

**SCOTTER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008**

**PRESENT:** Councillor C. Day (Chairman), Councillors J. Allen, M. Armstrong, B. Billam, J. Bullivent, M. Brown, D. Capes, J. Fillingham, S. Rayner and A. Sheardown, M. Brown (Clerk).

With no members of the public present, the meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

**192 2007/08 : To receive and approve apologies for absence**

No apologies were received from members of the Council, with all Councillors present. Apologies were received from Ward Councillors Parry and Underwood-Frost, who were attending the District Council's meeting.

**193 2007/08 : To receive declarations of interest**

Councillor Day declared a prejudicial interest in relation to the second part of item 7 on the agenda (minute reference 198 2007/08) and stated his intention to withdraw from the room for the duration of the discussion on that part. Councillor Bullivent declared an interest in relation to item 12 on the agenda (minute reference 203 2007/08) and stated his intention to abstain from voting on the matter.

**194 2007/08 : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007 as the Minutes of that meeting.**

Proposed by Councillor Fillingham, seconded by Councillor Brown and agreed, it was :

**RESOLVED : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007 (as circulated) as the Minutes of that meeting.** These were signed by the Chairman.

**195 2007/08 : To consider what action, if any, to take in relation to further correspondence received in connection with the June 2007 flooding of Scotter village.**

**195a 2007/08 :**The Council considered the paper prepared by the Clerk outlining the exchanges of correspondence with WLDC that had confirmed that (despite previous assurances to the contrary) the Council was not invited to give evidence at, nor attend, the Flood Inquiry's Citizen's Jury and that the evidence that had been accepted from the Council for submission to the Jury had been obtained from a meeting held in Scotter in early September 2007. This meeting (attended by Councillor Brown and the Clerk) had been stressed by WLDC as being very informal at the time, with no agenda, and covered items other than the flood. It was not intimated that this was the gathering of the Council's evidence. WLDC has now sent its notes of that meeting (which were submitted in evidence), which Councillor Brown and the Clerk have reviewed. The notes contain both errors and omissions. In light of the above, proposed by Councillor Bullivent, seconded by Councillor Sheardown and agreed, it was :

**RESOLVED : To write to the Leader of West Lindsey District Council to register the Council's extreme disappointment at the lack of opportunity to give proper evidence to the Citizen's Jury and its dissatisfaction with the Inquiry process.**

Having spoken to a local resident who had been a Jury member at the Citizen's Jury, Councillor Brown provided a summary of what had occurred at that meeting and explained that the apparent next step is that representatives of the Jury will meet with a member of the Select Committee handling flood issues during the next month. It has been intimated that funds may be made available for work to be done and that new powers may be given to local authorities to enable local action to be taken. Councillor Bullivent also reported that, following the recent rainfall and significant rise in the level of the River Eau, he had been in further contact with the Environment Agency which has admitted that there is no telemetry in the River Eau catchment area to enable it to accurately assess when the river is peaking. The plan is now to install such equipment as soon as possible.

**Initialed ..... Chairman**

The Clerk further reported that she had received a telephone call from Councillor Underwood-Frost who had been visiting Scotter parishioners affected by the floods during recent days whilst assisting in the distribution of sandbags. In light of the “closed” nature of the WLDC Inquiry and the dissatisfaction voiced by parishioners in relation to this, he is preparing to hold an informal meeting locally for interested members of the public with a view to developing a village issues list and action plan. Members of the Council will be welcome to attend that meeting as members of the public.

**195b 2007/08 :** The Council considered a letter from WLDC on the topic of a local emergency supply of sand and sandbags and the comments made on this matter by Councillor Underwood-Frost to the Clerk during a recent telephone discussion. The Council first agreed that the District Council had done an excellent job in delivering sandbags to those at flood risk in recent days. It then discussed the appropriateness of having a small local supply for emergency situations. Whilst the concept was welcomed, Councillor Rayner raised a number of practical issues associated with making such a supply safely and securely available, not least of which being the weight of a filled sandbag in relation to the Manual Handling Regulations. After further discussion, proposed by Councillor Capes, seconded by Councillor Allen and agreed, it was :

**RESOLVED : That a response be sent to WLDC, thanking it for the recent excellent service and for the offer of an emergency sand and sandbag supply, but stating that the Council cannot make an informed response on the latter in the timescale provided as it requires some advice from WLDC, as the experts in sand bag provision, as to the Health & Safety implications of the proposal.**

