



MINUTES

Council

Date:	Monday, 4 December 2017
Venue:	Lowther Pavilion, Lytham
Members Present:	Mayor (Councillor John Singleton JP) Deputy Mayor (Councillor Raymond Thomas) Councillors Ben Aitken, Frank Andrews, Peter Anthony, Tim Ashton, Jan Barker, Keith Beckett ISO, Brenda Blackshaw, Julie Brickles, Karen Buckley, Maxine Chew, Alan Clayton, Delma Collins, Peter Collins, David Donaldson, Sue Fazackerley, Trevor Fiddler, Tony Ford JP, Richard Fradley, Gail Goodman JP, Shirley Green, Peter Hardy, Neil Harvey, Paul Hayhurst, Karen Henshaw JP, Angela Jacques, John Kirkham, Cheryl Little, Roger Lloyd, Barbara Nash, Edward Nash, Jayne Nixon, Linda Nulty, Liz Oades, Sandra Pitman, Richard Redcliffe, Louis Rigby, Roger Small, Thomas Threlfall, Viv Willder.
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Tracy Morrison, Ian Curtis, Ross McKelvie, Katharine McDonnell, Sharon Wadsworth, David Oxley
Other Attendees:	Ten members of the public were present.

Prayers

Prayers were offered by Reverend Peter Lillicrap.

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 Beckett, Buckley, Fiddler, Rigby and Threlfall declared pecuniary interests in agenda item 11, Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The nature of the interest being that they were landlords. The named Councillors left the meeting for the duration of the item.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2017 as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

3. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Jayne Nixon to the meeting following her recent election to the Council. He went on to speak about his pleasure at seeing so many of the Fylde's In Bloom groups at the North West in Bloom awards recently, and the huge amount of dedication from all involved. He gave special mention to Elswick In Bloom for their Champion status. The Mayor also requested that a thank you was passed on to all the teams from Fylde Borough Council who helped and supported the In Bloom groups as judging approached.

Minutes – Council – 4 December 2017

The Mayor reminded Councillors of the forthcoming Mayor's Christmas raffle, the Christmas Drinks evenings and advised that it was a particularly busy time of year for the Civic Team as they still had 23 engagements to complete before 21 December.

He spoke of some of his more recent engagements including the Lancashire Day Proclamations with Town Cryer Colin Ballard, how he had travelled back in time to the Victorian Festival in St Annes with the St Annes Town Mayor, which had been very enjoyable.

The Mayor concluded his announcements by reading a recent letter received from Buckingham Palace. This had been received in response to the congratulations sent to Her Majesty, The Queen and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, on the occasion of their 70th Wedding Anniversary, by the Mayor and Mayoress on behalf of the residents of Fylde.

4. Chief Executive's Communications

There were no communications from the Chief Executive on this occasion.

5. Questions from Members of the Council

A question had been submitted by Councillor Paul Hayhurst. Before asking the question, Councillor Hayhurst advised that he had been a County Councillor for nine years and during that time his visits to residents affected by flooding was increasing. He had witnessed some devastating scenes. He then read his question;

"We are currently experiencing climatic changes which are creating increasingly regular flash floods in many parts of the Borough. This is happening whilst we are being encouraged by the government to allow house building in unprecedented numbers with the result that areas of the Borough which normally would not have received planning permission are now being approved for housing. In the past few weeks I have received numerous complaints of flooding in the Division that I represent on the County Council with the most serious being in Greenhalgh with Thistleton, Staining and Westby. The latter being moss land where thousands of new houses are planned.

In virtually every case that I have investigated the flooding has occurred due to either inadequate drainage plans or builders failing to comply with plans and in the more extreme cases builders building on or blocking drainage ditches. Will the Chairman of the Planning Committee please assure members and residents of the Borough that more resources will in future be devoted to ensuring that drainage plans are adequate for new developments and that they are rigorously enforced before houses are signed off for habitation?"

