

# WINTERTON TOWN MEETING

52 West Street, Winterton, Scunthorpe,  
North Lincolnshire, DN15 9QF

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Minutes of the Winterton Town Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 7.30pm in the Old School Hall, West Street, Winterton.

**Present: Cllr F Marritt, Town Clerk & 41 residents.**

Cllr Marritt welcomed residents to the Town Meeting which had been organised at the request of a number of residents.

It was then explained that there would be time for debate on the subject followed by confirmation that the correct number of electorates were present and voting in favour of a Parish Poll and then a further vote would be taken to agree the official wording.

This is the first parish poll undertaken by NLC and advice has been sought from both NLC and ERNLLCA. A letter received from Mel Holmes, Democratic Services, NLC was read out to the parishioners.

## 1. De Lacy House

To resolve if the town of Winterton wishes to support the calling of a poll against the closure of De Lacy House with the cost of the poll being in the region of £2k/£3k and being paid for from the Winterton precept.

The following matters discussed:

- A resident stated that the CCG who are to fund the project are opposed to the NLC proposal as it does not meet the criteria for the required five clinical areas.
- Residential, respite, day care and an outreach base i.e. meals on wheels are the requirements highlighted by residents as to what is needed in Winterton but the proposed facility will only allow a care facility for re-enablement only.
- Distributed misinformation 'we are opposed' 'labour party are opposed' to care facility. This is not true – not opposed.
- The facility IS required, just not on the De Lacy site.
- That NLC are determined to demolish. What will happen after demolition and has there been a proper consultation regarding the siting and planning permission to build, will it be built in Winterton?
- Lots of rhetoric/propaganda. Information Boards have been sited without planning permission.
- 2483 people voted that they wished to keep De Lacy House but have not been listened to.
- Asbestos found and must be properly managed.
- The townspeople must act now to stop the demolition.
- A Poll is required to demonstrate the town's wishes.
- A resident stated that the land on Millhouse Lane was earmarked for building and was worth a lot of money and it was unrealistic to expect NLC to use both sites and would be heavily criticised.
- What do we need? – 1<sup>st</sup> class day care unit.
- Local groups and relatives contacted, for example – Lindsey Lodge Hospice, WM Disabled Club.
- Elderly need facilities to socialise.
- Therapies need to be offered.
- Organised activities needed – i.e. meals.
- Predominantly voluntary and could be incorporated into ICF.
- Residential care should be considered.
- Future should be to remain as a care home but properly run.
- The hospice gave the same response.

- De Lacy House is owned by NLC but was for use across North Lincolnshire not solely for Winterton.
- No longer convinced there is a need for a residential facility in Winterton.
- There are numerous care homes most with empty beds.
- De Lacy House demolition scheduled to commence 09/12/13.
- Services will need to be disconnected and the asbestos dealt with.
- Some residents opposed to poll, £2000-£3000 Not convinced will make any difference to the outcome.

Cllr F. Marritt called for those 'for' and 'against' the proposal to speak in turn until everyone in attendance who wanted to speak had been given the opportunity to do so. She further explained that the CCG (Care Commissioning Group) had replaced the PCT (Primary Care Trust) and the CQC (Care Quality Commission) controls guidelines. Cllr F. Marritt stated that she believed Winterton to be a strong community but that they needed to be realistic about a poll and understand that it may well not be heeded and could be deemed a waste of money. She stressed that it was important for Winterton to work with NLC or they could end up with nothing.

**For** – It was stated that there has been a debate on-going since 2007 and that there had been a meeting with the PCT in 2008 in Brigg about relieving pressures on the hospital by bringing care to local areas. In 2011/12 it was agreed that there should be five clinical /units areas in North Lincs. at a cost of £200m from health service budget.

- CCG – Brigg, Winterton, Ironstone Centre, Barton & Isle.
- The document has only come out in the last few days.
- NHS plan would go with it or don't get funding?
- CCG have said an opposed to ICF in Winterton.

As the population of Winterton expands, 24/7 care will be required. Good points have been raised from both sides and democracy is not a waste of money.

