

# MINUTES

## Council

<b>Date:</b>	Monday, 17 July 2023
<b>Venue:</b>	Town Hall, St Annes.
<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	<p>Mayor Councillor Cheryl Little Deputy Mayor Councillor Peter Anthony</p> <p>Councillors Frank Andrews, Liz Bickerstaffe, Julie Brickles, Damian Buckley, Karen Buckley, Edward Collins, Peter Collins, Chris Dixon, Martin Evans, Kelly Farrington, Sue Fazackerley MBE, Joanne Gardner, Ellie Gaunt, Gail Goodman JP, Noreen Griffiths, Gavin Harrison, Paul Hayhurst, Karen Henshaw JP, Paul Hodgson, John Kirkham, Jordan Ledger, Matthew Lee, Ed Nash, Jayne Nixon, Sandra Pitman, Richard Redcliffe, Andrew Redfearn, Vince Settle, Bill Taylor, Tommy Threlfall, Viv Willder, Michael Withers.</p>
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Allan Oldfield, Tracy Manning, Ian Curtis, Sharon Wadsworth, Katharine McDonnell, Ross McKelvie and Colin Dockery.
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	<p>Councillor Mark Bamforth (via remote access)<sup>1</sup> 1 Member of the public</p>

### 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. There were none on this occasion.

### 2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Council meeting, held on 24 May 2023, as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

### 3. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor provided an outline of the role and work of the Mayor which primarily comprised of visits to support and champion the many community and charitable groups within Fylde, organise charity events and act as an ambassador for Fylde.

The Mayor announced her upcoming charity events including a BBQ at Lytham Hall and a Family Fun Day at Penny Farm.

### 4. Chief Executive's Communications

The Chief Executive had no announcements on this occasion.

<sup>1</sup> Council procedure rule 2 allows a councillor to participate in a meeting remotely in certain circumstances. A remotely participating councillor is not deemed to be present at the meeting and may not move, second or vote on any matter.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

No questions had been received from members of the public.

6. Questions from Members of the Council

One question had been received from Councillor Paul Hodgson, as follows:

“In the Conservatives, Fylde Council elections leaflet in May 2023, it stated that Fairhaven Lake will be De-silted to improve the water quality for water sports.

Could you please advise: -

- 1) How the de-silting will be done and how will the silt be disposed of?
- 2) When will this work take place and how long will it take?
- 3) What is the total cost of the work?
- 4) Has this project been agreed by full council and is it in the current budget for 2023 / 2024”

Councillor Jayne Nixon advised that a specialist environmental engineering company had been engaged to undertake a series of detailed scientific surveys. The results of these surveys would inform the approach for de-silting process. It was proposed to machine dredge the silt from the base of the lake and recycle it to create site-based wetlands. These wetlands would add a significant aesthetic and ecological value to the lake. It was also a cost-effective solution and considered to be best practice for this process.

However, she advised that the viability, cost and timescales would not be known until the surveys had been completed. The lake improvements, including the potential dredging or de-silting of the lake had been costed into the original Heritage Lottery Funded project and were included in the capital budget at that time.

In asking a supplementary question, Councillor Hodgson asked for further information regarding the depositing of the silt, namely was it safe to do so and would the silt be tested before it was dumped.

Councillor Nixon advised that once all the surveys and assessments had been completed, that would be determined.

7. Fully Funded Budget Increase – St Annes Event Square Project

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced a report on the funding for St Annes Event Square, the first project to come forward from the St Annes Masterplan. She advised the Masterplan had been devised building on wide engagement and consultation.

While the Council had been unsuccessful in securing Levelling Up funding in Autumn 2022, the council would continue to apply as further funding rounds were announced.

It was however deemed important to move forwards with the first project from the Masterplan for an events space, improved lighting, signage and upgraded CCTV. As such the matter had been considered by the Executive Committee with a recommendation to the Council to approve the funding.

The first of many consultations on the proposal would be held later in the week.

