



MINUTES

Council

Date:	Monday, 10 December 2018
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Members Present:	Mayor (Councillor Peter Collins) Deputy Mayor (Councillor Jan Barker) Councillors Frank Andrews, Peter Anthony, Tim Ashton, Brenda Blackshaw, Karen Buckley, Maxine Chew, Alan Clayton, Delma Collins, Michael Cornah, Chris Dixon, David Donaldson, Susan Fazackerley MBE, Tony Ford JP, Richard Fradley, Gail Goodman JP, Shirley Green, Neil Harvey, Karen Henshaw JP, Paul Hodgson, Angela Jacques, John Kirkham, Cheryl Little, Roger Lloyd, Edward Nash, Graeme Neale, Jayne Nixon, Linda Nulty, Liz Oades, Sandra Pitman, Richard Redcliffe, Vince Settle, Elaine Silverwood, John Singleton JP, Roger Small, Ray Thomas, Thomas Threlfall, Viv Willder.
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Tracy Manning, Ian Curtis, Simon Stott, Kassie Navarasi, Sharon Wadsworth, Tara Walsh, Andrew Brooke.
Other Attendees:	Three members of the public were present.

Prayers

Prayers were offered by Reverend John Bannister.

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 Buckley and Threlfall declared personal and prejudicial interests in agenda item 10, Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2019/20. 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 19th November 2018 as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

3. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor had recently hosted a coffee morning and an enjoyable Reggae Night for his fundraising events. He had attended the Remembrance Sunday Service in St Annes, Lancashire Proclamation Day and the NW in Bloom awards. Congratulation were passed on the well running of the events and to all those that achieved gold in the In Bloom awards.

The Mayor reminded those present that the Mayoral Christmas Drinks event would be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, 11th and 12th December, at the Town Hall.

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4. Chief Executive's Communications

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

5. Questions from Members of the Council

There were no questions from members of the Council.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

Decision Items

7. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2018

Councillor Susan Fazackerley introduced a report that detailed the Council's duty to divide the borough into polling districts and to designate polling places for each district, under the Representation of the People Act 1983 and section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006. Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 required each local authority to carry out a review of UK Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places in its area. The Council has powers to change polling places and polling district boundaries but not Ward or Parish boundaries.

Councillor Karen Buckley seconded the proposal and following a show of hands it was RESOLVED:

1. To authorise the Returning Officer recommendations arising from the review.
2. To authorise the Returning Officer to make amendments to polling places, where required, prior to the next statutory review.

8. Members' Allowances

Councillor Susan Fazackerley introduced a report detailing the recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel on councillors' allowances for the financial year 2019-20.

Councillor Karen Buckley seconded the proposal and following a show of hands it was RESOLVED to adopt the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel to maintain the present level of basic allowance, special responsibility allowances, travel and subsistence allowances and dependent carer's' allowance, with effect from 1 April 2019, for 2019 – 20.

9. Committee Membership Nominations

Councillor Liz Oades proposed changes to the committee membership, namely that Councillor Elaine Silverwood replaces Councillor Hodgson on the Tourism and Leisure committee and that Councillor Paul Hodgson replaces Councillor Keith Beckett as a member of the Licensing and Public Protection Committees.

Councillor Linda Nulty seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED:

1. To remove Councillor Hodgson and appoint Councillor Elaine Silverwood as a member on the Tourism and Leisure Committee.
2. To remove Councillor Beckett and appoint Councillor Paul Hodgson as a member on the Public Protection Committee.
3. To remove Councillor Beckett and appoint Councillor Paul Hodgson as a member on the Licensing Committee.

10. Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2019/20

(Councillors Buckley and Threlfall, having declared an interest, left the room for the duration of item 10).

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Councillor Neil Harvey 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 Richard Redcliffe seconded the proposal, and having due regard to the Equality Analysis as detailed in section 5 of the report and the consultation responses, it is RESOLVED:

1. That Council approve the continuation of the existing CTRS scheme for 2019/20 as set out in section 3 of the report;
2. That Council approve the continuation of Discretionary Hardship Relief for 2019/20 to provide additional support for claimants in exceptional circumstances;
3. That Council approve that the financial implications are reflected in the Council's Revenue Budget and Financial forecast for 2019/20 onwards as necessary.

(Councillors Buckley and Threlfall returned to the room).

11. Financial Forecast Update (Including Revenue, Capital & Treasury Management) 2018/19 to 2022/23

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced the Financial Forecast Update report, advising that it had been considered by the Finance and Democracy Committee on 26 November 2018. The report provides Members with an update on the financial forecast for the Council for the five years 2018/19 to 2022/23. It included changes that had arisen since the Budget was set by Council in March 2018. Councillor Buckley cautioned that although surpluses were forecasted there were unknown high risks going forward, including government funding.

