from Early Intervention Grant which includes, £0.8m for NEET; £0.350m for Youth Community Development Assistants and £0.7m for Positive Activities for Engagement of Excluded Groups.

Nevertheless this Council recognises the invaluable nature of good quality youth provision. It provides a safe haven for young people, an opportunity to learn new skills, develop empathy and understanding of the needs of others, an opportunity to mix with peers and very importantly a sense of belonging and self worth.

Youth work also features highly in communities as a means of reducing the perception of, and actual anti-social behaviour by young people.

For these reasons, this Council asks the Executive, in preparing the County Council budget for 2012/13 to look again at the level of spending on Youth Services to ensure that this vital service is viable and regularly and easily available to young people all across Lincolnshire.

B) Original motion by Councillor Mrs M J Overton (for information)

This Council views with concern the reduction of youth services in the County, which coupled with increases in the level of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and reductions in police presence, puts particular strain on the communities within our County.

We acknowledge that at least some, very minimal basic provision is continuing to be provided, whilst some neighbouring councils have dismantled their youth service in its entirety.

Despite the hopes of the 'Big Society' agenda, many of us on all sides of the spectrum believe that voluntary provision may take a number of years, rather than months.

We acknowledge that the County is retaining a very limited provision of one session per week in a number of locations and is hoping for a voluntary provision in others.

This Council insists, notwithstanding the current economic structures, that this provision of long term help to our many communities with little or no youth service continues for an indefinite period and that communities which indicate a desire to engage to provide such facilities will receive serious ongoing assistance and help.

14. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The Chairman to state:

Members are reminded to collect their post from their pigeon holes after the meeting.

(At the conclusion of the meeting will all Members please be upstanding in their places until the Chairman has left the Chamber).