Councillor Trevor Fiddler, Chairman of Planning responded by saying that he did not agree with Councillor Hayhurst's assessment that the flooding was increasing due to climate change. He stated that surface flooding was quite normal at this time of year. However he agreed that the impact of flooding on residents was a serious issue, but that Fylde Council was not the statutory authority dealing with flooding and drainage.

Councillor Fiddler advised that when processing residential planning applications, Fylde's planning officers always consulted the three statutory consultees. Those bodies being the Environment Agency, United Utilities and the County Council. He further advised that Lancashire County Council, as the flood authority, had a statutory duty to deliver adequate flood and drainage plans. He stated that for years local residents and ward councillors had argued against the County Council's drainage solutions. However at planning appeals the Planning Inspectorate consistently accept the Flood Authority's view rather that of local residents.

Councillor Fiddler concluded by saying that he was bemused that the question was directed at the Chairman of Planning as Councillor Hayhurst had more influence at County to direct resources than Councillor Fiddler.

Councillor Hayhurst asked a supplementary question, prefacing his question by first stating that he had been asking similar questions at County Hall. He then moved onto his supplementary question, stating that he was concerned that Councillor Fiddler, in his response, had not mentioned the enforcement of planning conditions. He would welcome his comments.

Councillor Fiddler advised that he had anticipated Councillor Hayhurst's question and had checked with the Planning Officers. He advised that neither they, nor himself, could recall an instance where a drainage scheme had not been delivered. He further advised that, in his understanding, it would be the County Council with their technical expertise, who would enforce a non-compliant drainage scheme.

He concluded by stating that if Councillor Hayhurst had particular developments in mind, to please accept his invitation to meet with himself and planning officers, as this was an area of concern upon which everyone present could agree.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions on this occasion.

Decision Items

7. Notice of Motion – Football in the UK

Following notice given under rule 12 of the Council Procedure Rules, the following Motion was proposed by Councillor Richard Redcliffe.

Before moving his motion, Councillor Redcliffe spoke about the impact of football on communities and what a positive effect a successful club could have on a community's social and economic wellbeing.

“English football, particularly at the highest level, enjoys unparalleled popularity with record attendances (31 million last year) creating economic stability to both the club being supported and the local businesses and general community.

Clubs such as Leyton Orient, Leeds, Blackburn Rovers and the town of Blackpool's own club have received high levels of media publicity for the wrong reasons. Disputes between fans and owners, for whatever causes, fail to be rectified or addressed by the Football Association who have delegated too much of its powers and can no longer perform a proper governing role. Ill-discipline on the pitch is stringently marshalled by the FA, yet bad governance off it has been delegated to the clubs themselves to referee.

Under the banner 'Fans Not Numbers' business entrepreneur Jamie Fuller the chairman of sports clothing manufacturer 'Skins' together with 'Supporters Direct' the national supporters association with over 400,000 members, are currently lobbying local politicians and national government to set up a multi-party supported Government appointed Independent Regulatory Body. A body that can not only set, but crucially, can enforce off-pitch regulations that include the powers to sanction clubs who are non-compliant. An Independent Regulatory Body could ensure that no clubs are promoted despite breaching rules, reliant on funding from unnamed entities or rendered homeless.

The funding for the Independent Body could be met with a small percentage levy on commercial rights income generated by the leagues.

As Blackpool has obvious and evident issues between its football club and a huge majority of local fans including many who live in Fylde, this Council has a duty and an economical interest to promote change to the regulatory system to ensure that energy is spent on building not destroying supporter and community relations.

The United Kingdom is only one of five countries in the world that do not have an Independent Regulatory Body.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister Mrs. Theresa May and the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Karen Bradley MP confirming the Council's support of the concept to appoint a Government Independent Regulatory Body for football in the UK.

That the formation of the body should be supported by all political parties to address conflicts between owners and fans and to formulate a blueprint for how football governance should work and the changes to

Minutes – Council – 4 December 2017

bring it about to prevent future conflicts that result in negative community and damaging economic downturn to those areas affected.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Richard Fradley.

After a brief discussion, with Councillors standing to support the motion, a vote was taken and the motion was CARRIED.

