



Minutes Council

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| Date: | Monday, 6 October 2014 |
| Venue: | United Reformed Church, St George's Road, St Annes |
| Members: | Mayor (Councillor Kevin Eastham) Deputy Mayor (Councillor Karen Henshaw JP) Councillors Brenda Ackers, Tim Armit, Susan Ashton ,Tim Ashton, Karen Buckley, David Chedd, Maxine Chew, Alan Clayton, Peter Collins, Fabian Craig-Wilson, Susan Cunningham, John Davies, Leonard Davies, David Donaldson, Charlie Duffy, David Eaves, Sue Fazackerley, Dr Trevor Fiddler, Tony Ford JP, Gail Goodman JP , Peter Hardy, Paul Hayhurst, Howard Henshaw ADK (MALAYSIA), Ken Hopwood, Angela Jacques, Cheryl Little, Barbara Nash, Edward Nash, Linda Nulty, Elizabeth Oades, Albert Pounder, Richard Redcliffe, Louis Rigby, Elaine Silverwood, John Singleton JP, Heather Speak, Thomas Threlfall, Vivienne M Willder. |
| Officers: | Allan Oldfield, Tracy Morrison, Ian Curtis, Howard Dawson, Murray Don, Bernard Judge, Ross McKelvie, Sharon Wadsworth. |
| Other attendees: | Reverend Alan Clark and approx 9 members of the public. |

Prayers

Prayers were offered by the Mayor's Chaplin, the Reverend Alan Clark.

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. During the course of the meeting the Mayor declared a personal interest in item 8 in so far as he employed Ms Helen Hockenhull some twenty years ago.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Council meeting, held on 28 July 2014, as a correct record for signature by the Mayor subject to the addition of Elswick Parish Council to Councillor Chedd's declaration of personal interest.

3. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor, Councillor Kevin Eastham, commented on an enjoyable couple of months of Gala Days, Club Days and Carnivals and commended the volunteers that gave their time to events in the borough. The Mayor also mentioned the commemorations that had recently been held in aid of the Second World War and the seventieth anniversary of the Freckleton School disaster.

A minutes' silence was observed in memory of Honorary Alderman Alfred Jealous who had passed away on Monday 15th September 2014.

The Mayor concluded his announcements by informing members that there would be a concert by the Guardian Band on 25th October 2014 at the Fairhaven Methodist Church in aid of the Mayoral Charities, RNLI and YMCA.

4. Chief Executive's Communications

There were no communications from the Chief Executive.

5. Questions from Members of the Council

There were no questions from members of the Council.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

There were three questions from members of the public.

As a member of the County Council management control committee, Councillor Hayhurst withdrew from the meeting for the duration of the third question.

1. From Alan Ashton

"Is the Council aware that permission is currently being sought for the installation of solar panels in the Fylde countryside?"

A typical installation occupies 40-50 acres (in order to be economically viable). The panels are considerably larger than the rooftop ones, and stand some 7 and 8 feet tall, as a permanent feature in the landscape for 25 years or more.

Does the Borough Council have a policy on this matter?"

Councillor Thomas Threlfall, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Partnerships, responded that the Fylde Borough Local Plan, 2005 was adopted prior to the development of large scale solar facilities and did not contain any policy specific to such forms of development.

Policy CL2 of the Emerging Local Plan to 2030 addresses "Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation". This policy sought to ensure that the benefits that renewable energy generation projects, including large scale solar facilities, would provide to the wider economy and local community were properly balanced against any potential harm to landscape, local residents, ecology, land reserves, including agricultural land, the historic environment, aviation, defence interests and highway safety.

As part of the consultation, with regard to the council's preferred option, a number of comments had been received and the Council had resolved to incorporate those comments into the policy in a revised preferred option which was currently being prepared. Any application submitted would receive full and proper consideration and would be subject to consultation.

2. From John Nolan

"I have heard and seen many comments regarding Blackpool Airport being up for sale by the current owners. As this is our local Airport, can you please inform me as to what Fylde Council are doing in order to keep the Airport operational and serving residents across the Fylde."

Councillor Dr Trevor Fiddler, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development, responded that he could assure the author of the question and all those in the Blackpool Airport catchment area that Fylde Council was doing all it could to ensure the airport remained operational. As soon as Balfour Beatty announced that the airport was for sale, Fylde took the initiative and invited Blackpool, Wyre, Lancashire County Council and members of Lancashire Enterprise Partnership to see if they could collectively safeguard the airport.

However, the local authority had limited powers and little resources to provide direct support to private sector organisations in difficulty. The airport had lost significant amounts of money for several years, with the prospect of increased business virtually none existent.

Legislation and regulation restricted local authorities from spending public resources, particularly finance, for the support or competition with private ventures.

Fylde along with neighbouring authorities were working with the owners of the airport to ensure, that if passenger jets were to stop flying from the airport, that the runway remained operational as an airfield with private small planes and helicopter business. The protection of the runway was essential for any prospect of another airline flying passenger jets from the airport and every effort was to be made to promote and support a new airline business.

