



# MINUTES

## Council

<b>Date:</b>	Monday, 4 July 2022
<b>Venue:</b>	Town Hall, St Annes.
<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	Mayor Councillor Ben Aitken Deputy Mayor Councillor Alan Clayton  Councillors Frank Andrews, Peter Anthony, Tim Armit, Brenda Blackshaw, Karen Buckley, Delma Collins, Peter Collins, Chris Dixon, Sue Fazackerley MBE, Trevor Fiddler, Ellie Gaunt, Brian Gill, Shirley Green, Noreen Griffiths, Peter Hardy, Gavin Harrison, Paul Hayhurst, Angela Jacques, John Kirkham, Cheryl Little, Ed Nash, Sally Nash-Walker, Jayne Nixon, Linda Nulty, Liz Oades, David O'Rourke, Richard Redcliffe, Michael Sayward, Elaine Silverwood, John Singleton JP, Roger Small, Ray Thomas, Tommy Threlfall, Stan Trudgill, Viv Willder, Michael Withers.
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Allan Oldfield, Ian Curtis, Sharon Wadsworth, Ross McKelvie, Stephen Reed, Hannah Kirk, Howie Dawson, Lucie Warburton and Jordan Robbins.
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	Councillor Mark Bamforth (via remote access) 3 members of the public were in attendance

### Prayers

Prayers were offered by the Mayor's Chaplain, Father Philip Newbold

#### 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.

Councillor Linda Nulty declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 7- Fully Funded Revenue Budget Increase – Household Support Fund insofar as she was the chair of Fylde Foodbank and a trustee of the Fylde CAB and would be leaving the room for the duration of the item.

Councillor Noreen Griffiths declared a personal interest in Item 7- Fully Funded Revenue Budget Increase – Household Support Fund as she was a council representative on Fylde CAB.

#### 2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Annual General Council meeting, held on 11 May 2022, as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

#### 3. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor had no announcements.

#### 4. Chief Executive's Communications

The Chief Executive had no announcements.

5. Questions from Members of the Council

Two questions had been received from Members of the Council.

The first question from Councillor O'Rourke was: -

*"Following the appointment of consultants later last year, an extensive consultation exercise was carried out in March to inform plans for the regeneration of St Annes Town Centre and Island site. As a member of the Town Centres Working Group and its St Annes sub-group, along with Councillor Redcliffe, Chairman of the Working Group, I was closely involved with Officers in the brief and selection of the consultants through the procurement process so have a particularly strong interest in this project. Whilst I perhaps know more than most, for the benefit of all can the Leader please update the Council on the outcome of the consultation and the next steps in taking this forward?"*

Councillor Buckley responded that consultants were appointed to prepare a comprehensive masterplan to shape the future development of St Annes Town centre and the Island site on the Promenade and to help the council to access external funding. The views of the public and key stakeholders have been sought during a consultation exercise and these views had helped to shape the development of the masterplan. Bids were being prepared to be submitted to the second round of the governments Levelling Up fund. The round had three investment themes being transport; regeneration and town centre investment, and cultural investment. There was an opportunity to secure funding to help deliver different phases of the masterplan, in particular the public realm improvement to the area around the train station, dedicated pedestrian and cycle links, an events space in the Square and improving the connection to the town centre and the sea front. If successful it was expected that the bid would deliver a transformation of the town centre with 4 hectares of new public realm and 460 metres of active travel links, encouraging increased walking and cycling and an enhanced events programme to increase both day and overnight visitors to Fylde.

In asking a supplementary question Councillor O'Rourke asked how much the levelling up bid was for and how did it compare to other regeneration initiatives already delivered or underway in Fylde. Councillor Buckley advised that the levelling up bid was for around £14.6m. Other schemes, delivered over the years with partners, included the Fairhaven to Church Scar sea defences for £22m, the Fairhaven Heritage scheme and regeneration at £3.5m, Kirkham Futures at £9.6m, the award for the St Annes Sea Wall for £12.1 m and investment in the M55 link road at £27m. The total amount of investments total £88m and showed how ambitious Fylde was as a council to improve Fylde for the residents, visitors and businesses.

