



**COUNCIL
13 DECEMBER 2013**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR RAY WOOTTEN (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors W J Aron (Vice-Chairman), M G Allan, A M Austin, J W Beaver, Mrs P A Bradwell, D Brailsford, C J T H Brewis, T Bridges, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, J P Churchill, K J Clarke, C J Davie, R G Davies, P M Dilks, S R Dodds, G J Ellis, R G Fairman, I G Fleetwood, A G Hagues, J R Hicks, M J Hill OBE, J D Hough, D C Hoyes MBE, D M Hunter-Clarke, R J Hunter-Clarke, N I Jackson, A J Jesson, M S Jones, B W Keimach, Ms T Keywood-Wainwright, S F Kinch, R C Kirk, C E D Mair, C E H Marfleet, J R Marriott, R A H McAuley, D McNally, D C Morgan, Mrs A M Newton, P J O'Connor, Mrs M J Overton, C R Oxby, C Pain, S L W Palmer, R B Parker, N H Pepper, R J Phillips, Mrs H N J Powell, Miss E L Ransome, Miss F E E Ransome, Mrs S Ransome, Mrs S Rawlins, Mrs J M Renshaw, R A Renshaw, Mrs A E Reynolds, P A Robinson, R A Shore, Mrs N J Smith, Mrs E J Sneath, C L Strange, T M Trollope-Bellew, A H Turner MBE JP, S M Tweedale, W S Webb, P Wood, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, C N Worth, Mrs S M Wray and B Young

52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Adams, Mrs V C Ayling, N M Murray and Mrs C A Talbot.

53 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations at this point in the meeting.

54 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2013

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 September 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

55 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2013

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 22 November 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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56 SUBMISSION OF PETITIONS

(a) Objection to the removal of co-ordinators at Miller's Road, Waddington

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme Mrs Carol Phillips spoke for not more than three minutes in explanation of the contents of the petition objection to the removal of co-ordinators at Miller's Road, Waddington.

The Executive Director Performance and Governance had determined that the petition would be referred to North Kesteven District Council.

(b) Request for action to taken regarding road safety on the A631

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme Mr Geoff Keeley spoke for not more than three minutes in explanation of the contents of the petition requesting action to be taken regarding road safety on the A631.

The Executive Director Performance and Governance had determined that the petition would be referred to the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT.

(c) Objection to the application by Network Rail to close the Ballast Hole pedestrian rail crossing

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme Dr Keith Linley spoke for not more than three minutes in explanation of the contents of the petition objecting to the application by Network Rail to close the Ballast Hole pedestrian rail crossing.

The Executive Director Performance and Governance had determined that the petition would be referred to the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT.

(d) Petition supporting a 20mph default speed limit in Abbey Ward, Lincoln on all residential roads

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme Mrs Ann East spoke for not more than three minutes in explanation of the contents of the petition supporting a 20mph default speed limit in Abbey Ward, Lincoln on all residential roads.

The Executive Director Performance and Governance had determined that the petition would be referred to the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT.

57 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that his civic engagements since the last Council meeting had been varied and had given him the opportunity to continue visiting places within Lincolnshire and meeting interesting people. He thanked his wife Linda for supporting him on these engagements and also Councillor Bill Aron and Amanda Job, Vice-Chairman and Lady, for representing them at civic functions when, due to other commitments, they had been unable to attend.

He reported that his duties had included visiting the Lincolnshire Farm Kitchen, attending the Lincolnshire Police Annual Recognition Awards Ceremony, the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance and the Remembrance Day Service at Lincoln Cathedral, the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership Community Remembrance Service and Lincoln College Awards Ceremony, where we had the opportunity to meet staff and students. The Chairman was also delighted to welcome HRH The Princess Royal to the County when she visited Grantham, West Pinchbeck and Boston.

The Chairman advised that that evening he would be attending a Lincolnshire Police Christmas Carol Service and the Lincoln Sea and Marine Cadets Awards Evening.

Members were reminded that the Local Government Boundary Commission originally gave notice that they would be carrying out an electoral review for Lincolnshire in 2014. The timetable for that review would have required a decision at this meeting about a submission to the Commission on the future size of the County Council (number of Councillors). The Commission has now informed us that they are delaying their review of the County Council by a year. The proposal on size required next year will be developed by a cross party working group before reporting back to Council.

The Chairman was delighted to announce that as part of the County Council's wellbeing strategy, 385 Council employees took part in the Global Corporate Challenge, where they walked around a virtual world measuring every step using an Accelerometer, which was the latest in pedometer technology. They competed against employees from all over the world. The challenge lasted for 16 weeks, which research has shown to be a behaviour changing period. Lincolnshire County Council successfully completed this challenge and came second in the world in the Government category. This was out of 100 councils!

