



"Stronger together"

**Minutes of the
Governance Committee
Thursday 3 April 2025**

Grantham Town Council

The Parlour
The Guildhall
St Peter's Hill
Grantham. NG31 6PZ

Committee Members

Present:

Cllr Tim Harrison – Chairman
Cllr Marie Reid – Vice-Chairman
Cllr Charmaine Morgan
Cllr Bruce Wells

Cllr Paddy Perry
Cllr Lee Steptoe
Cllr Steve Cunningham

Officers Present:

Clerk – Anita Eckersley

Other Councillors:

None

Public:

One

G18 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

G19 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

G20 Declarations of Interest

G20a To receive disclosures by members of any disclosable pecuniary interests for the purposes of Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 and any other interests under the Members Code of Conduct.

None were declared.

G20b To receive and decide upon requests for dispensations to councillors to take part in discussions and votes where they have declared disclosable pecuniary interests.

None were requested.

G21 Minutes for the 26 November 2024

As no comments were raised, Cllr Marie Reid proposed the minutes from the Governance Committee Meeting held on 26 November 2024 and this was seconded by Cllr Paddy Perry and agreed by those who had been present at that meeting.

Resolved: That the minutes from the Governance Committee Meeting held on 26 November 2024 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

G22 A Mayoralty or Chair of the Council

The Chairman invited Cllr Paddy Perry to present his report on a Mayoralty or Chair of the Council.

Following an in-depth discussion on the pros and cons for a Mayor and a Chair of the Council it was proposed that this matter should be deferred for further discussion towards the end of the municipal year 2025-2026. It was also suggested that a Working Group could be established to look at this matter in more depth and report back to the Governance Committee.

Resolved: That a Working Party is established after the Town Council Annual General Meeting to look at the matters raised regarding a Mayoralty or a Chairman of the Council and to report back to the Governance Committee.

G23a Freedom of the Town Policy

The Draft Freedom of the Town Policy had been created to provide direction on what would be involved when proposing the Freedom of the Town to an individual or a military base.

A member noted that St Wulfram's Church had a plaque that showed that the Lincolnshire Regiment had been awarded the Freedom of the Town in perpetuity regardless of whether the unit had reformed into another unit.

The Committee also highlighted some typos and a few amendments to the Order of Proceedings.

Resolved: That the Clerk is to seek further clarity on the legalities of awarding the Freedom of the Town to military units and report back to Governance Committee.

G23b Safeguarding Policy

The Committee considered the draft Safeguarding Policy, noted some typos and the requirement for the alignment of a paragraph.

Resolved: That following the above amendments being undertaken, the Governance Committee recommends that the Safeguarding Policy should be recommended to Town Council for adoption.

G23c Communications Policy

The Committee considered the Draft Communications Policy.

The following amendments were suggested:

That the word Purdah is replaced with Pre-Election Period

That Item 7 of the Policy is amended to reflect:

"Obscene and Abusive Language

Staff and Councillors maybe subject to some forms of verbal abuse used in the ordinary course of speech by some members of the community. In such cases a member of staff or councillor can ask for moderation but may choose to discontinue the contact."

Resolved: That once the above amendments had been undertaken, the Governance Committee recommends to Town Council that the Communications Policy should be approved and adopted.

G24 Committee Structure for 2025-2026

The Committee considered the Committee Structure for 2025-2026.

Resolved: That the Governance Committee recommends to Town Council that the following Committees are established, and that Terms of Reference are amended to reflect the changes.

Town Council

Governance, IT and GDPR Committee

Finance Committee

Personnel Committee

Leisure and Culture Committee

Planning Committee

Creation of a Working Group to consider Devolution and Asset Transfers

G25 Update on the Lease

The Committee considered the plan that had been produced by SKDC and were happy with the layout.

The Committee noted that unfettered access was required for the Parlour to enable the Town Council to hold meetings during the evenings.

Resolved: That the Clerk confirms with SKDC that the Committee was happy with the plan provided but Town Council would require unfettered access so the Council could undertake Council Business outside of normal business hours.

The meeting closed at 21.58