3. From Susan Holliday

“At the last council meeting the following question was asked:

Organisations such as the RSPB, National Trust etc., (see:

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy/climatechange/action/ukenergy/fit-to-frack.aspx>) have raised concerns regarding the lack of appropriate regulation for on-shore fracking. There is also emerging research highlighting health issues to people who live in close proximity to fracking sites, particularly as a result of flaring which releases radon gas (a carcinogenic substance, and methane gas (greenhouse gas) into the atmosphere. As we live within 300m of the proposed fracking site at Preston New Road where Cuadrilla are proposing two flares this gives us great concern. Will Fylde Borough Council ask Lancashire County Council to make ‘green completion’ mandatory for all phases of the exploration, and press Lancashire County Council and the Government to introduce regulation specific to on-shore high volume fracking with regular and independent monitoring of fracking operations to ensure the environment in respect of neighbouring residents and local wildlife is not adversely effected.

To which the following response was received:

Councillor Thomas Threlfall, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Partnerships, responded that there had been almost four years of work undertaken by Task and Finish groups and Shale Gas Member working groups that had been set up by Fylde Council. The primary objective of both groups had been to ensure that any Shale Gas activity would have full regulation, maximum safety compliance, regular independent monitoring and full restoration of the local environment. All concerns that had been highlighted to the Council would be considered when putting together the response as a statutory consultee. Safety and regulation had dominated the agenda and he had asked that for any shale gas exploration in Fylde that the regulatory bodies were located in Fylde, on the doorstep of where the activity was taking place.

Given that Fylde Borough Council are currently in the process of submitting an objection to Lancashire County Council for the proposed site at Preston New Road as agreed at the Development Meeting on 17/09 please can I have confirmation that they will still be including these concerns in the response should LCC choose to ignore the objections received and grant planning permission.

Councillor David Eaves, Leader of the Council, responded that he could confirm that Fylde Council had considered all the concerns that had been raised in putting together the detailed response that had been sent to Lancashire County Council in respect of the shale gas applications.

Regardless of what decision County Council came to on the applications this Council would always advocate the need for reassurance that there would be full safety regulation and monitoring procedures in place before any shale gas activity was carried out.

7. Notice of Motion – Employment Land

Following notice given under rule 11 of the Council Procedure Rules, the following Motion was proposed by Councillor Elizabeth Oades and seconded by Councillor Charlie Duffy.

"In response to the Policy Development Scrutiny Committee's recent decision not to call in the Cabinet Member Decision regarding Employment Land, a minority of the Committee have published a Minority Report to explain our concerns.

We believe there is a serious risk that the Local Plan could be found to be based on conclusions that are unsound, and we therefore call for this matter to be addressed in detail via a Task and Finish Scrutiny Group.

We propose that the Council:

i) receive the Minority Report, and

ii) request the Policy Development Scrutiny Committee to establish a Task and Finish Group to investigate in detail the concerns set out in our Minority Report, and that Mr Guest, who submitted his critique at the request of the Portfolio Holder, be invited to become part of that Task and Finish group, and

iii) that a further report be made to full Council by the Scrutiny Committee."

A request by Councillor Oades to deal with the Motion in three parts was briefly discussed but the Mayor directed that normal practice should be followed and the motion should be discussed as a composite resolution. However, it was agreed that the Minority Report would be recorded as having been formally received by virtue of the motion.

During the course of the debate Councillor Fiddler proposed to proceed to the next business and was seconded by Councillor Tim Ashton.

A recorded vote, having been requested by five or more members under council procedure rule 14.5(i), followed.

Votes for the motion to proceed to next business (22): Councillors Ackers, Armit, S Ashton, T Ashton, Buckley, Craig-Wilson, Cunningham, L Davies, Donaldson, Duffy, Eaves, Fiddler, Goodman, Jacques, Little, B Nash, E Nash, Pounder, Redcliffe, Singleton, Threlfall, Willder.

Votes against the motion to proceed to next business (16): Councillors Chedd, Chew, Clayton, Collins, J Davies, Ford, Hardy, Hayhurst, H Henshaw, Hopwood, Nulty, Oades, Rigby, Silverwood, Speak, K Henshaw.

Abstentions (2): Councillors Fazackerley and Eastham.

The motion, having been APPROVED, the meeting proceeded to the next business and the motion proposed by Councillor Oades was deemed to have been lost.

8. Independent Remuneration Panel

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced the report that recommended that Helen Hockenhull and Mary Wilson be appointed as members of the council's independent remuneration panel in succession to Peter Law-Jones, who had stepped down. Councillor Pounder seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED to appoint Ms Helen Hockenhull and Ms Mary Wilson MBE to the members' allowances independent remuneration panel in succession to the Reverend Peter Law-Jones.

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