On a sadder note, since the last ordinary meeting of Council there have been the deaths of County Councillor Chris Underwood-Frost, who represented the Scotter Rural Division from May 2001, and former Chairman of the County Council, Jack Libell, who represented the Louth Marsh Division from 1976 to 2005. The Chairman invited those councillors who wished to do, to pay tribute to both gentlemen.

The Chairman advised that a complete itinerary of civic engagements since the last meeting of this Council are on deposit in the Members' Foyer.

58 STATEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF
THE EXECUTIVE

Statements by the Leader and Members of the Executive had been circulated with the agenda.

Councillor C J Davie, Executive Director for Economic Development, Environment, Planning and Tourism was pleased to announce that an additional investment to the

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On Lincolnshire programme had been agreed which aimed to bring super-fast broadband to Lincolnshire. The £510,000 investment from the County Council had levered in £684,000 from BT and £1.6m from the ERDF, which made a total of £2.794m. This would improve broadband for an additional 5799 premises within the county.

The programme was going very well and extra fibre optic spines were being laid across the county. It was hoped that a further 14,000 premises would be upgraded and live by the end of January 2014. The government had also started to engage with the authority in relation to funding for the 10% hardest to reach.

Councillor C N Worth, Executive Councillor for Libraries, Heritage, Culture, Registration and Coroners Service was pleased to announce that following a rigorous assessment which included on-site inspections, the Collection, Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Discover Stamford and Gainsborough Old Hall had all received full museum accreditation. This meant that they had national standards to perform to and was a demonstration of good practice. However, it was also a pre-condition for future lottery funding applications. The Executive Councillor paid tribute to Mark McCree, the Collections Access Management, and his team for all the work which had been put into achieving this.

59 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN, THE LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

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

<u>Question by</u>	<u>Answer by</u>	<u>Subject</u>
a) A M Austin	Mrs P A Bradwell	Transfer of staff to new provider at Fenside Centre, Boston
b) Mrs J Renshaw	C N Worth	Attendance at Ermine Library Christmas Fair
c) D McNally	C J Davie	Support of the Boston Barrier by Lincolnshire County Council
d) D Brailsford	M J Hill OBE	Implications of the Autumn Statement on the people of Lincolnshire
e) S L W Palmer	M J Hill OBE	Savings made by the changes to the library service

f) P Dilks	C N Worth	Provision of static libraries
g) R G Fairman	C J Davie	Building of houses on grade one farmland
h) I G Fleetwood	C J Davie	Status of the plan and process for the Central Lincolnshire Joint Plan
i) Mrs A E Reynolds	C N Worth	Voluntary groups applying for grants for community hubs
j) J D Hough	M J Hill OBE	Submissions of expressions of interest by staff in libraries
k) C L Strange	R G Davies	Support Edward Leigh MP in campaign for better rail services within the county
l) B McAuley	M J Hill OBE	Provision of sandbags
m) N I Jackson	C N Worth	Possibility of relocating Bracebridge library to the community centre
n) R J Hunter-Clarke	M J Hill OBE	Costs of the library consultation
o) G Ellis	B Young	Changes to staff working conditions
p) M J Brookes	M J Hill OBE	Update on recovery efforts in Boston following the recent flooding
q) Mrs M J Overton	M J Hill OBE	Number of seats on Joint Lincolnshire Panel
r) K J Clarke	R G Davies	Reputation of partners working with the County Council

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s) W S Webb	C J Davie	Update on the effects of the flooding at Gibraltar Point and Donna Nook
t) C Pain	C J Davie	Assurance that important of flood defences was recognised
u) R Kirk	M J Hill OBE	Membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board
v) Miss F E E Ransome	C N Worth	Budgets for community hubs
x) R Renshaw	R G Davies	Road safety for residents during the Christmas Market
y) C J T H Brewis	C N Worth	Update on the expressions of interest received for running community hubs
z) S R Dodds	Mrs P A Bradwell	Quality of care that was being commissioned
aa) R B Parker	C N Worth	Approaches to library services by other authorities
bb) C Morgan	C N Worth	Library consultation

60 APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

It was moved, and seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Council appoints Councillor Mrs Linda Wootten as the Vice-Chairman of the Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

61 LINCOLNSHIRE SUSTAINABLE SERVICES REVIEW

A report by the Executive Director Public Health had been circulated.

The Chairman invited the Executive Director Public Health to make a presentation to Councillors on the Lincolnshire Sustainable Services Review.

Councillors were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions following the presentation.

62 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES:

(a) Audit Committee - 23 September 2013

That the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 23 September 2013 be received.

(b) Audit Committee - 11 November 2013

That the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 11 November 2013 be received.

(c) Planning and Regulation - 2 September 2013

That the minutes of the Planning and Regulation Committee held on 2 September 2013 be received.

(d) Planning and Regulation - 7 October 2013

That the minutes of the Planning and Regulation Committee held on 7 October 2013 be received.

