



Minutes Council

Date:	Monday, 1 December 2014
Venue:	Lowther Pavilion, Lytham
Members:	Mayor (Councillor Kevin Eastham) Deputy Mayor (Councillor Karen Henshaw JP) Councillors Brenda Ackers, Ben Aitken, Christine Akeroyd, Frank Andrews, Tim Armit, Susan Ashton, Tim Ashton, Mark Bamforth, Keith Beckett, Karen Buckley, David Chedd, Maxine Chew, Alan Clayton, Peter Collins, Simon Cox, 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, Nigel Goodrich, Peter Hardy, Paul Hayhurst, Howard Henshaw ADK (MALAYSIA), Paul Hodgson, Ken Hopwood, Angela Jacques, Cheryl Little, Kiran Mulholland, Barbara Nash, Edward Nash, Linda Nulty, Elizabeth Oades, Dawn Prestwich, Albert Pounder, Richard Redcliffe, Louis Rigby, Elaine Silverwood, John Singleton JP, Thomas Threlfall, Vivienne M Willder.
Officers:	Allan Oldfield, Tracy Morrison, Paul O'Donoghue, Ian Curtis, Paul Swindells, Andrew Turpin, Colin Dockery, Ross McKelvie, Sharon Wadsworth and Katharine McDonnell.
Other attendees:	Reverend Alan Clark and approximately 6 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.

Councillors Andrews and Chedd declared an interest in agenda item 11, Council Tax Discounts and Premiums. They withdrew during the consideration and voting on this item.

Councillors T Ashton, Armit, Buckley, Duffy, Dr Fiddler, Mulholland and Threlfall declared an interest in agenda item 11, Council Tax Discounts and Premiums and agenda item 12, Council Tax Reduction Scheme. They withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and voting on these items.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Council meeting, held on 6 October 2014, as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

3. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor, Councillor Kevin Eastham, on behalf of all members of the Council thanked Councillor Eaves for his leadership of the Council. The Mayor described Councillor Eaves as diplomatic, courteous with a quietly determined manner. He added that the Council had been well served by his leadership and that the Council appreciated his work, time and efforts. The Mayor wished Councillor Eaves well for the future.

The Mayor provided a summary of his recent engagements giving special mention to a most fitting Remembrance Service at Manchester Cathedral. He exhibited the winners' cup presented to Fylde Borough Council for having the most category winners in the recent North West in Bloom awards. In doing so he paid special tribute to the work of all the volunteer village and town teams around the Borough who had worked so hard to achieve the accolades.

The Mayor also mentioned an emotional but special evening at Radio Wave's Local Heroes award ceremony.

4. Chief Executive's Communications

The Chief Executive echoed the comments of the Mayor, thanking Councillor Eaves for his leadership and service.

The Chief Executive thanked members for their support of the Homestart initiative and reminded those who had not yet contributed but wished to, had until 12 December to do so.

5. Questions from Members of the Council

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

6. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public on this occasion.

7. Election of Leader of the Council

Councillor Karen Buckley proposed Councillor Susan Fazackerley as Leader of the Council for the remainder of the municipal year. In doing so she paid tribute to the outgoing Leader, Councillor David Eaves, thanking him for his contribution to the borough of Fylde during a time of particular change and economic challenge.

Councillor Buckley advised the Council that Councillor Fazackerley had been elected in 1987 to represent Central ward. She had served on Tourism and Leisure committee and Policy and Resources committee; had served as Mayor of the Borough in 2006; had been appointed as Portfolio Holder for Tourism and Leisure in 2009, and appointed Deputy Leader of the Council in 2010.

Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson seconded the proposal, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to elect Councillor Susan Fazackerley Leader of Fylde Borough Council for the remainder of the municipal year 2014/2015.

8. Appointment to Outside Bodies

Councillor Fazackerley advised that as a result of the resignation of Councillor David Eaves as Leader of the Council, two vacancies had arisen on Outside Bodies which needed to be

filled. She advised that these were Conservative vacancies for the purposes of political balance.

