



MINUTES

Council

Date:	Monday, 19 April 2021
Venue:	Via Zoom
Members Present:	Mayor (Councillor Angela Jacques) Deputy Mayor (Councillor Richard Redcliffe) Councillors Ben Aitken, Frank Andrews, Peter Anthony, Tim Armit, Mark Bamforth, Brenda Blackshaw, Paula Brearley, Karen Buckley, Alan Clayton, Delma Collins, Peter Collins, Chris Dixon, Sue Fazackerley MBE, Trevor Fiddler, Ellie Gaunt, Brian Gill, Shirley Green, Noreen Griffiths, Peter Hardy, Will Harris, Gavin Harrison, Paul Hayhurst, Karen Henshaw, JP, Paul Hodgson, Matthew Lee, Cheryl Little, Roger Lloyd, Michelle Morris, Ed Nash, Sally Nash-Walker, Jayne Nixon, Linda Nulty, David O'Rourke, Bobby Rigby, Michael Sayward, Vince Settle, Elaine Silverwood, John Singleton JP, Roger Small, Heather Speak, Ray Thomas, Tommy Threlfall, Stan Trudgill, Viv Willder and Michael Withers.
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Tracy Manning, Ian Curtis, Katharine McDonnell, Sharon Wadsworth, Hannah Kirk, Ross McKelvie and Kassie Naravassi.
Others present	Reverend Christopher Scargill and one member of the public was present

A minute's silence was held in memory of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who had died on Friday 9 April 2021.

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor advised she had attended evensong at Blackburn Cathedral in celebration of HRH Prince Philip's life.

4. Chief Executive's Communications

The Chief Executive had none on this occasion.

5. Questions from Members

There were no questions from Members of the Council on this occasion.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

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A question had been received from Mr Tony Raynor. Mr Raynor asked;

“Thank you for the opportunity to ask a question of Councillors at this meeting. I remain respectful and appreciative of the good work performed by Members and Officers. Most Members will be aware of my altruistic interest in seeing improved regeneration effort. Can I ask what holding statement of intent can be given regarding the 10 ideas that I forwarded from public opinion to help fill empty premises in St Annes?”

I am aware of the ARG Empty Property Grant or the future arrival of a Town Centres Manager so a response orientated towards the 10 ideas from the public would be welcome.

Ideas ranked by popularity;

1. Act as an honest broker with empty property landlords
2. Reduce rates payable or lobby for rates valuations
3. Attract retailers with a strong preference towards markets (Altrincham style)
4. Free Parking via disk system (a la Keswick)
5. Buy local campaign
6. Multiple off-season events to extend the season
7. Late Night opening
8. Out of town promotion effort (by existing comms officers)
9. Improve empty shop appearance (charge-back to landlords)
10. Relaxation of planning department (for business)”

Councillor Richard Redcliffe responded advising that recent changes to consumer habits had increased vacancies in shops across the country and Fylde’s town centres, particularly St Annes, had not bucked the national trend. The process had started prior to the pandemic but sadly the pandemic had increased the vacancy rate. The Town Centres Working Group had been established to address many of the issues raised by Mr Raynor. The group was working in partnership with established business groups.

Taking each of Mr Raynor’s points in turn, Councillor Redcliffe provided a detailed explanation of how the working group was addressing these issues to support the revitalisation of the high streets in Fylde. He provided many examples including the appointment of an economic development officer, appropriate direction of covid business recovery grants, rate relief where appropriate and planned promotional events.

As a supplementary question, Mr Raynor asked Councillor Redcliffe to give time-bound indications of when two of the initiatives that Councillor Redcliffe had discussed were intended to come to fruition. Councillor Redcliffe responded that any timeframes had to be realistic and advised that, for example, he expected that positive results from the ARG Vacant Premises grant would be expected by the end of the financial year. He also advised the work of the working group would deliver late season and off-season events during the current calendar year.

7. Notice of Motion – Apprenticeships

Following notice given under rule 11 of the Council Procedure Rules, the following Motion was proposed by Councillor Ben Aitken;

“Fylde Borough Council welcomes the Chancellor’s announcement in the recent Budget, in relation to incentives to hire apprentices, as part of the Government ‘s plan to help businesses and the economy recover, from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Employers will receive £3,000 for new employees of any age, who start their apprenticeship, from 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021. This payment is in addition to the existing £1000, already paid for taking on an apprentice, who is aged 16 to 18 or under 25 and has an education, health and care plan or has been in the care of their local authority.

The Council will make use of this scheme to maximise recruitment opportunities to the various Town Hall departments to grow talent and further develop a motivated, skilled workforce.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mike Withers.

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Following a debate, the motion was carried.

8. Invitation to Accept Appointment as Mayor 2021/22

Councillor Paul Hodgson proposed that Councillor Elaine Silverwood be invited to accept the appointment of Mayor of the Borough of Fylde for the municipal year 2021/22.

Councillor Linda Nulty seconded the proposal, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to appoint Councillor Elaine Silverwood as Mayor of the Borough of Fylde for the municipal year 2021/22, at the next Annual Meeting.

9. Invitation to Accept Appointment as Deputy Mayor 2021/22

Councillor Elaine Silverwood proposed that Councillor Cheryl Little be invited to accept the appointment of Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Fylde for the municipal year 2021/22.

Councillor Roger Small seconded the proposal, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to appoint Councillor Cheryl Little as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Fylde for the municipal year 2021/22, at the next Annual Meeting.