Councillor Neil Harvey seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED:

1. That the Council note the implications of the updated financial forecast.

12. New Homes Bonus: Provision of Grants to Town and Parish Councils 2019/20

Councillor Karen Buckley presented a report that provided a review of the effectiveness of the New Homes Bonus policy that had been in place for a full year. The purpose of the policy was to provide the framework for a system of grant support to town and parish areas which had experienced above-average growth in housing numbers.

The proposed revised policy had been considered by the Finance and Democracy Committee on 26 November 2018.

Councillor Neil Harvey seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED:

1. That Council approved the adoption of the updated policy on the provision of grants to town and parish councils, including the allocation of such grants for 2019/20 in the total sum of £68,950.

13. Mid Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2018/19

Councillor John Singleton introduced the report on the Mid-Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management that had been prepared in line with the recommendations of CIPFA's (Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants) Code of Practice on Treasury Management. The report had been scrutinised by the Audit and Standards Committee at the meeting held on 15th November 2018.

He provided an overview of the report highlighting the investment activity and the reduction in borrowing. Councillor Singleton congratulated the Finance Team for securing such a healthy mid-term report.

Councillor David Donaldson seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED:

1. That the updated Prudential Indicators and Investment Limits as shown at Appendix B of this report be approved.
2. To thank the Finance team for their efforts in securing best value and ensuring the Council becomes debt free by December 2019.

14. Constitution Amendments – Remote Access to Meetings

Councillor John Singleton presented a report that brought forward work, undertaken by the Constitution Review Working Group, with respect to remote access attendance at meetings. The Working Group had considered a new procedure rule to allow access by such means, and put forward wording to the Audit and Standards Committee, at its meeting held on 15 November 2018, for review.

Councillor Singleton highlighted the excellent work that the Member Development Steering Group and Councillor Bamforth had achieved in piloting and testing the technology to allow remote access as part of its remit to promote member wellbeing.

The technology had been tested at meetings of the Member Development Steering Group, Learning Hours and at meetings of the Environmental, Health and Housing Committee. The culmination of the work resulted in the Finance and Democracy Committee, at its meeting on 26 November, signing off the technology for official use, subject to two suggested amendments to the new Procedure Rule as recommended by the Audit and Standards committee.

Councillor Singleton stressed that the council were committed to providing remote access to meetings but, as stated at Article 13.05 of the Constitution, “...changes to the constitution will only be approved by the full Council after consideration of a recommendation from the Audit and Standards Committee...” He therefore proposed that the progress made to date be noted with a further report being brought back to the next meeting of full Council after further consideration by the Audit and Standards committee.

Councillor David Donaldson seconded the proposal.

Councillor Alan Clayton proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor Roger Lloyd, to add to paragraph 2.1, of the proposed changes, to read “(a) Subject to 2.3 and 2.4, the chairman may make arrangements to allow (as far as the law permits) a member (‘M’) to participate remotely in a meeting of the council including any committee(s) of which that Councillor is a member, if the following circumstances apply.”

The Monitoring Officer and Councillor Singleton, as Chairman of the Audit and Standards committee, assured Councillor Clayton that his proposal would be considered at the Audit and Standards committee before being brought back to Council. With the assurances in place Councillors Clayton and Lloyd withdrew the amendment.

A vote, by show of hands, was made on the recommendations as set out in the order papers and it was RESOLVED to note the progress made with respect to remote access arrangements and to bring the matter back to the 11 February Council meeting, with a recommendation from the Audit and Standards Committee on the changes proposed by the Finance and Democracy Committee and Councillor Clayton.

15. Outside Bodies

Councillor Sue Fazackerley proposed a new inclusion to the list of Outside Bodies and a number of new appointments, as recommended by the Tourism and Leisure Committee.

Councillor Cheryl Little seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED:

1. To approve the recommendation of the Tourism and Leisure Committee that the Lytham Hall Partnership is added to the approved list of Outside Bodies for Fylde Council;
2. To approve the nomination of Councillor Richard Fradley, by the Tourism and Leisure Committee, to represent the Council on the Lytham Hall Partnership;
3. To approve that the future representative to the Fylde Coast YMCA Partnership Board would be Councillor Shirley Green, as nominated by the Tourism and Leisure Committee.
4. To approve that the future representative at trustee meetings of Lowther Trust would be Councillor Roger Small, as nominated by the Tourism and Leisure Committee.

The Mayor concluded the meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

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