



Minutes of the Spalding Town Board Meeting held on Monday 16 September 2025 at 5pm via Teams

Present: Robin Hancox (Chair), Jacqui Bunce - NHS, Councillor Nick Worth, Jo Davison - Lincs Police Crime Commissioner's Office, Councillor Gary Taylor, Stewart Elderkin - Pedals, Alistair Main - Lighthouse Church, - Simon Wright - LCC, Councillor Rob Gibson, Dr Batul Dungarwalla - Lincs CVS, Sarah Fletcher - Spalding BID, David Ball - Bridge Farm, Emma Tatlow - Active Lincolnshire, Claire Foster - Boston College and Petronella Keeling - Spalding Gentlemen's Club

Officer Team: Pranali Parikh, Michelle Gant, Jon Burgess, Michael Dow, John Mullen and Luisa Stanney

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Matthew Hogan, Lizzi Van Egmond and Marc Jones.

3 Declarations of Interest

No new declarations of interest were made.

4 Plan for Neighbourhoods - Consultation & Call for Projects

Robin apologised for technical issues and handed over to Michael Dow, who explained that this was an interim meeting focused on gaining approval for the consultation and engagement plan. The full materials would be shared on 22 September, ahead of the next Board meeting on the 29

September. Board members were asked to read the documents in advance and send any feedback to Michael or Michelle to allow time for adjustments before final approval.

Michael then shared slides outlining the consultation strategy. He emphasised that the process was flexible and ongoing, even after the formal submission in November. The first step was to launch a “call for projects”, aimed mainly at stakeholder groups but open to public suggestions too. Forms would be available online via the Love Spalding website and in key town centre locations. A press release, social media updates and stakeholder outreach would support the launch.

The form itself was designed to be simple and high-level, asking for basic applicant info, project details, alignment with community needs and strategic objectives, estimated costs and potential match funding. A guidance document would help applicants complete the form. An assessment framework had also been developed to ensure transparency and consistency in evaluating proposals.

Michelle Gant had a press release ready to go and the call for projects would run from 17 September to 15 October. The formal masterplan consultation would begin on 30 September and run until 28 October. This would include brochures, questionnaires, exhibition boards, meet-the-team days and a digital flipbook version of the materials. The aim was to ensure everyone had a chance to engage, whether online or in person.

Additional activities included heritage-themed shopfront installations and a separate heritage consultation, all under the Love Spalding brand. Weekly meetings would be held to review incoming project proposals so that evaluation could happen continuously rather than waiting until the deadline.

Board members raised several points. Councillor Gary Taylor stressed the importance of clear communication, noting that past consultations had caused confusion. Michael and Michelle agreed and said the tone of this engagement would be “you said, we listened,” showing how feedback had shaped the proposals.

Joanne Davison asked about sustainability and exit strategies. Michael explained that whilst these were not part of the initial form, they would be considered during the next stage of project development. Jacqui Bunce asked about project reach and Michael said this would be inferred from location and milestones. Dr Batul Dungarwalla raised concerns about accessibility for communities unfamiliar with formal applications. Michael confirmed that support sessions would be offered and Michelle added that the team would reach out to mapped community groups and offer help.

Robin suggested Board members might want to help with market stalls and Michelle welcomed the idea. Dates would be circulated so members could volunteer.

Michael gave a brief update on recent workshops covering town centre economy, health and wellbeing and arts and culture. These were well attended and provided valuable insights. He encouraged Board members to organise further workshops if they wish, offering support from the programme team.

Robin shared an update from a recent call with the MHCLG, noting that the new Secretary of State, Steve Reed, was supportive of the programme and keen to maintain momentum. Robin praised the work of Michael, Michelle, Pranali and the wider team and looked forward to the next meeting on 29 September.

Pranali thanked everyone for their input and support, especially around the stakeholder workshops. She emphasised the importance of the next two weeks and welcomed continued engagement.

The meeting closed with Robin thanking everyone for their time and confirming that the next meeting would be held in person at South Holland District Council offices, with a dial-in option available. Papers would be sent out a week in advance.