

**BARTON-UPON-HUMBER ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MINUTES of MEETING HELD in the ASSEMBLY ROOMS
on THURSDAY 12 APRIL 2012 COMMENCING at 7.30 pm**

Present

Councillor Mrs D Pearson (Chairman)

Councillors P Adams, Mrs D Adlard, J Austin, T Chant, Mrs A Clark, F Coulsey, M Martin, M Osgerby, Mrs J Oxley, Mr J Oxley, A Todd, J P Vickers and K Vickers.

Also Present

Martin Vickers (MP for Cleethorpes Constituency), Inspector B Rutty (Rural Neighbourhood Inspector) representing Humberside Police, Mr R Hindmarsh (representing North Lincolnshire Council Infrastructure Services), Mr P Hotchin (representing North Lincolnshire Council Neighbourhood & Environment), Mr S Ringwood (Scunthorpe Telegraph), 5 local residents, Members of Barton Town Council, Mrs C Clark (Deputy Town Clerk) and Ms S Richards (Town Clerk).

1. **Welcome from the Chairman**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs D Pearson, welcomed the attending public, also extending a welcome to introduce Martin Vickers MP and representatives of the Barton Local Policing Team, North Lincolnshire Council and Members of Barton-upon-Humber Town Council.

2. **Notice of Meeting**

It was noted that Notice of this Meeting had been given in accordance with Schedule 12 Paragraph 14 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

3. **Barton-upon-Humber Town Council Annual Reports 2011/2012**

Consideration was given to the above mentioned Reports, circulated with the April 2012 issue of the 'Bartonian'. The Chairmen of the Committees or representatives were introduced for the respective Committee Reports. Members of the public were given a brief resume and invited to ask relevant questions.

(a) Community Regeneration Committee (Councillor A Todd) - No questions.

(b) Environmental Regeneration Committee (Councillor Mrs J Oxley) – No questions.

(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee (Councillor K Vickers) - No questions.

(d) Planning Committee (Councillor Mr J Oxley) – Two comments were made regarding North Lincolnshire Council re-instating provision of large scale plans to town/parish councils regarding planning applications made. The Clerk commented that despite numerous requests from the town council, they were not prepared to do this anymore. This was mainly down to budget restrictions. Whilst town/parish councils are statutory consultees, there is no policy to furnish them with paper plans.

4. **Questions for Barton Local Policing Team**

Inspector B Rutty answered questions and made comment on the following matters:

A local resident commented upon empty shops in the town and if anything could be done to enforce property owners to enhance the premises. Inspector Rutty commented that action by the Police is only usually taken when theft from the property occurs or vandalism. Mr Hotchin reported that North Lincolnshire Council do have some enforcement powers with landlords and property owners, as do the Fire Authority regarding fire hazards. Arson reduction officers are available to provide advice. Councillor Martin concluded that whilst some eyesores do exist, it was felt most property owners had a sense of pride for the town. The poor condition of Oddfellows Hall was also discussed which had been reported previously to the land agent/owner.

What effect the town centre cctv system had on local crime reduction was queried. Inspector Rutty stated that this was difficult to quantify. Such systems were mainly to provide reassurance to the public as a crime prevention measure and to aid criminal investigation. However, it had proved a great assistance in identifying suspects of various criminal activities on captured images.

A vehicle parked on/off the footpath on West Acridge for over 10 weeks was queried by a local resident who had reported it to the Police and North Lincolnshire Council. As the vehicle was taxed, it could not be removed, even though it was reportedly blocking the highway for emergency vehicle access. Inspector Rutty replied this matter fell into a grey area with joint responsibility. Due to decriminalisation, enforcement fell to North Lincolnshire Council, whilst road safety fell to the Police. He then outlined enforcement and road safety issues. Mr R Hindmarsh commented that if parking restrictions had been breached, North Lincolnshire Council Enforcement should be contacted for advice (contact: Mr Harry Metcalf).

