



COUNTY COUNCIL  
14 DECEMBER 2012

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR R J PALMER (CHAIRMAN)**

Councillors W J Aron, P Bedford, Mrs P A Bradwell, D Brailsford, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, P A Carpenter, E R Chapman, K J Clarke, C J Davie, D R Dickinson, M Exton, Mrs C M H Farquharson (Vice-Chairman), C Farrar, I G Fleetwood, M W Gilbert, G M Gooding, A G Hagues, Mrs B Harvey OBE, M J Hill OBE, R Hills, J D Hough, D C Hoyes MBE, N I Jackson, Miss A M Jenkyns, Mrs J Johnson, B W Keimach, S F Kinch, J R Marriott, K Milner, Major R Newell, Mrs M J Overton, C R Oxby, R B Parker, Mrs S Rawlins, R A Renshaw, P A Robinson, R A Shore, R B Singleton-McGuire, P A Skinner, K J Smith, M Smith, C L Strange, A N Stokes, E W Strengiel, J M Swanson, T M Trollope-Bellew, A H Turner MBE, Mrs P F Watson, W S Webb, A P Williams, S F Williams, Mrs S Woolley, R Wootten, C N Worth and B Young.

**39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E N Bauer, Mrs P A Bosworth, C J T H Brewis, N D Cooper, G K Dark, R G Davies, J R Hicks, H R Johnson, C E H Marfleet, G A Marsh, Mrs P A Mathers, P J O'Connor, R J Phillips, E J Poll, P S Przyszlak, Mrs C A Talbot, M Tinker and C J Underwood-Frost.

**40. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

**41. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2012**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the County Council held on 14 September 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**42. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that his civic engagements since the last Council meeting had once again been varied and had given him the opportunity to continue visiting places within Lincolnshire and some further afield. He thanked his wife for supporting him on these engagements and also Councillor Mrs C M H Farquharson (Vice-Chairman) for representing them at civic functions when, due to other commitments, they had been unable to attend.

Duties by the Chairman had included attending the Battle of Britain Commemorations and the Lincoln College Graduation Service, where he was given the opportunity to

meet some of the students who continued to make Lincolnshire proud with their skills and dedication to their studies. The Chairman and his wife also attended the annual Remembrance Day Service in Lincoln Cathedral and 'A Community Remembering' Service, which gave families the opportunity to remember loved ones that had been killed on Lincolnshire Roads. They were two very moving services.

The Chairman took the opportunity to wish all members of the Council a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.

**43. STATEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

Statements by Members of the Executive had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

**44. QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN, LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS, CHAIRMAN OF ANY COMMITTEE OR SUB-COMMITTEE**

Questions pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10.3 were asked and answered as follows: -

<u>Questions By</u>	<u>Answered By</u>	<u>Subject</u>
(a) D R Dickinson	M J Hill OBE	H M P Lincoln
(b) N I Jackson	W S Webb	Time lag between trains passing and barriers going down
(c) P A Skinner	K J Smith	Clarification of how individuals would be able to access the planned super-fast broadband
(d) Major R Newell	M J Hill OBE	Condolences to the family of Alex Isherwood, who was killed whilst crossing the railway lines at Ballast Hole.
(e) A N Stokes	W S Webb	School Crossing Policy
(f) R A Renshaw	W S Webb	Introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement
(g) G M Gooding	M J Hill OBE	Newspaper reports that the Council was planning to close a number of libraries within the county.
(h) K J Clarke	W S Webb	Are there any plans to build a third railway bridge at Skellingthorpe Road in addition to the plans for the

		ones on the High Street and Brayford Wharf, Lincoln?
(i) R Hills	W S Webb	Update on the progress of the Lincoln East West Link Road
(j) Mrs M J Overton	W S Webb	Speed Limit Policy
(k) R B Parker	W S Webb	Park and Ride in Lincoln
(l) M Brookes	C R Oxby	Personal Budgets target
(m) J D Hough	Mrs P A Bradwell	Assurance that every child in Lincolnshire would be able to attend a primary school rated as good or outstanding.
(n) E W Strengiel	W S Webb	Cost of the LN6 project

#### **45. AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

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

It was moved, seconded and

**RESOLVED**

That the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2012 be noted.

#### **46. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

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

It was moved, seconded and

**RESOLVED**

1. That the changes to the Constitution as set out in the report and appendix A of the report be approved;
2. That the changes to the Scheme of Delegation relating to the Executive Functions made by the Leader under Rule 1.5 (b) of the Executive Procedure Rules as detailed in Paragraph 1.3 of the report be noted.

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

It was moved, seconded and

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor J R Hicks be appointed to the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel with immediate effect.