Lots of figures and theories but there is a price to pay to keep people in their own homes. Some of the difficulties of disabled people were then explained.

- Want residential respite with dignity in Winterton.
- 80+ members, distressed and angry at way treated. Born, lived, family, pay taxes and not unable to die in Winterton.
- ICF –Yes, but not at the expense of De Lacy House.
- NLC will not consider other sites.
- De Lacy House was built in 1981 and is not due for demolition.
- If the asbestos is not disturbed then there is no danger.
- Have been accused of personal attack on Cllr Waltham – not true, he is not listening.
- Resident - £400,000 for demolition will be greatly increased with asbestos removal.
- Poirier – OK for respite, other rooms OK for day care.
- Several locations should be investigated and haven't received response from NLC regarding concerns.
- Will voice the same views when consulted by PAPP.
- Concerns regarding the consultation.
- Soon there will be a pile of rubble, ICF built elsewhere, get bungalows, no care left in Winterton.
- Opting for parish poll shows community care.

A resident spoke of receiving 24/7 care in her own home and how it doesn't work. Social Services are strapped for cash and very reluctant to give full time care.

Another resident described living opposite the old Nassau House site which was demolished some time ago with no sign of new houses. Will the De Lacy House demolition be the same?

A Council member stated that he had the greatest respect for colleagues who opposed the poll but it was important to balance the debate.

- What will happen after demolition?
- Talks are needed with the CCG to hear their views
- PP to build / In Winterton?
- Election in 2015 – could a new administration decide not to build in Winterton?
- If don't save De Lacy House then Winterton could end up with nothing and the blame will be passed and this must be stopped.

**Against** – A resident stated that they had lived in Winterton all their lives and served on the council for 48 years. They agreed with the comments made but believed it to be a lost cause as demolition is set for 09/12/13.

- It was also stated that there is a need to talk about the new enablement unit and it was generally agreed that the 'ICF' is a great asset to Winterton and the surrounding area. The unit will be new, modern and up to date. The infra-structure of shops, pubs, post office and the bus services are good and will be used.

Mr Mike Joyce called for a Parish Poll (worded as below) to strengthen democracy and this was seconded.

*Do you support the retention of De Lacy House to enable plans to be developed by the community of Winterton to bring it into use as a care centre offering such facilities as long term residential care, respite care, day care and outreach services to elderly/vulnerable people and do you therefore object to the demolition of De Lacy House?*

**YES** De Lacy House should be retained for the purposes above and must not be demolished.

**NO** De Lacy should be demolished (pending plans for redevelopment).

No comment or amendments were received.

For - 33  
Against - none  
Abstention - 6

***Resolution: That a Parish Poll be called.***

## **2. Public Comment**

The following matters were raised by/on behalf of members of the public:

- There was a request made for volunteers to help to set up a charity for elderly residents. The charity would be for those living alone or with any problems with energy bills and the level of care provided at present. If De Lacy House is kept then this would be a great base to work from with volunteers, admin, secretarial work and committee members. A meeting will be called within 14/52 to discuss ideas to help the OAP's of Winterton.

Cllr Marritt stated this was a good initiative and already has a pledge of support.

It was further stated by a resident that there was a need to look at best practice. Manchester Project – hailed by EU – suggest Winterton learns by good practice and look at this project. Manchester spoke to their constituents asking what they wanted in each case. A Conference was arranged and invites sent to NLC to visit but unfortunately no one attended.

- It was stated that the ex Winterton minibus was only being used twice a month which could not be deemed best possible value. Winterton was told two months ago that the bus was coming back to Winterton – where is it?  
It is currently being kept behind locked gates at Hewson House. Use is limited to office hours 9-5 Mon-Thursday, 9-4.30 on Friday, no evening or weekends or use outside of the North Lincolnshire boundaries. No wheelchairs or children allowed – it was called a disgrace, the bus rotting on the spot.  
It was agreed that there should be a review of the situation regarding the bus for Winterton and it was further confirmed that the town has several drivers trained to Midas standard. NLC to be asked to reconsider.

No further matters were raised and the meeting closed at 8.50pm