Councillor Fazackerley requested that Council confirmed the appointment of Councillor Cheryl Little to the Police Crime Commissioner Panel, and Councillor Albert Pounder to the Three Tier Forum.

Councillor Thomas Threlfall seconded the proposal and following a show of hands it was RESOLVED that;

1. Councillor Cheryl Little be appointed to the Lancashire Police Crime Commissioner Panel for the remainder of the municipal year 2014/2015; and
2. Councillor Albert Pounder be appointed to the Three Tier Forum for the remainder of the municipal year 2014/2015.

9. Governance Arrangements

Councillor Fazackerley introduced the report detailing the changes required to enable the move to a committee system of governance. In introducing the report she made reference to the work of the cross-party working group under the chairmanship of the independent Local Government Association peer member Councillor Glenn Sanderson.

Councillor Fazackerley commented that she was particularly heartened by the spirit of partnership and amicable nature of the meetings as the group worked hard to reach a consensus or where that was not possible to put forward alternative options or a statement of guiding principal.

In proposing the report, Councillor Fazackerley advised that the recommendations were as stated with the exception of two amendments, firstly that the name of the Health and Housing Committee be amended to Environment, Health and Housing Committee; and secondly that in regards to arrangements for substitutes that the Council adopt Option 2 as set out in Appendix 4 of the report.

She concluded by thanking the group for their wisdom and commitment and thanked the officers for their work and support.

Councillor Buckley seconded the proposals.

Councillor Elizabeth Oades proposed an amendment to the motion, seconded by Councillor David Chedd, that in regards to arrangements for substitutes the Council adopt Option 1 as set out in Appendix 4 of the report.

Following a lengthy discussion regarding the merits of each option, there was a show of hands and the amendment was lost.

Returning to the substantive motion, there was further debate including comments regarding committee size, and following a show of hands it was RESOLVED;

1. that the terms of reference of the new programme committees be as set out in Appendix 1 to the report with the exception of title of the Health and Housing Committee, which be amended to Environment, Health and Housing Committee;
2. that the role of the Leader of the Council be as set out in paragraph 15 of the report;
3. to adopt the revised protocols and procedures for setting and monitoring the council's budget, incorporating the revised schedule of meetings, set out in Appendix 2 to the report;

4. to adopt the rules for referral and recovery set out in Appendix 3 to the report;
5. to agree to the arrangements for taking urgent decisions set out in paragraph 21 of the report;
6. that in regards to arrangements for substitutes under the committee system option 2 as outlined in Appendix 4 to the report be adopted;
7. Mandate the Director of Resources to produce an amended version of the constitution incorporating the changes set out in resolutions 1-6 above and such further technical or administrative changes as are necessary or appropriate for the council's transition to a committee system; and
8. Request the Director of Resources to bring a report to the meeting of the council on March 30th 2015 requesting that the council adopt its new constitution with effect from its 2015 annual meeting.

10. Dispensation to Allow Town and Parish Councillors to Participate in Council Tax Reduction Scheme Item

The Mayor presented a report regarding dispensation to allow Town and Parish councillors to participate in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme item. He informed members that the purpose of the report was to ensure that councillors who were also Town and Parish councillors could participate in the discussion about and vote on the item in relation to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, with reference to the allocation of a grant to Town and Parish Councils.

Tracy Morrison, Monitoring Officer, advised that Councillors E Nash, K Henshaw, Ford, Chew, Jacques, Silverwood, Little, Nulty, Singleton, Hodgson, Akeroyd, Willder, Beckett, Chedd, Clayton, Dr Fiddler, Oades, Pounder, Prestwich, Threlfall, Rigby, Hayhurst and Hardy had all applied for dispensation prior to the Council meeting.

The Mayor proposed, and the Deputy Mayor seconded the recommendation in the report.

Following a show of hands in favour of the proposal, it was RESOLVED:

That dispensations are given to councillors who have requested the same in relation to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme item contained later on the agenda for Council meeting of 1 December 2014 in so far as the allocation of a grant to Town and Parish Councils was concerned.

