



Minutes of the Spalding Town Board Meeting held on Monday 20 April at 5pm Via Teams

Present -

Robin Hancox (Chair), Cllr Nick Worth, Stewart Elderkin - Pedals, Alistair Main - Lighthouse Church, Dr Batul Dungarwalla - CVS Lincolnshire, Petronella Keeling - Spalding Gentlemen's Society, David Ball - Bridge Farm, Jacqui Bunce - NHS, Cllr Rob Gibson, Inspector Paul Smith - Lincolnshire Police, Lynette Leith, OBE - Principal & Chief Executive, Boston College, Rev Robert Parker-McGee - Vicar of St Mary & St Nicolas Church, Alexis Bradshaw - Spalding High School, Nicola Shephard - Active Lincolnshire and Sarah Fletcher - Spalding BID

Officer Team -

Pranali Parikh, Maria Cotton, Jon Burgess, Michael Dow, John Mullen, Michelle Gant and Luisa Stanney

1 Chair's Welcome

RH opened the meeting and welcomed members and attendees. He formally welcomed Rev Robert Parker-McGee to the Board under the voluntary and charitable sector, noting that his appointment supported the strengthened Government expectation for increased community and resident representation on Pride in Place Boards.

RH also welcomed Lynette Leith OBE, Principal and Chief Executive of Boston College and Alexis Bradshaw, Student Council Chair. He highlighted the value of education, skills and youth engagement to the Board's long-term ambitions and noted that the programme was now transitioning from planning into delivery, with the first tranche of funding expected to be released shortly.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Inspector Matt Dickinson, Emma Tatlow, Simon Wright and Simon Stone.

3 Declarations of Interest

Petronella Keeling declared that should any business arise relating directly to the Spalding Gentlemen's Society, she would consider herself conflicted. No further declarations of interest were made.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2026 were reviewed and agreed as a true and accurate record.

5 Board Membership Update

A report was circulated outlining the Board Membership update, setting out the requirements of the updated Pride in Place Governance Guidance, including the need for Boards to be resident-led, thematically balanced and reflective of the communities they serve.

The Board noted that a review of existing membership had been undertaken against these requirements and welcomed the recent appointments made to address identified gaps. Members noted that the Board was now broadly compliant with the updated guidance and agreed that membership would continue to be kept under review to ensure appropriate coverage, diversity and effective delivery.

6 Town Centre Safety & Security Options Paper

The Board considered a detailed options paper on future arrangements for town centre safety and security. Officers outlined the context following the conclusion of hotspot policing, alongside continuing concerns regarding antisocial behaviour and perceptions of safety.

Three delivery models were presented: a wholly Council-run service, a private-sector patrol model and a hybrid approach combining private-sector visibility with Council enforcement and case management. Members discussed the balance between speed of mobilisation, enforcement capability, partnership working and long-term sustainability and highlighted the importance of prevention, signposting and displacement monitoring.

Following discussion, the Board approved the hybrid model as the preferred approach. A budget envelope of £640,000 over four years was agreed. Authority was delegated to senior officers to finalise the scheme design in consultation with RH and Council leadership. Quarterly monitoring reports were requested to maintain Board oversight.

7 Pride in Place Programme Update

An update was provided on the overall Pride in Place programme. It was reported that interviews for the Programme Manager role had taken place and that the outcome would be communicated to Board members once confirmed.

Members noted that the Memorandum of Understanding with Government had now been formally issued, approving the Investment Plan and enabling the release of Year 1 capacity, revenue and capital funding. The first monitoring return to Government was being prepared and would be shared with the Board in due course.

It was confirmed that projects brought forward through the open call process would be considered by the Board for Pride in Place funding at the next scheduled meeting, enabling decisions to be taken and delivery to commence later in the year.

8 Communications Update

The Communications Report covering February to mid-April 2026 was presented by MG. Members noted strong and generally positive media coverage across local and national outlets, alongside continued growth in social media engagement, website traffic and newsletter subscriptions.

Members supported proposals to refresh Board photography, introduce Board members through future communications and align messaging as the programme moved into delivery.

8 Any Other Business

An update was provided on the Town of Culture Expression of Interest, which had been submitted and acknowledged by DCMS. It was agreed that the submission would not be shared publicly at this stage due to the competitive nature of the process.

A brief discussion also took place regarding potential future opportunities relating to under-utilised space at Spalding railway station, which officers agreed to explore outside of the meeting.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 11 May 2026 - South Holland District Council offices.