8. Committee Membership Nominations

Councillor Sue Fazackerley advised that a number of changes to committee membership had been requested and it was also necessary to fill the vacancy on Operational Management Committee, following the resignation of former Councillor Pounder.

She therefore proposed that Councillor Jayne Nixon fill the vacancy on Operational Management Committee, and that the other recommendations contained in the report be accepted.

Councillor Karen Buckley seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED

1. To appoint Councillor Roger Lloyd as a member of the Tourism and Leisure Committee in place of Councillor Julie Brickles.
2. To appoint Councillor Louis Rigby as a member of the Audit and Standards Committee in place of Councillor Roger Lloyd.
3. To appoint Councillor Jayne Nixon as a member of the Operational Management Committee.
4. To appoint Councillor Jayne Nixon to the Member Development Steering Group.

9. Members' Allowances

Councillor Sue Fazackerley proposed the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel to maintain allowance schemes currently in place. She clarified that although the report made no specific reference to the allowance for the Chairman of the Member Development Steering Group, the intention of the Panel was to also keep that payment in place.

Councillor Karen Buckley seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED to maintain the present level of basic allowance, special responsibility allowances, travel and subsistence allowances and dependent carer's' allowance for 2018 – 19.

10. New Homes Bonus: Proposed Policy on the Provision of Grants to Town and Parish Councils

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced the recommendations of the Finance and Democracy Committee to implement a new scheme to provide grants to Town and Parish Council who had experience property growth above the 0.4% baseline in the past year. She advised that the grants would be paid in the coming year. The expenditure should be on travel, public transport or parking, community facilities, parks and greenspaces, and schemes that address issues related to new development.

It had been recommended by the Finance and Democracy Committee to review the operation of the policy in 12 months.

Councillor Roger Small seconded the proposal.

Councillor Nulty voiced her support for the proposed policy, and it was therefore RESOLVED;

That the Council approve the adoption of a new policy on the provision of grants to town and parish councils which was appended to the report.

11. Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2018/19

Minutes – Council – 4 December 2017

Councillor Richard Redcliffe introduced the annual review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, advising that the review had made no changes to the existing scheme and sought the continuation of the scheme which included the Hardship Relief Fund.

Councillor Roger Small seconded the proposal.

In accordance with those deliberations, and having due regard to the Equality Analysis as detailed in section 3.6 of the report, and the consultation responses, it was RESOLVED:

1. That the Council approve the continuation of the existing CTRS scheme for 2018/19 as set out in section 3 of the report;
2. That the Council approve the continuation of Discretionary Hardship Relief for 2018/19 to provide additional support for claimants in exceptional circumstances and the Council's Discretionary Discount Policy which detailed discounts and reliefs in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates;
3. That the Council approve that, as necessary, the financial implications were reflected in the Council's Revenue Budget and Financial forecast for 2018/19 onwards.

(Councillors Beckett, Buckley, Fiddler, Rigby and Threlfall having declared an interest, left the room for the duration of the item).

12. Financial Forecast Update (Including Revenue, Capital & Treasury Management) 2017/18 to 2021/22

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced the Financial Forecast Update report, advising that it had been considered by the Finance and Democracy Committee on 20 November 2017. She advised that the high level risks, regarding the Revenue Budget had been reviewed, with central government funding and the uncertainty regarding future income from business rates being monitored.

Councillor Buckley advised there was no deficit on the Council's collection fund, and it was recommended to transfer the balance of the Collection Fund Deficit Reserve, the sum of £381k, into the Capital Investment Reserve. She also advised that there had been a change in assumptions regarding future pay awards to 1.5% from 1%.

She drew members' attention to Appendix E of the report, which set out the latest position on the Revenue Budget, forecasting a surplus on the budget for 2017/18 and 2018/19.

In concluding she proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

Councillor Roger Small seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED to

1. That the Council note the implications of the updated financial forecast;
2. That the Council note the revised forecast revenue surpluses for 2017/18 and 2018/19 of £779k and £435k respectively as detailed at Appendix E; and
3. That the Council approve the release of the balance of the Collection Fund Deficit Reserve in the sum of £381k and the transfer of that amount into the Capital Investment Reserve in 2017/18.