**48. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES****RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the following Committees, having been printed, be received: -

(1) Audit	24 September 2012 12 November 2012
(2) Planning and Regulation	1 October 2012 9 November 2012
(3) Pensions	11 October 2012

**49. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE****(a) Motion by Councillor J R Marriott**

It was moved and seconded that

"In view of the Local Government Association's recent forecast of a shortfall of over £19 billion for local authorities' spending by the end of this decade, and the fact that rural counties that have recently introduced unitary authorities have all reported large savings over the last three years (in one case of over £85 million), the County Council commits itself to approaching Lincolnshire's District Councils and other bodies with a view of undertaking a comprehensive review of the council structure in Lincolnshire, with particular reference to the possible abolition of both County and District Councils and the introduction of unitary authorities, either based on the current political boundaries within Lincolnshire or, in consultation with our northern neighbours, on the establishment of unitary governance from the Humber to the Wash."

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was lost.

(b) Motion by Councillor Mrs M J Overton

It was moved and seconded that

"This Council has no confidence in the way in which EMAS is currently managed in Lincolnshire, the area for which we are responsible.

For years we have sought proper analysis on response times for Lincolnshire excluding North and North East Lincolnshire. These have proved increasingly difficult to discover.

Without our own Fire and Rescue co-respondents and LIVES in areas where they exist, the results for Lincolnshire including Scunthorpe and Grimsby would be 8% worse than they currently are.

This voluntary support should ideally improve the service, rather than hiding the inadequate performance of EMAS in Lincolnshire.

The consultation of closing 18 stations and building five new hubs does not as yet provide a clear solution to this. The consultation questions are self-serving and not designed to elicit genuine improvements in the service for Lincolnshire, nor really encouraging constructive suggestions."

An amendment was moved and seconded that

"The Council has concerns in the way EMAS is currently operating in Lincolnshire and recognises that the Health Scrutiny Committee will be considering a response to the consultation process next Wednesday"

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was carried.

The motion as amended took the place of the original motion and became the substantive motion. Therefore the original motion was not voted upon.

(c) Motion by Councillor M Smith

It was moved and seconded that

"On the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 1975 Harold Wilson fulfilled the pledge he made in the Labour Party's October 1974 Manifesto when the United Kingdom went to the polls in its first National Referendum over our membership of the EEC, or Common Market as it was called then.

The turnout in the referendum was 65% and nationally the United Kingdom voted by a margin of 2 to 1 to remain within the EEC. In Lincolnshire 74.7% supported continued membership compared to 25.3% who did not.

The European Question has since the 70's caused deep distrust within our country, particularly as the UK, as a net contributor to the EU budget seems to get a very poor deal from our membership of this elite federalist club. Our National political leaders over the decades have seen more and more powers removed from National governments into the hands of the European Commission. Our residents are upset

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and angry that they have no powers to stem the tide, or change laws imposed on our country, which to a part explains the distrust voters generally feel for all the mainstream political parties and why voter turnout continues to decline.

If you were 17 in 1975 you will be 53 now and you will have probably been a taxpayer for well in excess of 30 years. You have never had a chance to express your opinion on whether Europe is a good or bad thing from your perspective. National politics can only be improved by consulting with and trusting the British people to make the right decisions. What Harold Wilson said simply, and then did was to “give the British people the final say, which will be binding on the government, through the ballot box”.

It is now time for this Country and the residents of Lincolnshire to be given the opportunity through a national referendum to let their views on Europe be known to our Political leaders, across the spectrum.

The Council therefore resolves:

To wholeheartedly endorse and agree to fully support the call for the holding of a National Referendum on our continued membership of the European Union, and as a consequence of this the Council authorises the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister to advise him of this council's position and to urge him during the year ahead to agree a binding timetable for a National Referendum, on our membership of the EU, so it can take place in 2014.”

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

(d) Motion by Councillor R B Parker

It was moved and seconded that

“This Council is extremely disappointed that the Executive of Lincolnshire County Council has chosen not to accept the scrutiny opinions of the all-party Community Scrutiny Committee on the subject of future commissioning arrangement for the provision of crisis loans and community care grants.

The Communities scrutiny committee put forward four amendments to the six recommendations in the paper to the Executive and in addition offered 6 comments about future action, details of which are in the annex to this motion.

Of particular importance are the Communities Scrutiny committee's recommendations 1 and 4.

**Recommendation 1**

It is recognised in the paper to the Executive that there is a significant risk to the Council's reputation of this new scheme failing. Perhaps more importantly are the consequences to people and families in crisis who will not receive help if the service is not fit for purpose and fully operational by 1 April 2013. Members of the scrutiny committee took the view that the allocation of £14K to fund the setting up of the service may not be sufficient and recommended to the Executive that the Council should ‘forward any additional resources necessary to ensure the service is ready by 1 April 2013’.

**Recommendation 4**

The scrutiny committee thought it important that individuals were given a choice of receiving services, goods or cash payments. The importance of helping people in crisis to preserve their dignity should be an essential part of the service provided on behalf of the County Council. The process to be adopted to help people in crisis without recourse to cash payments is both wrong in principle and in practice. People in crisis should not be treated any differently to anyone else.

We urge the Executive to reconsider its decision of 4 December 2012 and to take account of the considered views of the Communities Scrutiny Committee."

Upon being put to the vote the motion was lost.

The meeting closed at 1.05 p.m.