**196 2007/08 : To agree a scheme for Councillor Parry’s 2007/08 Initiative Fund**

Further to the discussion at the last meeting, the Clerk reported that prices have been obtained from Green Stripe Garden Machinery for all of the items required to equip the new Tree Warden, amounting to £345.98 plus VAT. This is within the original cost limit agreed with Councillor Parry (£350) and the items can be obtained within the required timescale to access the Initiative Fund monies. Councillor Capes has checked the prices for the key pieces of equipment and confirmed their competitiveness. Proposed by Councillor Billam, seconded by Councillor Bullivent and agreed, it was :

**RESOLVED : To submit a formal application for £346 to the 2007/08 Councillor Initiative Fund for the purposes of equipping the Tree Warden.**

The Clerk further explained that Councillor Parry had informed her that, as other parishes were submitting applications in amounts lower than expected, Scotter Parish could access up to a further £150 of grant. Considering the extremely short time scale remaining (both to submit applications and to obtain and pay for the goods), the Clerk suggested that the Council may wish to consider a “Scotter Cemetery” sign, suitably sensitive to its location in terms of both material and style, for positioning on a pillar at the entrance to the cemetery driveway. This suggestion was driven by the number of complaints and comments that the Clerk has received from bereaved families, funeral directors and memorial masons that the entrance to the cemetery is difficult to find. The Council then considered the signage options and prices as provided by the Clerk. Proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Allen and agreed, it was :

**RESOLVED : To submit a further formal application for £135 to the 2007/08 Councillor Initiative Fund to cover the purchase of a 17” x 11” Yorkstone sign, engraved with “Scotter Cemetery”.**

**197 2007/08 : To consider a response to the consultation on the Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue Integrated Risk Management Plan Year 5 Action Plan 2008/09**

The Council considered this document (which was included in the last circulation to Councillors) which asks for comment on proposed response standards from the Fire Service to dwellings. Whilst the second option seeks to improve the response times for rural dwellings, several members of the Council raised concerns that (being on the border of North Lincolnshire) it is normally the case that

it is North Lincolnshire's Fire Service that attends incidents within the parish, such that parishioners would see little or no improved service for the additional investment required (which would likely be funded via an increased Council Tax). Furthermore, due to our geography, it would also be likely that attendance from the Lincolnshire Service to this parish (where necessary) would fall into the 20% category where the improved response time is not achievable. In consequence, proposed by Councillor Capes, seconded by Councillor Billam and agreed (with the exception of Councillor Sheardown who registered his objection to the proposal), it was :

**RESOLVED : To support the first option in the paper, to ensure that the current response standards are maintained within the existing budget.**

**198 2007/08 : To receive a report from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group on its recent safety inspection of the cemetery and to approve the action taken by the Clerk to enable the clearance of the bunkers.**

Councillor Day, on behalf of the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group, inspected the cemetery for safety and confirmed that there was nothing to report on this occasion. He then left the meeting room before the second part of the agenda item was discussed, with Councillor Capes temporarily taking the Chair in his absence. The Clerk explained that she had instructed the clearance contractor to empty the cemetery bunkers which were full. Proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Capes and agreed, it was :

**RESOLVED : To approve the action taken by the Clerk to enable the clearance of the bunkers.** Councillor Day then returned to the meeting room and resumed his duties as Chairman.

**199 2007/08 : To receive a report from the Clerk**

The Council noted the following report presented by the Clerk :

**75a 2004/05 & 47 2007/08: Public open space adoption and maintenance**

No further progress has been made towards the conclusion of the agreement with Stamford Homes, the matter currently being dealt with by the parties' legal advisors. Similarly, nothing further has been heard from the developer responsible for the public open space at Site A, The Rookery, in relation to the ongoing ownership of and responsibility for the latter. A response has been received to the Council's formal complaint to WLDC regarding its officer's failure to keep the Council updated on the progress being made in relation to the public open spaces on Waggoners Close and Site B, The Rookery and a copy was provided to Councillors.

**173 2006/07 : Title deeds for Council-owned land**

As stated at the December meeting, the Council's legal advisor has confirmed that he would charge c. £100 per agreement to produce up-to-date and relevant agreements for Goosemoor and Constable lands. LALC has generic agreements for both agricultural tenancies and annual grazing licences and has sent copies to the Clerk for the Council's consideration. It was agreed that the Clerk should amend these to suit the need and ask LALC to comment on them, prior to presenting them to the Council for approval. This will avoid additional costs.