13. Mid-Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2017/18

Councillor David Donaldson introduced the report on the Mid-Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management. He advised that the report had been scrutinised by the Audit and Standards Committee at its meeting on 16 November 2017. He provided detailed information and background to the report, explaining the debt management of the council, investment activity and compliance with prudential indicators.

Councillor Ed Nash seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED to that the updated Prudential Indicators and Investment Limits as shown at Appendix B of the report be approved.

14. Fairhaven and Church Scar Public Realm Works

Councillor Sandra Pitman introduced the report seeking approval for a funded budget increase to provide public realm works for the Fairhaven and Church Scar Coastal Protection Scheme, and the Fairhaven Lake Restoration Project. She explained that the Council had been awarded a £19.8m grant to deliver the Fairhaven and Church Scar Scheme however the grant did not cover any public realm development such as seating and a remodeled entrance to the Stanner Bank car park.

Councillor Pitman explained that the Council had received a stage 1 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund which allowed them to work up a detailed proposal for restoration works required when submitting the stage 2 bid in 2018. If the Council was successful, this bid would not cover public realm works such as restoration of the lake edge and new footpaths around the lake.

She concluded by detailing the figures proposed for the recommended funded budget increase.

Councillor Karen Buckley seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED to

1. To approve a funded budget increase for 2018/19 in the sum of £360k in respect of the Fairhaven and Church Scar Coast Protection Scheme, that was within the approved Capital Programme, to provide public realm enhancements to the core coast protection scheme;
2. To approve a funded budget increase for 2019/20 in the sum of £120k in respect of the Fairhaven Lake & Gardens Restoration Project scheme, that was within the approved Capital Programme, to provide public realm enhancements to the scheme;
3. To confirm that the two funded budget increases in the total sum of £480k (£360k in 2018/19 and £120k in 2019/20) would be met from the Capital Investment Reserve; and
4. To note that reports detailing each of the elements of work to draw down the funds would be provided to the respective programme committee (Operational Management Committee or the Tourism and Leisure Committee) in due course.

15. Use of Section 106 Monies – M55 – Heyhouses Link Road

Councillor Trevor Fiddler introduced a report proposing the use of S106 monies held by the Council from the development of the former EDS site on Heyhouses Lane, St Annes. He advised that the £250k had been secured to improve local transport infrastructure, and it was recommended that the money be used for detailed design works in regards to the M55 Link Road.

Councillor Richard Redcliffe seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED to

1. To approve a funded budget increase in the sum of £250,000 to the M55 Link Road (design works) scheme that is within the current approved Capital Programme for 2017/18, to be met in full from S106 developer contributions for delivery of the link road currently held by the Council for this purpose in the same sum; and
2. To note that the developer contribution is intended to provide funding for the design of the link road and consequently that the total sum of £250,000 will be made to the appointed consultant engineering company and to Lancashire County Council in accordance with their respective costs.

16. Homelessness Reduction Act 2018

Councillor Ben Aitken introduced a report detailing the implications of the Homelessness Reduction Act, which had been considered by the Environment, Health and Housing Committee at its meeting on 7 November 2017.

Councillor Viv Willder seconded the proposal.

Minutes – Council – 4 December 2017

After a brief discussion, voicing support for the provisions contained within the new Act, and the impact of homelessness and poverty on children and families.

It was RESOLVED to

1. To note the new provisions within the Homelessness Reduction Act 2018 and, in particular the extended range of statutory homelessness duties that the Council was obliged to perform under the new Act;
2. To note the new initiatives Fylde Council is intending to introduce, utilising the additional financial support that had been made available by Government to support Local Housing Authorities in implementing the Homeless Reduction Act 2018; and
3. To approve a fully-funded revenue budget increase in years 2017/18 to 2020/2021 in the total sum of £122,900 of which £96,862 was to be funded by DCLG Flexible Homeless Grant and £26,038 to be funded by DCLG New Burdens Funding. The financial years in which the funded budget increases relate was shown within table 1 at paragraph 14 of the report. An equivalent sum had been confirmed as the central government grant allocations to Fylde Council in respect of the new responsibilities.

