

Council Meeting

Date	28 July 2005
Venue	Lowther Pavilion, Lytham
Councillors	<p>The Mayor (Councillor Ronald Wilson) Deputy Mayor (Councillor Peter Hardy)</p> <p>Christine Akeroyd, Eric Bamber, John Bennett, Harold Butler, George Caldwell, Stephen Carpenter, Maxine Chew, Deborah Clarke, Elizabeth Clarkson, Peter Collins, John Coombes, , Kevin Eastham, Susan Fazackerley, Dr. Trevor Fiddler, Patricia Fieldhouse, Richard Fulford-Brown, Paul Hayhurst, Howard Henshaw, (A.D.K MALAYSIA) Karen Henshaw J.P, Keith Hyde, Alfred Jealous NP, Derek Lancaster, John Longstaff, Elizabeth Oades, Barbara Pagett, Albert Pounder, Louis Rigby, Paul Rigby, Heather Speak, Martin Taylor, William Thompson, Thomas Threlfall, Colin Walton, Andrea Whittaker, Fabian Wilson, Hilda Wilson, Keith Wright.</p>
Officers	Philip Woodward, Dave Joy, Brian White, Ian Curtis, David Wilkinson, Clare Platt, Peter Welsh, Alan Blundell.

21. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

22. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the council meeting held on 26 May 2005 as a correct record for signature by the Mayor subject to the word "practical" being removed from minute 72.

23. Mayor's announcements

1. Blackpool Male Voice Choir - The Mayor reported that a charity concert by the

2. Blackpool Male Voice Choir would take place at Our Lady Star of the Sea social Centre on 30 July.
3. Charity Garden Party - the Mayor reminded members that a charity garden party would be held at councillor Heather Speak's home on 31 July.
4. Listening Day - The Mayor reported that the Community Listening Day would be taking place on 25 August and sought members involvement.

24. Chief Executive's communications

Phil Woodward, Deputy Chief Executive, reported that the Chief Executive, Ken Lee, was due to see his specialist and was hopeful to be back at work next week.

25. Member Of The Public - Question

The following question from a member of the public was received from Peter Savic-

Question from Mr Peter Savic:

The Council and its staff are commended on the presentation to the borough of a clean beach award for the beach at St Annes.

In view of this award how can the Council justify its decision to close the Car Park at North Beach (also known as North Shore) and is the Council aware that the North Beach Car Park provides safe and controlled access to the beach and that by encouraging recreational users to use this section of the beach they are able to keep the main beach by the pier clean and in award winning condition?

Has the council considered that access to the beach will be removed at this point which will result in increased random traffic through the dunes system which will cause damage to the dune system which are unique to this area of Fylde Coast and adjacent to a site of special scientific interest?

I believe that the Council will receive objections to the proposed closure and development of the car park so please can the Council make an assurance that this matter will be debated in public by full Council and not decided by a committee?

The Leader of the Council (councillor John Coombes) responded in the absence of councillor Roger Small. The Leader thanked Mr Savic for submitting the question and informed members that the Asset Management Group had identified North Beach car park as an under-used council asset and that the council would be seeking outline planning permission. However, this process was at a very early stage and further work and discussions would take place before any decisions were made.

26. Committee minutes

RESOLVED - To receive the minutes of the following committee meetings

Committee

Standards Committee

Held on

26 April 2005

Council meeting - 28 July 2005

Development Control Committee	25 May 2005
Policy and Service Review Community Forum	9 June 2005
Executive Committee	15 June 2005
Development Control Committee	22 June 2005
Scrutiny Management Board	23 June 2005
Executive Committee	29 June 2005
Community Outlook Forum	29 June 2005
Policy and Service Review Community Forum	8 July 2005
Development Control Committee	13 July 2005

27. Notice of Motion

Ian Curtis (Unit Business Manager Legal & Democratic Services) reported that the following Notice of Motion was received 19th May 2005 from Councillors E.G Bamber, R Small, A Jealous (NP), K. Hyde, R. Norsworthy, H. Butler and A. Pounder:

“This Authority gives notice to the North West Regional Assembly with effect from the 26th May 2005, that it intends to withdraw from the Assembly on 31st March 2006 and that it will be continuing to with-hold its subscription.”

The Mayor considered it convenient and conducive to the despatch of business to allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting.