The second question was from Councillor Peter Collins: -

*"Can the Chairman of the Planning Committee give an assurance that Fylde Borough Council will engage with Bryning with Warton Parish Council to identify priorities and develop an action plan to ensure that the parish develops in accordance with the policies and objectives enshrined in the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan?"*

Councillor Fiddler responded that he could give that assurance. He reiterated that the Neighbourhood Plan was an important and integral part of development plan, and he intended to invite representatives from the parish council to a meeting with planning officers to review mutual priorities and objectives.

In asking a supplementary question Councillor Collins asked if Councillor Fiddler agreed that it should not be necessary that questions be asked at full council to obtain an assurance that such engagement with Bryning with Warton Parish council will take place. Councillor Fiddler responded that the forthcoming review by the Planning Advisory Service would include work on the planning service and parish councils.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

A question had been received from Mr Wright:-

*"Wrea Brook Park housing development, Blackfield End Farm, Warton – 12 months ago, we met with Councillors Fiddler, Threlfall and officer at the Town Hall to try to understand why officers were not taking enforcement action with regards to the outstanding planning breaches on this development – notably relation to critical drainage and landscaping conditions. We were given various assurances and commitments, including the promise of an onsite meeting with the developer and residents ASAP. This didn't happen.*

*5 months ago, I stood here before you with the same unresolved issues and broken promises and I again received assurances from Councillor Fiddler that the outstanding planning issues and breaches regarding critical drainage and landscaping were being addressed as a priority – this time, before the end of February. But nothing has*

*I tried to raise this matter at the Full Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April, but my submission was deemed too long. But it did at least elicit some action, namely [an identified officer] met with myself and another resident offsite on 27<sup>th</sup> April – but disappointingly, only so that [the officer] could remind himself of the outstanding issues. [The officer] promised to take the issues forward as a priority and the following day (28<sup>th</sup> April), Councillor Threlfall confirmed to me personally that [the officer] would be contacting the developer that day. He didn't and nothing has happened since – [the officer] continues to claim he has other priorities.*

*Councillor Fiddler and his officers repeatedly tell us that Fylde follow national planning guidance that seeks to avoid formal enforcement action through engagement and negotiation with developers. But there has been no dialogue and no engagement by Fylde officers with this developer for at least 12 months on these outstanding critical matters. Fylde are not following national guidelines.*

*Would anyone in this room like to stand up and accept responsibility for these failings and be accountable and commit to doing something about it, rather than the empty promises residents have been given for the last 3 years?"*

Councillor Fiddler responded that he understood the frustrations of Mr Wright over the length of time taken over this matter. He confirmed that whilst several issues raised in July 2021 had been resolved there was the outstanding matter of the discharge of the planning condition that related to the surface and foul water drainage on the site. The foul water drainage arrangements had now been approved by United Utilities and the design of the surface water drainage scheme had been accepted by the lead local flood authority and was being implemented on site. However, the information required to allow for the condition to be discharged was currently incomplete and officers were in dialogue with the developer to complete the matter without further delay.

In asking a supplementary question Mr Wright asked what timescales could be expected until approved. Councillor Fiddler that he had a commitment from officers that the two outstanding issues would be dealt with as a priority.

#### Decision Items

##### 7. Fully Funded Revenue Budget Increase – Household Support Fund

Councillor Threlfall proposed a fully funded increase to the Revenue Budget. The Environment, Health & Housing Committee had considered and was fully supportive of the increase of up to £270,000 for the Household Support Fund.

The funding would be directed to support the elderly with a considerable proportion of the grant being directed at supporting OAP's who were eligible for the council tax support scheme.

A further bid had also been submitted, with the aim of allowing Fylde Council to continue working more widely with Fylde CAB, Age UK and foodbanks, which may lead to a larger fully funded revenue budget increase if successful.

Councillor Dixon seconded the proposal, and it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of up to £270,000 in 2022/23, fully funded from the government grant funding stream for Household Support Fund.

*(Having previously declared a prejudicial interest in item 7, Councillor Nulty, left the room for the duration of the item).*

##### 8. Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) Policy

Councillor Gaunt proposed the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) Policy for readoption by the council. She advised that the policy was evaluated and reviewed annually with the only substantive changes proposed this year being changes to reflect the new officer management structure.

Councillor Nash seconded the proposal. It was unanimously RESOLVED to endorse the RIPA Policy as updated.

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