



MINUTES

Council

Date:	Monday, 7 February 2022
Venue:	Town Hall, Lytham St Annes, FY8 1LW
Committee Members Present:	Mayor (Elaine Silverwood) Deputy Mayor (Cheryl Little) Councillors Ben Aitken, Frank Andrews, Peter Anthony, Brenda Blackshaw, Paula Brearley, Karen Buckley, Alan Clayton, Delma Collins, Chris Dixon, Sue Fazackerley MBE, Trevor Fiddler, Ellie Gaunt, Brian Gill, Shirley Green, Noreen Griffiths, Peter Hardy, Will Harris, Gavin Harrison, Paul Hayhurst, Karen Henshaw JP, Paul Hodgson, Angela Jacques, John Kirkham, Matthew Lee, Roger Lloyd, Michelle Morris, Ed Nash, Jayne Nixon, Linda Nulty, David O'Rourke, Richard Redcliffe, Bobby Rigby, Michael Sayward, Vince Settle, John Singleton JP, Roger Small, Heather Speak, Ray Thomas, Tommy Threlfall, Stan Trudgill, Viv Willder, Michael Withers.
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Tracy Manning, Ian Curtis, Sharon Wadsworth, Lyndsey Lacey-Simone, Tara Phillips, Stephen Reed, Howie Dawson, Kassie Navarasi.
Other Attendees:	Councillors Liz Oades and Mark Bamforth (via remote access)

Prayers

Prayers were offered by Ian Curtis, Head of Governance.

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 no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 December 2021 as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

3. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor was focusing on doing as much as possible to raise monies for the Mayoral Charities with several events in the pipeline. The Mayoral Ball would be held on 26 March 2022.

4. Chief Executive's Communications

The Chief Executive had no announcements.

5. Questions from Members of the Council

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The following question had been received from Councillor Gill:

“Fylde Borough Council are about to embark on spending in excess of £2m on new sea defences at St Annes. These have been designed to enhance the social amenity of the beach which includes better access and a stepped arrangement to allow residents and visitors to sit and enjoy the view.

Unfortunately, at the rate of progress of the spartina grass encroaching the beach it will be only a matter of time before we all enjoy the grassy and mud flats of St Annes. The council failed to act to save Lytham’s sandy beaches, which disappeared due to the silt and grass. Attempts have been made to reintroduce sand to Granny’s Bay, all to no avail.

Can the Leader please explain what steps are being taken to eradicate this threat to the future prosperity of St Annes.”

Councillor Karen Buckley responded advising the St Annes beach was an asset to the borough that was being significantly invested in. As such the officers are vigilant against the threat of the spartina grass, which would be routinely managed, consistent with the statutory protections that applied to the Ribble estuary. Spartina grass thrives in salt marches, especially those seen in estuaries, as evidenced along the Lytham coastline to Grannys Bay. By contrast St Annes beach was not the ideal habitat for spartina grass. The development of the Beach Management Plan would identify any risks against the beach and the mitigating measures against them. Councillor Buckley thanked the officers on the Coastal team for their continued management of the coastline.

In asking a supplementary question Councillor Gill asked when action would be taken. Councillor Buckley reiterated that the Coastal Strategy had been updated in 2021 and the Beach Management Plan would be coming forward detailing any risks and the actions required.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

A question had been received from Mr Wright:

“I was here two years ago with pretty much the same concerns and questions for the Full Council. Assurances were given then, and since, that the issues were being addressed and would be resolved. They haven’t.

This development of 171 dwellings has been under construction since April 2019, the site is now half built and occupied and yet it still has no approved surface water drainage scheme. The developer is persistently in breach but FBC have refused to take any form of enforcement action.

This, at a time of increasing concerns about flood events and flood risk especially in areas of high-intensity development such as Warton and the concerns highlighted in Fylde’s recent Flood Risk and Surface Water Management review about the lack of compliance to agreed planning conditions. ‘Report recommendation 18: Fylde Council Development Management team with the assistance of the LLFA, EA, Highway Authority and UU to ensure development complies with any planning conditions agreed and current guidance.

What does it take to get councillors and officers at Fylde to honour their commitments and promises to residents and how often are FBC knowingly allowing other major housing developments in Fylde to be completed in breach of critical planning conditions (note: not one enforcement notice relating to major development has been issued by Fylde in the past 6 years)?

Councillor Trevor Fiddler assured Mr Wright that a site visit would take place before the end of February 2022 and that he was working with the EA drainage team and planners to resolve the issue. Councillor Fiddler highlighted that, in line with statutory guidance, enforcement action was seen as a last resort after exhausting all over solutions beforehand.

Councillor Fiddler outlined that he shared Mr Wrights frustration with the drainage situation at the development site and gave an undertaking that Mr Wright would be kept appraised of progress.