17. Outside Bodies

Councillor Sue Fazackerley proposed a number of new appointments to Outside Bodies, as recommended by the Operational Management Committee. She also sought confirmation of the name change for the Arts Partnership for Fylde, which had previously been known at the Arts Partnership for Lytham and the continued representation on that body by Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Sandra Pitman seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED to

1. To approve the nomination, by the Operational Management Committee, of Councillor John Kirkham to represent the Council on the PATROL Working Group.
2. To approve the nomination, by the Operational Management Committee, of Councillor John Kirkham to represent the Council on the Sintropher Working Group.
3. To approve the new title/ body, of the Arts Partnership for Fylde and confirm that Councillor Ray Thomas continues to be the Council's elected member representative on the body.

18. Proposal to Dissolve The Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Development Company and Form an Economic Prosperity Board

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced a proposal to dissolve the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Development Company and to form an Economic Prosperity Board. She advised that for a number of years, Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre had worked together to promote economic growth, job creation, diversification and skills development. These functions had been carried out by an economic development company and had led on achieving Enterprise Zone status for the former Hillhouse site and Blackpool Airport.

She advised that the Finance and Democracy Committee had considered a proposal to dissolve the company and form a joint committee, which would continue to enable the three authorities to work together without the processes need to operate a company, which held no funds or resources.

Councillor Buckley went on to advise that the Leaders of the three constituent councils would form the Board alongside three non-voting co-opted private sector representatives. She outlined in detail the proposed procedure rules emphasising that the Board would not be a legal entity but be a part of its constituent authorities and that it would hold no funds. She concluded by proposing the recommendations as set out in the report.

Councillor Roger Small seconded the proposal.

Councillor Oades proposed an amendment, proposing that a further two recommendations be considered, those being;

Minutes – Council – 4 December 2017

1. Any decision, which commits this Council to future or ongoing expenditure or contributions towards such expenditure, shall not be taken until the proposal and its future implications have been reported to, and approved by, full Council; and
2. That any financial or policy decisions by the Joint EP Board that affect FBC be reported to full Council for its approval.

Councillor P Collins seconded the amendment.

A brief debate took place on the amendment before a vote was taken. Following the vote, being carried in favour of amendment, a vote was then taken on the substantive motion.

It was therefore RESOLVED to

1. Finance and Democracy Committee recommend to Council to authorise the Leader of the Council, in her role as ‘member’ of the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Development Company (EDC) to dissolve the aforementioned company. (This will require a special resolution of the ‘members’ of the company. In effect this will be the three Leaders of the three Councils signing a resolution to disestablish the company);
2. Subject to 1 above, to establish a Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board (EPB) in the form of a Joint Committee and approve the Procedure Rules for that Board as appended at Appendix 1;
3. Subject to 1 above, to recommend to Council that the Leader of the Council be nominated as the Authority’s representative on the EPB and that the Leader of the Council be authorised, in accordance with the Procedure Rules of the EPB, to appoint a substitute member to attend in her absence, should the need arise;
4. Subject to 1 above, that the servicing of the EPB be undertaken on a rotational basis between the constituent authorities and the EPB at its first meeting agree which Authority will commence with that role and also which Authority will be the ‘Lead Authority’ in terms of carrying out the economic development functions delegated to the EPB;
5. Subject to 1 above, to invite Lancashire County Council to be a member of the EPB on the basis as set out in the Procedure Rules as set out at Appendix 1;
6. Any decision, which commits this Council to future or ongoing expenditure or contributions towards such expenditure, shall not be taken until the proposal and its future implications have been reported to, and approved by, full Council; and
7. That any financial or policy decisions by the Joint EP Board that affect FBC be reported to full Council for its approval.

The Mayor concluded the meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

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