Councillor Richard Redcliffe seconded the proposal.

During the debate on the matter, there was support and enthusiasm for the proposal, however a number of councillors highlighted the importance of thorough and continued consultation before and during the project, citing the difficulties caused to businesses in Kirkham during the redevelopment work there.

In summing up, Councillor Buckley acknowledged the disruption caused by the redevelopment works in Kirkham but sought to reassure the Council that the project was on time and on budget. She also reiterated the commitment to consultation for this project.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to approve a fully funded addition to the Council’s Capital Programme for the total sum of £1,500,000 (£1,000,000 in 2023/2024 and £500,000 in 2024/25) to the St Annes Event Square Project, of which £857,000 in 2023/2024 shall be provided from the Council’s Capital Investment Reserve, £160,000 funding

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from UK Shared Prosperity Programme (UKSPF) in 2023/2024, £250,000 in 2024/25 is to be met from external funding provided by Lancashire County Council and capital virements of £233,000 in 2023/24.

#### 8. Fully Funded Budget Increase – UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced a report regarding several projects to be funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. She advised that the matter had been considered by the Executive Committee with a recommendation to Council approve the funding.

She advised that the funding had been made available to all local authorities, with Fylde's share being £2.6m over three years. To access the funding an investment plan which had been approved by Government in December last year. Council was requested to make budgetary provision for receipt of the Year 2 and Year 3 funds.

Councillor Vince Settle seconded the proposal.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to approve a fully funded addition to the council's capital programme in 2023/24 in the sum of £267,500 and in 2024/25 in the sum of £714,214 and an addition to the revenue base budget in 2023/24 in the sum of £374,076 and in 2024/25 in the sum of £966,714, fully funded additions to the 'UK Shared Prosperity Funding' scheme, to be met from external funding provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities based on the latest indicative figures provided as at 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

#### 9. Corporate Plan 2020-2024: Progress Review

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced the progress review of the actions in the Corporate Plan up to 30 June 2023.

Councillor Sue Fazackerley seconded the report.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to note the progress made against the Corporate Plan actions as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report for the period to the end of June 2023.

#### 10. Adjustment to Committee Allocations

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced a report on necessary changes to political balance calculations and the resultant adjustments to committee allocations following Councillor Julie Brickles decision to sit as a non-aligned councillor, rather than as part of the Independent Group.

Councillor Buckley explained that a seat on the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee was now to be allocated to a non-aligned councillor, rather than a councillor from the Independent Group, to satisfy the principles of political balance. It was proposed to re-allocate this seat to Councillor Brickles.

In addition to the recommendations in the report, Councillor Buckley proposed that the political affiliation of each councillor as shown on the council's website should going forward reflect their membership (or otherwise) of a political group, rather than the preference of the individual councillor. This would result in two councillors who had been elected as Liberal Democrats being shown as 'Independent'.

Councillor Richard Redcliffe seconded the proposal.

Councillor Matthew Lee opposed the proposition, stating that members of the Independent group retained their political affiliations notwithstanding their membership of the group.

Several questions and concerns were raised regarding party membership, political group affiliation, transparency and previous legal advice on the matter.

In response to a request for legal advice on the matter, Mr Curtis, Head of Governance advised that political groups were the creation of statute, under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, they were not connected in any formal way to membership of a registered political party. There was a procedure to form or join a political group with the political affiliation of a member a matter for the individual member. The proposal, if accepted would result in the information published by the Council reflecting the political group of members, rather than show the party they had stood for at election, if different.

After a further robust debate, it was RESOLVED that

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1. Council noted that Councillor Julie Brickles had left the Independent Group and would sit as a non-aligned councillor;
2. The seat on Community Focus Scrutiny Committee currently occupied by Councillor Julie Brickles as a member of the Independent Group was re-allocated to Councillor Brickles as a non-aligned councillor in accordance with the principles of political balance; and
3. The political affiliation of councillors shown on the council’s website should correspond with their membership (or otherwise) of a political group under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

**11. Nominations to Outside Bodies**

Councillor Richard Redcliffe introduced a report proposing nominations to Outside Bodies. He spoke about the importance of the work of those councillors supporting the work of those bodies, and to act as conduit between those bodies and the council.