**12b 2007/08 : Affordable housing status**

Investigations by WLDC officers continue into the status of affordable housing on Waggoners Close.

**80 2007/08 : Acquisition of land from Beal Developments Limited**

Due to the Christmas holiday period, no further progress has been made in concluding the contract. The matter remains between the parties' legal advisors.

**124 2007/08 : Parking near the Eau Community Centre**

A response from Mr Wiles from LCC Highways has been received. His letter refers to a recent response he sent to the resident of Church Lane who had complained to LCC (and followed this up with a letter to the Council) about the dangers of egress of Church Lane due to cars parking on the

**Initialled ..... Chairman**

junction, in which he stated that yellow lines are not considered outside main urban areas or main village centres as these are not respected and the police have insufficient resource to enforce them, such that the impact of yellow lines is diluted. He confirms that he has written to the manager of the Community Centre asking that the message be put out to users of the facility to show more consideration for parking issues generated at peak times. If improvements do not result, some formal provision of lay-by parking will be explored but there is no budget available for this currently and some level of contribution would also be required from the Centre.

The Clerk has spoken to Mr Wiles, who has since received a response from the Centre's manager stating that the concerns will be taken seriously and that visitors to the Centre will be asked to park responsibly. Mr Wiles suggests that the Council ensures that the Centre's management committee is made aware of the issue and of the assurances given by the manager that action will be taken. The Council should also monitor the situation for the next two to three months. Should an improvement not be made in this time, LCC suggests that serious consideration should be given to the installation of a parking lay-by, as described above. It was agreed that the Clerk should meet with the Chair of the Centre's Management Committee to discuss this. In the interim period, the Clerk has asked Mr Wiles to investigate the cost and funding options for a potential alteration to the Church Lane road junction to prevent parking at the junction and to improve safety on egress.

#### **125 2007/08 : Litter picking & associated issues**

Mr Bill Reid, WLDC, has been in discussion with the owner of the private car park on Messingham Road regarding the arising litter at the site. The owner registered his intention to fully cooperate in efforts to reduce the litter problem and has already instructed his tenants to carry out weekly litter picking in the car park. He has also suggested that he may be prepared to fund another litter bin, although Mr Reid is of the opinion that the situation should be monitored to see if that is necessary (he is happy to visit occasionally to carry out such monitoring). In the interim period, he is chasing his colleagues in WLDC for the earliest repair of the existing litter bin.

#### **154a 2007/08 New development, Astley Crescent**

Following receipt of the Council's complaint, Mr Sharp of WLDC Planning visited the site and confirmed that the position (in respect of the road, lack of pavements, streetlights, etc.) was not appropriate and wrote to both the developer and the County Council in relation to the issues found. LCC has since confirmed that the developer has signed a legal agreement with the County Highways Authority to adopt the road (a s.38 agreement) but it may take a significant amount of time for the road to be actually adopted. With this in mind and as the developer has not responded to WLDC within the deadline given, WLDC will pursue the matter as a breach of condition.

#### **154c 2007/08 Annual mower service/emergency supplies**

The mower's service was completed in mid December 2007 and the opportunity was taken to purchase spare blades for it and the hand mower in readiness for the new cutting season. Supplies of top soil were exhausted by mid December and the Clerk chased Mr Legerwood as an order had been placed in early November. She also raised with him the fact that no invoice had been received for the previous supplies. Mr Legerwood confirmed that, as he had been given the previous load of topsoil, he had decided to deliver it to the Council free of any charge. The Clerk will write to thank him for this. The latest top soil was delivered during w/c 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

#### **159a 2007/08 : State of North Moor Road**

LCC Highways has responded to the Clerk's latest letter in relation to the above, confirming that the patching work has been completed and that the area will be monitored for further problems. It will also contact the landowners in the near future to discuss the piping of some of the adjacent ditch.

**179a 2007/08 : Pedestrian crossing on the A159.**

The Clerk has written to Councillor Underwood-Frost to confirm that the Council has agreed to defer the issue of a referendum on the crossing until the new crossing policy has been issued and its implications understood (Mr Wiles of LCC Highways also having been informed of this decision). The letter goes on to welcome Councillor Underwood-Frost's suggestion of a meeting with the Portfolio Holder at the County Council to explain why the Council is so strongly in favour of a crossing and asking for suitable dates for such a meeting. A response is awaited. In the interim period, the Clerk has also written to the party who had quoted for the delivery of the questionnaire to explain that its issue had been deferred at this time and that she would be in contact with him again should the need arise.