(e) Planning and Regulation - 4 November 2013

That the minutes of the Planning and Regulation Committee held on 4 November 2013 be received.

(f) Pensions Committee - 10 October 2013

That the minutes of the Pensions Committee held on 10 October 2013 be received.

(g) Pensions Committee - 29 November 2013

That the minutes of the Pensions Committee held on 29 November 2013 be received.

63 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE (IF ANY)

Motion by Councillor R J Hunter-Clarke

It was moved and seconded that:-

"To change the council's form of governance in accordance with Section 9 K and 9 KC of the Local Government Act 2000 to a committee form of governance as provided in Section 9B (1) (B) of that act.

This would be achieved by creating a cross party working group to determine how the system would work for Lincolnshire County Council.

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We believe that this would address the democratic deficit that exists at county hall. The power of the council is currently held with the nine Executive Councillors and this must be addressed. In adopting a committee form of governance it would allow all councillors to more effectively be part of the decision making process.

The findings of the working group to be brought back for Full Council to vote on with the intention of adopting the new system of governance at the Annual Meeting in May 2014.

1. Background

1.1. The Localism Act was introduced on 15 November 2011. The aim of the Act is to improve freedoms and flexibility for local government and to allow power to be exercised at the lowest practical level, close to the people who are affected by decisions. The Act contains provisions that allow local authorities to change from operating executive arrangements to a committee system.

1.2. The Localism Act (the Act) now specifies that, in order to change from a cabinet system to a committee system, local authorities must:-

- Pass a resolution to change their governance arrangements;
- As soon as practicable after passing the resolution, make the provisions of the new arrangements available for inspection;
- Publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area a notice which describes the features of the new system and timescales for implementation.

If a resolution is passed and publicity requirements above complied with Lincolnshire County Council will be required to cease operating their old form of governance arrangements and start operating their new arrangements. This must take place "at the relevant change time" which, in the case of a move from a cabinet system to a committee system, is defined as:-

- a) The first annual meeting of the local authority to be held after the resolution to make the change in governance arrangements is passed, or
- b) A later annual meeting of the local authority specified in that resolution."

An amendment was put forward to replace the original motion with the following wording:

"The Council recognises that the current form of governance of a Leader and Executive may be seen as leaving a democratic deficit, whilst recognising the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 this Council accepts that more decisions can be made by Full Council so as to give all Councillors an opportunity to make a contribution on behalf of their constituents and accordingly ask the current all-party Working Group on the constitution to bring back proposals to achieve that aim"

The amendment was put to the mover of the motion, and was accepted.

A recorded vote was successfully requested, and upon being put to the vote, the amended motion was lost.

Motion by Councillor J D Hough

It was moved and seconded that:

"In the years leading up to 2010 this Council, led by the Conservatives, carried out a vigorous public campaign called 'The Missing Millions' to put pressure on the Labour Government to give Lincolnshire even more money that it was being given at that time.

Since the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats took control nationally in 2010, this Council has turned on its head and said that Lincolnshire must take its share of cuts in order to demonstrate how it can suffer along with the rest of the country.

Unfortunately, what has become clear is that Lincolnshire, already one of the poorest counties in the country with low wage levels, is slipping even further behind with the growing concentration of wealth in the South East. The 2012 figures for the annual survey of hours and earnings show average wages for each full time worker in Lincolnshire as being £23,101 compared to the East Midlands figure of £24,337 and the England & Wales figure of £26,307

The coalition government recently announced the award of funding under the Growing Places Fund. This money is meant to 'generate economic activity in the short term by addressing immediate infrastructure and site constraints and promote the delivery of jobs and housing'. Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEPs) was awarded £9,801,076 out of a pot of £730 million. 25 out of 39 LEPs received higher funding than the Lincolnshire LEP and it needs to be borne in mind that the Lincolnshire LEP included North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire. By contrast the award to the Pan London LEP was over £110 million whilst the South East LEP was given just under £50 million. These were the two highest awards of money from a fund which is designed to 'generate economic activity in the short term' and to 'promote the delivery of jobs and housing'.

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Lincolnshire is highly rural and has a lengthy coastline. It needs more support to provide additional investment for the growth opportunities locally, such as in engineering, food production and the university as recently highlighted by East Midlands Councils in its report "East Midlands – An Excellent Investment Opportunity".

This Council therefore resolves to launch a campaign to get the Government to fully recognise the needs of Lincolnshire and ensure that the county grows faster in the future rather than falling further behind the rest of the country."

An amendment to the last paragraph, as follows, was proposed and seconded:-

"The Council therefore resolves to launch a campaign, based on agreement between all group leaders on Lincolnshire County Council to get all national political parties to fully recognise the contribution that Lincolnshire makes to UK Plc and the needs that Lincolnshire has so the county can enjoy accelerated growth in the future."

This amendment was accepted by the mover of the motion. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

The meeting closed at 4.20 pm