Councillor Gavin Harrison seconded the proposal.

Councillor Matthew Lee objected to the lack of nominations offered to opposition members, but he expressed his surprise that Councillor Ed Nash not being nominated to the North West of England and the Isle of Man Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, despite serving on this outside body for 11 years. He therefore proposed an amendment to the motion, that “Due to Councillor Ed Nash’s 11 years in the role of the representative to the North West of England & the Isle of Man Reserve Forces & Cadets Association, that he continues to be appointed.”

Cllr Peter Collins seconded the amendment.

The motion was moved, voted upon and lost.

It was therefore RESOLVED to nominate the following Councillors to the following Outside Bodies:

<b>Outside body / partnerships</b>	<b>Representative</b>
BAE Systems Co-ordination	Lead Member for the Environment
Blackpool Airport EZ Project Board	Deputy Leader
Community Project Fund	The Mayor
Community Safety Partnership	Lead Member for Social Wellbeing
Duty to Co-operate – Planning	Chairman of Planning Lead Member for Economic Development
Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau	Lead Member for Customer and Operational Services Councillor Gail Goodman JP
Fylde Coast YMCA Partnership Board	Councillor Gavin Harrison
Fylde & Wyre Health & Wellbeing Partnership	Lead Member for Social Wellbeing
Fylde Peninsular Water Management Group	Lead Member for the Environment
Growth Lancashire Ltd	Leader of the Council (alternate Deputy Leader of the Council)
Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Joint Scrutiny Committee	Chairman of Planning
Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board	Lead Member for Social Wellbeing
Lancashire Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Viv Willder
Lancashire Waste Partnership	Lead Member for Customer and Operational Services
Local Government Association General Assembly (LGA)	Leader of the Council

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Lowther Trust	Lead Member for Tourism, Leisure and Culture
Lytham Town Trust	Councillor Michael Withers
North West Employers Organisation	Deputy Leader
North West of England & the Isle of Man Reserve Forces & Cadets Association	Councillor Frank Andrews
One Fylde	Councillor Gail Goodman JP
Park View 4 U Group	Councillor Andrew Redfearn
PATROL	Lead Member for Customer and Operational Services
Police Crime Commissioner Panel	Lead Member for Social Wellbeing
South Fylde Line Community Rail Partnership	Councillor Vince Settle
Springfield Site Stakeholder Group	Lead Member for the Environment and Councillor Martin Evans

(Councillor Julie Brickles left the meeting following the consideration of this item)

12. Cosmetic Piercing and Semi-Permanent Skin Colouring

Councillor Chris Dixon introduced a report proposing the extension of the Council’s regulatory control, namely regulate the practices of cosmetic piercing and semi-permanent skin colouring. It was advised that the matter had been considered by the Public Protection Committee in March 2023 and was recommended that the Council amended its byelaws to cover these practices.

He explained that the change allowed the Council to regulate cosmetic piercing, semi-permanent skin colouration, tattooing and acupuncture business. Not only would it improve safety it also provided a better framework for these businesses to operate and enable them to report any concerns about rogue practitioners.

Councillor Sandra Pitman seconded the proposal and it was unanimously RESOLVED that the Council carry out the necessary procedures to make, and seek confirmation by the Secretary of State of, byelaws as set out in the appendix of the report, to bring the practices of skin piercing and semi-permanent skin colouring within the scope of the Council’s byelaws.

13. Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) Policy

Councillor Ellie Gaunt introduced a report the Council’s policy on Regulation of Investigatory Powers. It was advised that it was good practice that the policy be reviewed annually, and having been so reviewed, no changes to the policy were proposed for the coming year.

Councillor Michael Withers seconded the motion and it was unanimously RESOLVED to endorse the policy as updated.

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