**179b 2007/08 : Funding of Lincolnshire Police**

The Clerk wrote to Councillor Underwood-Frost to inform him of the Council's decision on the matter. He expressed his disappointment at this outcome and arranged for further information and a questionnaire on the topic to be sent to the Clerk (copies of which are included in the January circulation). Apparently, this information had been previously sent to the Parish Council (and all other Town & Parish Councils in Lincolnshire) with the questionnaire delivered to every household. The Clerk had seen neither document before, either at work or home. Councillor Underwood-Frost asked that the Council consider the completion of the questionnaire at the January meeting, which effectively asks the same question as posed to the Council at the December meeting. Considering the Council's previous decision on the matter, its Standing Orders and the decision taken by WLDC (at its Extraordinary Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008) not to support a large increase in local taxation to fund the police, the Chairman is of the view that the matter should not be re-opened. Councillor Capes attended the meeting at WLDC as a member of the public.

**184 2007/08 : Emergency tree work**

The invoice has now been received from Aspen Tree Services in relation to the emergency work on the trees on Riverside in the amount of £60.

**186b 2007/08 : Graffiti on A159 bridge**

With thanks to Mr Reid of WLDC, LCC's contractor returned to site prior to Christmas to complete the job of removing the unsightly graffiti from the bridge. Subsequently, the Clerk has received reports that the same graffiti has been scrawled on the pavement at the corner of Sands Lane and Becks Lane. She will ask LCC to deal with this.

**199a 2007/08 : Misuse of Becks Lane skip**

Following the collection of the skip on Becks Lane in the first week of January, a large amount of material remained (including a concrete mixer). As this had not been placed into the skip for removal, it was effectively fly-tipping and was reported to WLDC as such, with a request for its removal. Following a site visit by WLDC personnel (during which they spoke with local residents to see if they had witnessed the fly tipping), the Clerk received a phone call advising her that, as the material resulted from the misuse of a skip provided by the Council, the Council would be responsible for the removal of the waste. In consequence, the Clerk asked for a quotation for this work to be done by WLDC. She subsequently received a telephone call from Mr Reid at WLDC who stated that, considering the Council's efforts in relation to litter and waste, WLDC would remove the material free of charge on this occasion. He offered the Clerk some advice on the website content associated with the skip service (which the Clerk has since acted upon) and will provide an occasional covert surveillance of future skips in an attempt to dissuade fly tipping. The Clerk will prepare an article to this end for the next edition of the Eau Valley Advertiser. It was also agreed that the Clerk should approach the service provider with dates for the 2008/09 service to assess their willingness to maintain current rates.

**199b 2007/08 : Local Development Framework**

The next stage of this process was due for consultation during January 2008. As no consultation document had been received at the office by mid-January and on the advice of the Chairman, the Clerk rang WLDC to determine the current position. Due to the latest draft of the East Midlands Regional Plan (which has implications on the local scene) and the sheer number of comments made on WLDC's previous consultation, the issue of the next document has been delayed and is now unlikely to be with the Council before late February/early March. Despite this delay, the Council noted that it is still WLDC's intention to meet the end-point deadline, such that the whole process will now be shortened.

**200 2007/08 : To receive new correspondence not already included above**

**200aa** The Chairman explained that an item of correspondence had been received after the agenda had been issued but requesting a response prior to the February Council meeting. This is associated with a central government consultation on Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England. Considering the tight timescale, proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Allen and agreed, it was :

**RESOLVED : To delegate the submission of the response to the Clerk, following her receipt of Councillors' comments on the proposals.** The Clerk will ensure that Councillors receive a copy of the paper within 48 hours, with comments to be returned to her by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008 latest.

The following items of correspondence, received prior to the issue of the agenda for the January meeting, were placed on circulation to Councillors at the meeting:

**200a** Scotter Bowls Club asking the Council to consider releasing funds of £500, earmarked as a donation towards top dressing, for a different project – safety work on the bowling green surrounds. This will be a formal agenda item at the February Council meeting.

**200b** Copies of Lincolnshire Police Authority's 60 Second Briefing and associated Questionnaire on Police Funding, as mentioned in the Clerk's Report.