11. Review of Council Tax Discounts and Premiums

Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson introduced a report regarding a review of the Council Tax Discounts and Premiums chargeable by the Council. The report set out the issues to be considered and the options available to the Council for its Charging Policy from April 2015.

Councillor Craig-Wilson explained that each of the recommendations were consistent with the resolutions of the Policy Development Scrutiny Committee, who considered the matter at its meeting on 13 November 2014.

Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson proposed the recommendations in the report, which were seconded by Councillor John Singleton.

Following a show of hands in favour of the proposals, it was RESOLVED that with effect from 1 April 2015:

1. To continue the current Council Tax discounts and premiums regime for 2015/16.

12. Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2015/2016 Including Grants to Town and Parish Councils

Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson presented a report which provided the background to the implementation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) in April 2013. She advised that the scheme had to be reviewed and renewed each year. Councillor Craig-Wilson set out the considerations and the options available to the Council in adopting a scheme for 2015/16.

The Councils Revenue Budget and Financial forecast for 2015/16 onwards had been prepared on the basis of an assumption that the CTRS would be fully self-funding, at no additional cost to Fylde Borough Council or the major preceptors.

The report also addressed the question of the payment of grants to Town and Parish Councils in relation to changes arising from the introduction of a local CTRS and outlined the options available to the Council in that regard.

Councillor Craig-Wilson explained that the detail of the report had been considered by Policy Development Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 13 November 2014, and the recommendations set out were again consistent with those made by the Committee.

Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson proposed and Councillor John Singleton seconded that the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

Following a show of hands in favour of the proposals, it was RESOLVED:

1. to retain the currently implemented key features of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16, with a projected nil cost to the Council and the major preceptors and the 22.7% maximum reduction in the level of support to working age claimants;
2. to adopt option 2 as set out in Section 5 of the report for payments of grants to Town and Parish Councils. That is, in 2015/16 for Fylde Borough Council to agree to fund Town and Parish Councils to compensate them for losses in income as a consequence of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme impact in a total sum which reflects the estimated funding reductions that will apply to Fylde Borough Council for 2015/2016. This reduction would equate to 4.4%, with approximately £68,800 to be distributed as set out in Appendix E;
3. that the distribution methodology for payment of grants to Town and Parish Councils relating to the introduction of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme as described in section 5.10 of the report would be such that the grant allocation would be calculated by reference to the tax-base of each Town and Parish Council excluding the impact of Council Tax Reduction Scheme and the revised tax-base under the 2015/16 Council Tax Reduction Scheme regime, which was consistent with the methodology applied in respect of 2014/2015 grant allocations;
4. that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme continues to provide funding for Discretionary Hardship Relief in accordance with S13A (1) (a) or S13A (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 as detailed in section 4 of the report; and
5. to authorise the Section 151 Officer to make payments to Town and Parish Councils within Fylde Borough in 2015/2016 in relation to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

13. Financial Forecast Update (Including Revenue, Capital & Treasury Management) 2014/15 to 2018/19

Councillor Buckley introduced the financial forecast update (including revenue, capital & treasury management) for the period 2014/15 to 2018/19. She advised the report was a mid-year position which included any changes which had arisen since the budget was set in March 2014.

Councillor Buckley drew members' attention to the risks detailed in the report, particularly those arising from the ending of the waste recycling cost sharing arrangements with Lancashire County Council in 2018.

Councillor Buckley proposed the report and it was seconded by Councillor Fazackerley.

Following a show of hands it was RESOLVED to note the report and the implications of the updated financial forecast.

14. Mid Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2014/15

Councillor Singleton presented the mid-year prudential indicators and treasury management monitoring report, which he advised the Council had a duty to scrutinise in line with the recommendations of CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2011.

He further advised that the Audit Committee had scrutinised the report at its meeting on 20 November 2014 and had recommended it to Council for approval.

Councillor Singleton advised that the Council currently had borrowing of £3.8m, but no additional external borrowing had occurred during the 2014/2015 financial year. He further advised that the Council had a requirement to fund a further £3.0m for 2014/15 but this was funded by internal borrowing on the advice of the Council's Treasury Advisors.

