



## Minutes of the Spalding Town Board Meeting held on Monday 8 December 2025 at 5pm via Teams

**Present:** Robin Hancox (Chair), Jacqui Bunce - NHS, Councillor Nick Worth, Stewart Elderkin - Pedals, Alistair Main - Lighthouse Church, Dr Batul Dungarwalla - Lincs CVS, Sarah Fletcher - Spalding BID, Emma Tatlow - Active Lincolnshire, Claire Foster, Sir John Hayes, MP, Petronella Keeling & Dustin Frazier Wood - Spalding Gentlemen's Club, Joanne Davison - Lincs PCC, Councillor Rob Gibson, David Ball - Bridge Farm and Jacqui Bunce - NHS

**Officer Team:** Pranali Parikh, Maria Cotton, Michelle Gant, Michael Dow, John Mullen and Luisa Stanney

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### 1 Chair's Welcome

RH opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and informed members that Lizzie van Egmond had resigned from the Board. He expressed appreciation for her valuable contributions and noted that her decision had been accepted on behalf of the Board.

### 2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Simon Wright, Marc Jones and Jon Burgess.

### 3 Declarations of Interest

No new declarations of interest were made.

### 4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2025 were reviewed and agreed as an accurate record without amendment.

## 5 Pride in Place - Plan Review & Next Steps

MD presented an update on the Pride in Place Investment Plan and outlined the next steps. He summarised the vision for Spalding as a town that is safe, connected and vibrant, with a revitalised market, improved public spaces and creative placemaking initiatives. The plan looked to transform the town centre into a welcoming destination, reimagine vacant buildings for business and community use and reconnect the waterfront to create a distinctive sense of place.

MD described a phased approach to delivery, beginning with translating the investment plan into scoped projects, assigning leads, commissioning design work and establishing governance structures. Subsequent phases would include feasibility studies, co-creation with communities, development of frameworks for shopfront and vacancy schemes and finalisation of procurement and monitoring arrangements to ensure readiness for delivery from April 2026.

Board members welcomed the update and engaged in a detailed discussion. Several members emphasised the importance of maintaining genuine community engagement and co-creation throughout the delivery phase. They cautioned against an overly infrastructure-led approach and stressed that language and actions should reflect health, wellbeing and community ownership. CF highlighted that new government guidance required at least half of the Board membership to be local residents and suggested exploring the creation of a shadow board to strengthen local representation. RH acknowledged these points and confirmed that governance and engagement strategies would be revisited in January.

## 6 Spalding Pride in Place Programme Management

MC reported that £150,000 had been allocated for capacity funding, of which £65,200 had been spent, leaving a balance of £84,800. She proposed drawing down up to £16,000 to extend Michael Dow's contract until May 2026 to support mobilisation and recruitment of a dedicated local resource for the four-year delivery phase. The Board unanimously approved this proposal, recognising the need to maintain momentum and prepare for implementation.

## 7 Communications Update

Michelle Gant provided an update on communications, noting positive media coverage and strong engagement on social media, with recent posts attracting over 10,000 views. She confirmed that the consultation report had been published, recording more than 1,300 engagements and 310 survey responses. Michelle undertook to correct an error on the Love Spalding website that referenced Boston's plan on the Spalding page.

## 8 Any Other Business

JD reported on the community policing initiative, confirming that current funding would run to Christmas with some capacity beyond due to missed shifts. She advised that a full report would be presented in January to inform decisions on future safety measures. Sir JH raised the importance of aligning regeneration proposals with South Holland's draft Design Guide, which was currently out

for consultation. It was confirmed that the guide was available on the Council's website and would be shared with members. PK requested sight of the submitted plan and the full list of proposed projects, which MD confirmed would be circulated and discussed at the next meeting. DB highlighted public concerns about town signage and suggested this be considered in future discussions.

## 9 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place in January 2026, with the exact date to be confirmed. RH concluded the meeting by thanking members for their contributions and expressed appreciation for the progress made during the year and looked forward to continued collaboration in 2026.

DRAFT