**200c** West Lindsey Citizen's Advice Bureau, outlining the services it has provided in the last year and thanking the Council for its financial support which it hopes the Council will continue to provide in 2008/09. An amount of £100 was earmarked for this purpose when the 2008/09 precept was set and the Clerk will make this an agenda item at the April 2008 meeting.

**200d** Lincolnshire Police advising the Council of its campaign to recruit Special Constabulary. The Clerk has placed the accompanying poster on the notice board.

**200e** WLDC, providing a copy of the Register of Electors for Scotter Parish, December 2007.

**200f** A letter from a family member of a number of deceased persons buried in Scotter Cemetery, registering himself as the party responsible for their memorials. This information has been entered into the Memorials Register.

**200g** RACoL, informing the Council that it is holding a Grant Funding Workshop in February 2008 and a Funding Fair in April 2008.

**200h** LCC providing statistical information on use of the Council's website in December 2007.

**200i** The Government Office for the East Midlands, informing the Council of the publication of the Draft East Midlands Plan Panel Report.

**200j** LCC, providing a copy of its Travel & Transport Briefing, November 2007.

**Initialed ..... Chairman**

**200k** Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, providing a copy of its RoadLines newsletter, 2007.

**200l** The Co-operative Bank, including a summary of its savings interest rates.

**200m** CE Electric UK, informing the Council of its campaign to inform the elderly & vulnerable of what to do should their electricity supply fail.

**200n** NALC, enclosing a copy of its LCR journal, January 2008.

**200o** Clerks & Councils Direct journal, January 2008.

**200p** LCC, providing a copy of its Interconnect Network Guide, January 2008.

The following items of correspondence were noted by the Council and will be filed by the Clerk :

**200q** WLDC enclosing notice and an agenda for a meeting of its Standard Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008, an Extraordinary Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008 and a Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008, together with minutes of committee meetings held since 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007.

**200r** Promotional literature from Glasdon.

**201a 2007/08 : To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings published since the last Council meeting and adopt the recommendations contained therein**

The Council considered the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007. Proposed by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Sheardown and agreed, it was :

**RESOLVED : That the Council concurs with the actions taken by the Planning Committee and adopts the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007.**

**201b 2007/08 : To note the receipt of results from the planning authority**

The Council noted the following results received from the planning authority during the month:

**120870 Plot 1, Land off High Street, Scotter** – a full planning application for the erection of a detached house and garage to plot 1 and revised access road arrangements.

**Granted.**

**121171 Plot 11, Soulby Wood Park, Scotter** – a planning application to erect a detached house with integral garage and associated access.

**Granted.**

**121195 Land to r/o 111 High Street, Scotter** – an outline planning application for 2 No. dwellings with garages, parking and private drives (access to be considered and not reserved for subsequent applications).

**Granted.**

**121218 3 Mill Hill Drive, Scotter** – a planning application for a porch extension and first floor bedroom extension.

**Granted.**

**121241 1& 2 Trent View, East Ferry Road, Susworth** – a planning application for revised proposals for alterations and renovations and extensions.

**Granted.**

**121259 13 Barnes Green, Scotter** – a planning application for proposed extension to form granny annexe.

**Granted.**

**Initialled ..... Chairman**

**202 2007/08 : To note income received during December 2007 and to approve the cash book as at the end of December and its reconciliation to the bank statements**

The Council noted the following income received during December 2007.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYER</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
05.12.07	Co-op Bank	Interest - Current account	1.60
05.12.07	Mrs M. Brown	Cash payment of rentals for allotments 10, 15 16(x2) & 17	5.00
05.12.07	YEDL	Wayleave/rental	1.50
17.12.07	R. Wood	Purchase of exclusive right to burial in grave BB33	100.00
17.12.07	Co-op Funeralcare	Interment of the ashes of H. L. Ellis in grave BF65	45.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b><u>153.10</u></b>

It then examined the cashbook as at the end of December 2007 and its reconciliation to the bank statements. Proposed by Councillor Rayner, seconded by Councillor Bullivent and agreed, it was :

**RESOLVED : That the cashbook as at the end of December 2007 should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk as a true record.**

**203 2007/08 : To approve payments to be made**

The Council examined the accounts to be paid for supplies and services received since the last meeting. Proposed by Councillor Sheardown, seconded by Councillor Fillingham and agreed (with the exception of Councillor Bullivent who abstained), it was :