He explained that £1.5m of external debt would be repaid in December 2014, reducing the level of external borrowing to £2.3m.

Councillor Singleton drew the Committee's attention to a new EU directive, due for implementation in January 2015. He explained that the Directive stopped government bail-outs of failing banks. Instead shareholders and creditors would bear the cost. The European Parliament had also approved revisions to the Deposit Guarantee Schemes Directive, which would increase the amount of loss local authorities would incur if a bank, in which the authority had deposits, failed. As a consequence of these changes, the Council's Treasury Advisors considered that some major UK banks may have their credit rating downgraded.

In anticipation of these changes the Audit Committee had recommended to Council amendments to the Investment Strategy, to allow the Council to invest in BBB+ rated banks and building societies, in limited amounts for short periods as set out in the report.

In concluding his presentation, Councillor Singleton thanked the Finance team for all their hard work.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Howard Henshaw, Councillor Buckley advised that the Council would always seek to invest in the highest-rated institutions possible.

Councillor Singleton proposed and Councillor Brenda Ackers seconded the report, and following a show of hands it was therefore RESOLVED

1. That the revised Investment Strategy, including the amendment to the Strategy to allow investment in banks and building societies rated BBB+ or above for short periods of time as described at section 5 of the report to Committee, be approved; and
2. That the revised Prudential Indicators and Limits in Appendix B of the report to Committee be approved.

(Councillor Howard Henshaw requested that his name be recorded as voting against the recommendations)

15. Park View Playing Field – Sand & Water Play Facility - Fully Funded Addition to the Capital Programme

Councillor Fazackerley presented a report detailing an addition to the capital programme of a scheme to provide a sand and water play facility at Park View playing field, fully funded from a capital grant of £272,084 from the Coastal Communities Fund.

Councillor Fazackerley explained that Park View 4U Charitable Trust had been awarded a grant of £395,084 from the Coastal Communities Fund. She further explained that the grant was split into a capital grant and a revenue grant, with all tendering, procurement and project management costs to be met by the capital grant.

It was explained that officers from the Parks and Greenspace, and Technical Services, would deliver the project including payment to and supervision of the successful contractor. On successful completion of the project, Park View 4U would pay the Council £272,084 for their services.

The Council was asked to approve the inclusion of the project as an addition to the Council's capital programme.

Councillor Fazackerley proposed the addition to the capital programme and it was seconded by Councillor Cheryl Little.

Following a show of hands, it was RESOLVED to approve an addition to the Council's Capital Programme for 2015/2016 in the sum of £272,084 to be fully-funded from a grant from the Coastal Communities Fund in the same sum.

16. Replacement of Motorised Boats at Fairhaven Lake

Councillor Fazackerley presented a report regarding an addition to the Council's capital programme in the sum of £55,000 in 2014/2015 for the replacement of motorised boats at Fairhaven Lake, to be fully funded from the capital investment reserve.

Councillor Fazackerley explained that following a health and safety inspection in August 2014, it was deemed that only 4 of the current 17 teak boats could be refurbished and then classed as "sea-worthy" for the forthcoming season. It was proposed that therefore to replace the motorised teak boats with 10 fibre glass, electric boats.

It was explained that the boats were very popular with the visiting public, and if the Council were to only run a non-motorised service it would result in a significant loss of income.

Councillor Fazackerley advised that if Council were minded to approve the addition to the capital programme it would enable the procurement of the new boats in time for the start of the season at Easter.

Councillor Fazackerley proposed the addition to the capital programme and it was seconded by Councillor Little.

Following a show of hands, it was RESOLVED to approve an addition to the Council's capital programme in the sum of £55,000 in 2014/2015 to be fully funded from the capital investment reserve.

Fylde Borough Council copyright [2014]

You may re-use this document/publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium. You must re-use it accurately and not in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Fylde Borough Council copyright and you must give the title of the source document/publication.

Where we have identified any third party copyright material you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This document/publication was also available on our website at
www.fylde.gov.uk

Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to us at the Town Hall, St Annes Road West, St Annes FY8 1LW, or to listening@fylde.gov.uk.