5. **Questions for North Lincolnshire Council**

Councillor Mrs Clark commented that the town centre required additional car parking space and a new infrastructure as the town was rapidly growing. It was acknowledged this had been raised previously. She also made comment upon the congestion of traffic parking on Burgate, making it difficult to park outside the Church for services, funerals, weddings etc. Local residents suggested a park and ride scheme at the Humber Bridge Viewing Area car park, 2 hour penalty restrictions on parking in the Cottage Lane and town centre car parks, and residential parking permits for Queens Avenue. It was reported that residents found it increasingly difficult to park near to their properties, due to daily business vehicles parking there during the daytime. Mr R Hindmarsh commented he would take these matters up with North Lincolnshire Council and report back to the Clerk with any findings. The residents of Queens Avenue need to contact the Traffic Officer at North Lincolnshire Council Infrastructure Services, Hewson House, Brigg, for further advice.

A local resident made comment upon traffic issues in the town centre and a public meeting they had attended 2 years ago regarding review of the town centre highway system. To date, it was commented nothing seems to have come of it. The Clerk commented that this matter had appeared to have been put onto the back burner at the present time, due to budget restrictions at North Lincolnshire Council, who are responsible for the highway. Mr R Hindmarsh stated that he was aware previous plans had been drawn up, but, nothing appeared to be currently in the planning stage. He was aware that some objections had been previously made to some proposals. However, he would look into this matter and report back to the town council accordingly.

Councillor Mr J Oxley thanked North Lincolnshire Council for improvements made to the gully cleansing programme in the town and litter and debris removal. However, there were existing problems with flooding on the corner of Marsh Lane/Burgate/High Street junction and Priestgate/Whitecross Street that need to be looked into. For report to North Lincolnshire Council.

6. **General Questions from the Floor**

A local resident queried the town council policy for reductions in street lighting hours for energy/money saving. Councillor Martin stated that street lighting was the remit of North Lincolnshire Council, as opposed to the town council, therefore the town council did not have a policy. However, this matter could be discussed at an Environmental Regeneration Committee meeting of the town council. The resident stated that in the Nottinghamshire area crime levels had not increased following a reduction in their street lighting. Inspector Rutty explained he would like to see further evidence of this as such issues tended to be regional. There is a reduction in calls to the Police after 2am locally, therefore, no supporting evidence to suggest a problem. He commented that generally crime levels were down in the local area and views on a reduction in street lighting hours is

a matter of public perception and safety and this issue must be kept in perspective. Mr R Hindmarsh concluded that North Lincolnshire Council had no current plans to turn off street lighting locally, though some have been dimmed with no adverse effect.

A local resident asked Martin Vickers MP if the recent reduction in Humber Bridge Tolls was affecting the locally economy. Mr Vickers commented that it is a great boost for the area, in conjunction with the off-shore wind farm development on the east coast and the surrounding enterprise zone. He noted reports in the local media regarding house prices and an increased interest. There were also favourable initiatives instigated through local Jobcentres regarding employment. A local haulage company reported great savings in costs regarding the reduction of the toll costs of their vehicles, which allowed them to expand upon to benefit the company.

Councillor Mrs Clark further discussed the need for improvements to the local infrastructure, whether it be highways, health centres or schools etc. Mr Vickers commented that usually the infrastructure lags behind development, but with the implementation of the Localism Bill, this allowed funding avenues to be explored separate from central government. This would allow new opportunities to be explored regarding local initiatives and at the end of the day, everything comes down to finance available. He concluded that if Barton wished to undertake a project, it would need to fight it's corner, writing to North Lincolnshire Council and himself for additional support to progress.

Councillor Martin wished to give thanks to Mr Vickers for his assistance in the campaign to reduce the Humber Bridge tolls. Everyone at the meeting applauded Mr Vickers for this.

7. **Items for discussion or report at the discretion of the Chairman**

There being no further comments, the Chairman thanked the attending representatives from Humberside Police and North Lincolnshire Council who had answered questions, together with Martin Vickers MP, members of the town council and members of the public. The meeting was then closed at 8.50 pm.

.....Chairman 2 May 2012