**RESOLVED : That, in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council will incur expenditure on a skip service which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the inhabitants of the Parish and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. Also, that the following payments should be approved.**

<u>CHEQUE</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>TO WHOM PAID</u>	<u>PARTICULARS OF PAYMENT</u>	<u>NET</u> <u>VALUE</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>PAYMENTS</u>
Direct Debit	Tiscali		Broadband/phone calls, Nov. '07.	21.89	3.83	25.72
	401810	H.M. Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI, Month 9	344.48	-	344.48
	401811	Mrs M. Brown	Wages (58hrs in Dec. - Precept)	574.14	-	
			Mileage	6.00	-	
			Postage	2.10		
			Stationery	6.36	1.11	589.71
	401812	Mr. J. Lyon	Wages	311.52	-	311.52
	401813	Thompson Waste Mgt	Skip service - Becks Lane (03/01)	139.00	24.33	163.33
	401814	Green Stripe Garden Mchy	Mower service plus parts	227.36	39.79	
			Spare blades for ride-on & hand mower	102.09	17.87	387.11
	401815	North Lincs Council	2 years rent of domain & e-mail address	61.50	10.76	72.26
	401816	Craig Willis (Aspen Tree)	Tree trimming - Riverside	60.00	-	60.00
	401817	J. Bullivent	Mileage - Lincs Flood Fair (55 miles)	22.00	-	22.00
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED PAYMENTS</b>				<b><u>1,878.44</u></b>	<b><u>97.69</u></b>	<b><u>1,976.13</u></b>

The Clerk reported that, whilst North Lincs Council had requested payment with order, she would require a VAT invoice to reclaim the VAT and will request this in her accompanying letter.

Councillor Bullivent also offered his assistance in obtaining the invoice.

**204 2007/08 : To take any points from members, identify items for the next agenda and to note urgent items of interest.**

**204a** Whilst commenting favourably on the reconstruction work carried out by LCC on footpaths in Scotter during recent months, Councillor Capes raised the issue that several other footpaths in the village are in a poor state and require attention in the next year. It was agreed that Councillor Capes will compile a list of such footpaths for the Clerk to report to LCC Highways. The Clerk mentioned that Hobb Lane should appear on that list as it is in a particularly poor state.

**Initialled ..... Chairman**

**204b** Councillor Bullivent reported on his discussion with the Clerk during December 2007 regarding changes to the Home page of the Council’s website to make breaking news more easily accessible and queried why there had been no progress on this. The Clerk explained that it had been purely a matter of insufficient time, with other matters taking priority. It was agreed that Councillors Sheardown and Bullivent and the Clerk will discuss the matter further with a view to agreeing a forward plan.

**204c** The Chairman invited Councillor Capes to report on the Extraordinary Meeting of the District Council (called to discuss the issue of funding of Lincolnshire Police) which he had attended on behalf of the Council. The Lincolnshire Police Authority was represented by DCC Richard Crompton, Chief Executive Debbie McGovern, Treasurer Julie Flint and Councillor Underwood-Frost, the main presentation being given by the DCC with support from the other members. At the conclusion of deliberations, WLDC agreed to support the Police in their efforts to get a better deal from the Government but Members could not accept that the burden of any shortfall should fall on council tax payers. A recording of the meeting is on the WLDC website. Councillor Capes encouraged Councillors to pay close attention to the 60 Second Briefing note on the issue (included in the circulation) which clearly outlines the problems faced by the Police. He also reported that the extraordinary meeting had been the last full Council meeting in The Guildhall.

**205 2007/08 : To resolve whether, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press should be temporarily excluded from the meeting due to the confidential and sensitive nature of the following business.**

Proposed by Councillor Rayner, seconded by Councillor Brown and with all agreed, it was :

**RESOLVED : That, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press should be temporarily excluded from the meeting due to the confidential and sensitive nature of the following item of business.** With the public and press excluded :

**206 2007/08 : To consider the status of grave no. BC14**

The Council considered the paper on the matter circulated with the agenda and some further information provided by the Clerk that the same status query applied to six other graves within the cemetery. On the conclusion of the deliberations, proposed by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Rayner and agreed, it was :

**RESOLVED : That the Clerk be instructed not to sell any unused grave where it is suspected that an exclusive right to burial in that grave may have been prior sold, irrespective of whether supporting documentation for such a sale can be found.**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Clerk: .....

Chairman: .....

Date: .....

**Initialed ..... Chairman**