Decision Items

7. Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire

Councillor Buckley provide Full Council with an update on work undertaken towards development of strengthened joint working, a long-term strategic plan and a County Deal for the Lancashire area. Councillor Buckley highlighted the four key themes which would require devolution from Government together with the strategic objectives for each. The proposal was seen as a way of strengthening relationships and a mechanism for leveling up the area as well as forming the basis for negotiations with Government going forward.

Councillor Roger Small seconded the proposal highlighting that this model was different from others that had been discussed in the past and was in the best interests for Fylde. He thanked Councillor Buckley for representing Fylde Council to date and appreciated the input and feedback received from Councillors Oades and Lee on the proposal.

Following a brief discussion around the themes highlighted in the report it was RESOLVED to:

1. Support the outline "Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire" at Appendix 1 of the report as the initial draft basis for further discussion and development of a possible County Deal for the Lancashire area.
2. Agree the principles of governance as set out in Appendix 2 of the report for any future deal.
3. Agree that the Leader of the Council continues to work with Lancashire Leaders in line with the principles agreed in recommendations 1 & 2 above and note that any formal proposals would require approval by Full Council at the appropriate time.

8. Financial Forecast Update 2021/22 to 2025/26 (Position as at January 2022)

Councillor Karen Buckley, Leader of the Council, provided the latest update to the financial forecast. She advised that since the update was last presented to Council in December the local government finance settlement had been announced, the impact of which had been reflected in the update.

The 2022/23 local government finance settlement was for a single year again with no papers published relating to the Fair Funding Review or the Business Rates Reset.

The review of the New Homes Bonus Scheme was still ongoing and that the 2022/23 grant allocation was for a single year, which had permitted Fylde to confirm the allocation to Town & Parish Councils for the coming year amounting to £61k.

Councillor Vince Settle seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED:

1. To approve the updated financial forecast; and
2. To note that following the confirmation of the amount of New Homes Bonus grant to be received for 2022/23, allocations of a proportion of this grant to town and parish councils had been calculated in the total sum of £61,807 in accordance with the decision of the Finance and Democracy Committee on this matter at the meeting of 22nd November 2021.

9. The Annual Pay Policy Statement

Councillor Ellie Gaunt provided details of the Pay Policy Statement for Fylde Council that was a requirement for all local authorities to have since 1st April 2012 as part of the Localism Act. The objective of the Statement was to ensure and confirm openness, transparency, and fairness in the pay policy arrangements at Fylde.

Councillor Ed Nash seconded the proposal and it was RESOLVED to approve the Pay Policy Statement 2022, as set out in the appendix 1 to the report, with the required statement on Gender Pay Gap information.

10. Purchase of Land Adjacent to Squires Gate Station - CPO

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Councillor Buckley introduced a report regarding the next stages of acquiring land adjacent to Squires Gate Station which would enable the development of an accessible route to the station platform.

Councillor Angela Jacques seconded the proposal, and it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the making of a compulsory purchase order for land adjacent to Squires Gate Station to enable an accessible route to the station platform to be created and to authorise expenditure of up to £6,000 in 2021/22 fully funded from the 2021/22 approved Capital Budget.

11. Green Waste Collection – Subscription Service Charge

Councillor Small outlined the proposal and rationale to increase the green waste subscription service charge from the 2022/2023 operational year beginning 1st April 2022 by £5 per bin per annum. The subscription service charge contributed significantly to the cost of delivering the optional service.

Councillor John Kirkham seconded the proposal, and it was RESOLVED to approve a £5 (per bin) increase to the annual charge for the green waste subscription service to contribute towards the increased cost of delivering the service.

12. Public Convenience Contract for Cleansing and Maintenance

Councillor Small introduced a proposal to approve Danfo (UK) Ltd for the cleansing and maintenance contract for the public conveniences in Fylde. The new contract start date is 1st April 2022 for a period of 15 years with an option to extend up to a period of 5 further years, subject to termination clauses contained with the contract terms and conditions.

This decision was being put to Full Council for final approval, following recommendations from Finance and Democracy and Operational Management Committees, due to the requirement for an unfunded revenue budget increase of £51,543 on the budgeted contract price which also reflected additional services which included maintenance and inspection of hydration points and programmed improvements and refurbishments.

Councillor Kirkham seconded the proposal and it was RESOLVED:

1. To approve the recommendations of the Finance and Democracy and Operational Management Committees support full council awarding the retendered Public Convenience contract for cleansing and maintenance to Danfo UK Ltd for a period of 15 years based on the tender submission and evaluation assessment identifying Danfo as the best value for money option.
2. To approve an unfunded revenue budget increase of £52,543 per annum (plus CPI increases from year 3 onwards) to meet the additional cost of the contract covering the cleansing and maintenance of public conveniences and additional services which include maintenance, inspection of hydration points (£8,300 per annum) as well as programmed improvements and refurbishments (£33,356 per annum).

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