



**Spalding Neighbourhood Board
Minutes of Meeting
Held on Monday 20 July 2026 at 5pm
Boston College Campus, Red Lion Quarter, Spalding/via Teams**

Present - Robin Hancox - Chair, Cllr Nick Worth - Leader of SHDC, Dr Batul Dungarwalla - CVS Lincolnshire, Petronella Keeling - Spalding Gentlemen's Society, Cllr Gary Taylor, Sarah Fletcher – BID, Simon Stone – Springfields Shopping Outlet, Stewart Elderkin - Pedals, and Cllr Rob Gibson.

Also in Attendance – Simon Wright – Lincolnshire County Council and Ingrid Sheard – Deputy Mayor, Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority

Officer Team – Pranali Parikh, Maria Cotton, Jon Burgess, Michelle Gant, George Gustard, Saul Farrell, Luisa Stanney and Amber Lawson.

1. Chair's Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all members and officers, including those joining remotely. The Chair expressed appreciation to Boston College for hosting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Alistair Main, Jacqui Bunce, Lynette Leith, Michael O'Connor, Reverend Robert Parker-McGee, Emma Tatlow, Sir John Hayes MP, Chief Inspector Matt Dickinson, David Ball and Alexis Bradshaw.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board considered the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2026 were reviewed and agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Pride in Place Programme Update

LS provided an update on progress across the Pride in Place Programme. Members were advised that Heads of Terms had now been issued for several approved projects, including Enjoy Spalding, the Learning Incubator, Lighthouse Community Hub, St Thomas's, Spalding Gentlemen's Society and CVS Lincolnshire. Once completed, formal Grant Funding Agreements will be issued.

Members were informed that officers had visited the Lighthouse Church project and discussed progress and consultation activity with the project team. The Board welcomed the progress being made and highlighted the importance of regular updates and visible evidence of project delivery. It was noted that services were already taking place within the building and that plans included the opening of a café and associated community facilities. The Board welcomed the positive impact the project will have within the town centre.

An update was provided regarding the Community Safety Officer project. Recruitment has commenced for two Community Safety Officer posts and an Administrative Apprentice position, with interviews scheduled for August. Subject to successful recruitment and vetting procedures, it is anticipated that officers would begin training in the autumn.

Sarah Fletcher advised that an interim town centre security patrol scheme had commenced that day. The security provider would deliver a visible presence across the town centre six days per week, operating varying patrol times and utilising body-worn cameras to gather intelligence. Information collected would be shared with South Holland District Council and Lincolnshire Police. Members welcomed the initiative and discussed reporting arrangements, geographical coverage and ongoing collaboration with Lincolnshire Police. The Board noted that reports would be provided regularly to monitor effectiveness and inform future arrangements.

It was further noted that updates on the Marketplace Scheme, Enjoy Spalding project and Public Art project would be presented at a future meeting.

6. Shop Front Scheme, Upper Storey Conversion Project and Inward Investment

The Board received a detailed presentation from Saul Farrell on the proposed Shop Front Improvement, Upper Storey Conversion and Inward Investment Scheme.

Members heard that the proposals had been developed in response to consultation findings, the Board's ten-year vision and independent town centre research. The scheme would comprise three complementary elements: a relocation grant programme to attract new businesses into vacant units; a revitalise programme supporting conversion of underutilised upper floors into residential or visitor accommodation; and a refresh shop front improvement scheme to enhance the appearance and attractiveness of existing businesses.

Members discussed the importance of supporting town centre occupancy, improving the appearance of vacant and underused buildings and ensuring high-quality design standards. Reference was made to prominent vacant buildings within the town centre and the need to engage proactively with owners and landlords. Members also discussed the role of consultants, local agents and external partners in supporting delivery and securing future investment.

The Board welcomed the proposed approach and recognised the potential long-term benefits for the town centre economy and built environment. Members unanimously approved the proposed delivery framework and grant scheme design.

7. Capacity Fund Update

JB gave an updated position on the Capacity Fund and confirmed that approximately £70,000 remained available for future allocation. Board members noted the Capacity Funding available and that could be used to support feasibility studies, pilot projects, professional advice and project development work required to support programme delivery.

The Chair sought a further update regarding interest accrued on government funding. Members were advised that the matter had been formally raised with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and that clarification was awaited regarding the methodology for calculating and allocating such interest. Members noted the update and requested that any future guidance received be brought back to the Board.

8. Communications Update

Michelle Gant provided an update on communications activity since the previous meeting. Members were advised that announcements regarding funded projects had generated positive press coverage and strong engagement across social media channels. Officers were continuing to work closely with project leads to develop future communications opportunities and identify key milestones that could be promoted publicly.

The Board welcomed the positive public response and emphasised the importance of maintaining momentum through regular updates, photography and storytelling that demonstrated the impact of investment. Members agreed that communications should continue to link project outcomes back to the priorities identified through public consultation.

9. Any Other Business

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Members received an update regarding LGR proposals and the Government's decision on future unitary authority arrangements across Greater Lincolnshire. Discussion took place regarding the implications for local representation and governance. Representatives from the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority reaffirmed their commitment to working closely with the Board and supporting local priorities throughout the transition process.

Town of Culture Bid

The Board also discussed the recent outcome of the Town of Culture bid. Whilst disappointed by the decision, Members noted the strength of the submission and welcomed plans to continue exploring cultural opportunities and alternative funding streams. A copy of the bid would be circulated to Members once appropriate to do so.

Market Place Scheme

PK requested an update on the wider town centre architects' work previously undertaken. Officers advised that a number of the recommendations were being progressed through existing projects and that further updates would be presented to the Board in September.

River Access

The Chair highlighted the success of the recent River Day event, which had attracted significant participation and positive feedback. Members discussed opportunities to enhance access to the river and support future events that promoted the town's waterways.

Projects Status Updates

Simon Stone proposed the development of a concise project status report to provide Members with a summary of project progress and key milestones between meetings. Members supported the suggestion and officers agreed to develop a suitable reporting format.

Destination Lincolnshire Meeting

Simon Stone also provided an update on discussions with Destination Lincolnshire regarding improved promotion of South Holland and Spalding as visitor destinations. Members welcomed the initiative and agreed that tourism and place marketing would play an important role in supporting wider regeneration objectives.

Board Member Change

The Chair informed Members that Emma Tatlow had recently been appointed Chair of the Boston Town Board. On behalf of the Board, he recorded thanks for her contribution to the Spalding Neighbourhood Board and wished her well in her new role.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 21 September 2026 - Boston College Campus, Red Lion Quarter, Spalding.