Following discussion the Council RESOLVED to approve the notice of motion.

28. Committee timetable

Ian Curtis (Unit Business Manager Legal & Democratic Services) reported that at the last full council meeting, members approved a timetable of committee meetings for the period July 2005 to July 2006. One of the changes to previous timetabling practice was moving Development Control Committee from Wednesdays to Tuesdays, to avoid clashing with Executive Committee. Subsequently, the Development Control Committee had requested the council to revert Development Control Committee meetings to Wednesdays.

The Development Control Committee had also asked for meetings of the committee to be timetabled in August, to enable applications to continue to be processed in line with government expectations and so as not to endanger the current level of planning delivery grant.

Following consideration the Council RESOLVED -

1. To endorse the view of the Development Control Committee that their meetings should continue to be held on Wednesdays and to adjust the committee timetable accordingly.

2. To schedule meetings of the Development Control Committee for 3 and 24 August 2005.

29. Protocol on member-officer relations

Ian Curtis (Monitoring Officer) reported that the Standards Committee had recently considered whether any changes were required to the protocol on member-officer relations. They identified one change, which concerned briefing arrangements. As the protocol formed part of the council's constitution, only the full council could change it.

Following consideration the Council RESOLVED that the protocol on member-officer relations be amended by the addition of the words "(or, by arrangement, after office hours)" after the words "during normal office hours" in paragraph 9.

30. Statement of accounts 2004/05

Brian White (Finance Manager) summarised some of the main points in the statement of accounts for 2004/05 including the revenue and capital out-turn. In 2004/05 council revenue spending of £8,892,000, including parish precepts, resulted in a deficit of £512,000, which had to be drawn from general fund balances. The council spent £3,242,000 on its capital programme. In addition it was noted that a sum of £200,000 had been transferred to reserves to cover possible variances arising from the audit in three risk areas, being, housing benefits, the commutation adjustment which is a technical accounting adjustment and the treatment of building control surpluses.

Members were informed that during July and August the accounts would be audited by the Audit Commission who would present their report to full Council by the end of October.

A general debate took place with a number of questions on the issue of the pensions liability, its impact on the council tax and the use of capital monies, following which the Council RESOLVED to approve the 2004/05 statement of accounts.

31. Committee membership

Ian Curtis (Unit Business Manager Legal & Democratic Services) reported on proposals on the following changes to committee membership:

Public Protection Committee: Replace Councillor Clarke with Councillor Pounder
Development Control committee: Replace Councillor Chew with Councillor Whittaker
Licensing Committee: replace Councillor Clarke with Councillor Pounder

The Council RESOLVED to agree to the proposed changes.

32. Members choice debate

At the last meeting of the Council, councillor Thomas Threlfall had been selected to lead the members choice debate.

Councillor Threlfall had submitted the following for consideration by members-

Is the Council serious enough about environment and health issues? There is no committee with the specific remit of looking at issues that concern the environment or health. Although the Executive Committee, together with the Council, has responsibility for all of the council's activities, the lack of a council body with a specific

remit for these issues means that matters of fundamental importance in this area may not get the attention that they should.

I therefore propose that, in any future restructure of the council, there should be a committee or other member body that will have a responsibility to consider environmental and health issues and, if it does not have decision-making powers itself, should have the right to have its views taken into account by committees and by officers acting under delegated powers.

Councillor Threlfall opened the debate following which members raised numerous and far reaching concerns on environmental and health matters and on how the Council could address and react to issues on global warming, landfill sites, pollution, nuclear power and associated emissions, nature reserves, solar power and wind power etc.

The impact of the council on the environment and the policies that could be developed to enhance the environment was also debated and it was noted that Fylde was a lead authority on refuse re-cycling.

A number of members thought that there should be a mechanism for debating environmental issues, however, it was pointed out that the Environment Agency was the responsible organisation for many of the issues raised, and that they already worked closely with local authorities and local communities.

The use of the Scrutiny Management Board to address any particular environmental/health issues was brought to member's attention and members were urged to use Community Forums for this purpose.

At the conclusion of a full and varied debate the Council RESOLVED that the concerns expressed by Members be taken into account by the Scrutiny Management Board in their consideration of future work programmes

33. Members choice debate - Next meeting

The Mayor made the draw to select the councillor to lead the members' choice debate at the next council meeting. Councillor Hilda Wilson was selected.