10. Appointment of Leader and Deputy Leader

Councillor Trevor Fiddler proposed Councillor Karen Buckley as Leader of the Council and Councillor Roger Small as Deputy Leader, and to act in that capacity for the municipal year 2021/22.

Councillor Tommy Threlfall seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Karen Buckley be elected Leader of the Council and Councillor Roger Small be elected Deputy Leader of the Council, for the municipal year 2021/22.

11. Schedule of Meetings 2021/22

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced the proposed schedule of meetings for 2021/22. She advised there was one amendment from the printed report, that was to move the Operational Management Committee from 8 June to 16 June 2021.

Subject to the easing of restrictions, Councillor Buckley also advised of the intention to hold a celebratory event to mark the appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2021/22 in July. This would follow the scheduled Annual Meeting at which the appointments would officially be confirmed which would be a more limited business meeting due to the likely prevailing restrictions at the time.

Councillor Roger Small seconded the proposal.

It was therefore RESOLVED to approve the Schedule of Meetings for 2021/22.

12. Confirmation of Committees and Allocation of Membership

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced a report regarding the proposed committees and allocation of membership for 2021/22. Councillor Buckley explained that the council was required annually to confirm the committees that it wished to appoint and allocate the membership of certain of those committees in accordance with the principles of political balance under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Councillor Small seconded the proposal.

Thanks were extended to Councillor Little for her chairmanship of the Tourism and Leisure Committee.

It was RESOLVED, in accordance with the report, to;

1. Appoint the committees and joint committees set out in the appendix for the municipal year 2021-2022, with the same terms of reference as presently agreed;
2. Allocate committee seats in accordance with the principles of political balance as set out in the table in paragraph 7;
3. Appoint members to seats on committees required to be politically balanced in accordance with the nominations made by the political groups; appoint Councillor Hayhurst to the Audit and Standards Committee in

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place of Councillor Mulholland; appoint Mr Peter Clements, Mr Brian Horrocks and Mrs Helen Broughton as co-opted members of the Chief Officer Employment Committee and appoint the Leader of the Council as Fylde's representative to the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board;

4. Re-appoint the existing chairmen and vice-chairmen to the committees, subject to the following changes:

- Tourism and Leisure Committee: Councillor Sayward to replace Councillor Little as chairman, Councillor Harrison to replace Councillor Sayward as vice-chairman
- Public Protection and Licensing committees: Councillor Thomas to replace Councillor Harrison as vice-chairman

5. Appoint members to the Licensing Committee, which is not required to be politically balanced;

6. Appoint eight members to the Member Development Steering Group; and

7. Appoint Councillor Sally Nash-Walker as the Council's Mental Health Champion Lead.

13. Appointments to Outside Bodies 2021/22

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced the report. She advised that the council made a number of appointments to outside bodies each year, confirmed at the last ordinary meeting prior to the annual meeting. Councillor Buckley advised of a number of amendments and additions to the current list of outside bodies and the representatives on those bodies.

Councillor Roger Small seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED to confirm the nominated appointments to outside bodies for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year, as shown in appendix 1 to the report, subject to the following changes:

- To nominate Councillor Chris Dixon as the council's representative on the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Joint Scrutiny Committee
- To nominate the Leader of the Council as the council's representative at the Local Government Association General Assembly
- To increase the seats on the Education Liaison Committee to 3 and add Councillor Trevor Fiddler as the third council representative
- To substitute Councillor Michael Sayward for Councillor Cheryl Little as the council's representative on the Fairhaven Lake and Gardens Restoration Project Board
- To substitute Councillor Frank Andrews for Councillor Bobby Rigby as one of the council's representatives on the Police and Crime Commissioner Panel

14. Boundary Commission Review – Warding Arrangements

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced the council's indicative warding arrangements proposal to the Boundary Commission. She advised that the Boundary Commission's public consultation on warding arrangements ended on 5 April, and a provisional proposal had been submitted to them following the meeting of the Finance and Democracy Committee on 29 March 2021. The Boundary Commission had confirmed that it would accept submission of the Council's final proposal on warding arrangements following the Council meeting.

Councillor Roger Small seconded the proposal.

There followed a debate on the proposed scheme.

Under procedure rule 14.5 a recorded vote was requested and following support from five members, a recorded vote was taken:

Votes for the proposal (29) – Councillors Aitken, Anthony, Buckley, D Collins, Dixon, Fazackerley, Fiddler, Gaunt, Green, Harris, Harrison, Jacques, Little, Morris, Nash, Nash-Walker, Nixon, O'Rourke, Redcliffe, Rigby, Sayward, Settle, Singleton, Small, Thomas, Threlfall, Trudgill, Willder and Withers.

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Votes against the proposal (12) Brearley, Clayton, P Collins, Gill, Hayhurst, Henshaw, Hodgson, Lee, Lloyd, Nulty Silverwood and Speak.

Abstentions (6) Andrews, Armit, Bamforth, Blackshaw, Griffiths and Hardy.

It was RESOLVED that the Council approves the document at appendix 1 to the report as the Council's final proposal to the Local Government Boundary Commission for warding arrangements.

15. Constitution Amendment: Meeting Scheduling

Councillor John Singleton proposed a minor amendment to the council procedure rules that would allow the schedule of meetings for a municipal year to be settled earlier than was currently provided for.

Councillor Ellie Gaunt seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED that the text of council procedure rule 4.3 be amended to substitute the words 'no later than', in place of 'at'.

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