



MINUTES

Council

Date:	Monday, 10 February 2020
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Members Present:	Mayor (Councillor Angela Jacques) Deputy Mayor (Councillor Richard Redcliffe) Councillors Frank Andrews, Peter Anthony, Mark Bamforth (via remote access), Brenda Blackshaw, Karen Buckley, Alan Clayton, Delma Collins, Peter Collins, Chris Dixon, Sue Fazackerley MBE, Trevor Fiddler, Ellie Gaunt, Brian Gill, Shirley Green, Noreen Griffiths, Peter Hardy, Will Harris, Gavin Harrison, Karen Henshaw JP, Paul Hodgson, John Kirkham, Cheryl Little, Roger Lloyd, Michelle Morris, Kiran Mulholland, Ed Nash, Sally Nash-Walker, Jayne Nixon, Linda Nulty, Liz Oades, Bobby Rigby, Michael Sayward, Vince Settle, Elaine Silverwood, John Singleton JP, Roger Small, Ray Thomas, Tommy Threlfall, Stan Trudgill, Viv Willder, Michael Withers.
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Tracy Manning, Ian Curtis, Ross McKelvie, Kassie Navarasi, Katharine McDonnell, Tara Walsh, Howie Dawson.
Other Attendees:	Five members of the public were present.

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 Karen Buckley, Trevor Fiddler, Ed Nash and Thomas Threlfall declared prejudicial interests in relation to agenda 11, Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2020/21. The nature of the interest being that they were landlords. They left the meeting for the duration of the item.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Under Procedure Rule 15 Councillor Brian Gill proposed an amendment to the minutes. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Roger Lloyd. Following a show of hands, the proposal was LOST.

Therefore, it was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 October 2019 as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

3. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor thanked everyone for the wide variety of invites to events she had received over the last few months. She had found them both enjoyable and interesting.

The Mayor highlighted several forthcoming fundraising events including a Valentine's coffee morning on Friday 14 February at the Town Hall, 10am until 12pm; a Race Night to be held on Friday 13 March at the Monterey Beach Hotel; the Mayor's Ball on Friday 20 March at Ribby Hall. She advised that the Deputy Mayoress was organising an

Minutes – Council – 10 February 2020

evening on 1st April, 'My Life Through Flowers' 7pm at the Town Hall, and the Deputy Mayor was organising a Musical Gala on 1st May, at St Paul's, Ansdell.

4. Chief Executive's Communications

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

5. Questions from Members of the Council

Two questions had been received from members of the Council.

The first was from Councillor Brian Gill;

"I'm not sure if council are aware, but over recent years the development and upkeep of Lytham has seen some worrying trends. As a lay man it would appear that the planning committee has a policy of developing industrial looking and overbearing buildings in Lytham. I cite three examples to my knowledge, on Ballam Road, next to the old coach house on Church Drive as well as Islay road.

This is happening whilst heritage buildings like Lytham Institute are not being maintained. Council officers have even had to instruct a private company to conduct a structural survey on the building due to its lack of care.

Can the council reassure the Lytham community that the trend of building these type of buildings is not a policy, that it supports the continuing upkeep of the way Lytham is seen which is as an example of Victorian splendour and explain why some of the four hundred thousand pounds of the Lytham regeneration fund is not allocated in bringing the Institute back to its former glory, overcoming the distinct lack of investment by the council over recent years."

Councillor Trevor Fiddler responded to the question. He referred to the examples cited by Councillor Gill. He advised that the development at Ballam Road had been refused by the Planning Committee, but the decision had been overturned by the Planning Inspector. In regard to the Church Drive development the Committee had followed national planning policy guidance when approving the development. Councillor Fiddler stated there was no substance to Councillor Gill's criticism of the Planning Committee.

In regard to the regeneration fund, Councillor Fiddler advised that the monies designated for the regeneration of Lytham were ringfenced and could not be diverted to the Institute. The additional funding set aside for the improvement of the public realm in Lytham could be used, however that would mean less for the wider Lytham town centre.

Councillor Gill, in a supplementary question, stated that the Council had been in receipt of approximately £256,000 over the last 10 years from the County Council towards the maintenance of the Institute, but he was aware that the Council had only used £57,000. He asked when the Council would be using the remaining funding towards improvement of the Institute.

Councillor Fiddler responded advising that he felt the question was premature. He advised that there were issues for the Council to understand regarding the charitable status of the institute and the Council's role as sole Trustee.

The second question had been received from Councillor Roger Lloyd;

"Lytham Institute has recently been registered as a charity, with Fylde Borough Council as the sole trustee.

There was widespread community concern in Lytham at the closure of the Library including as we all know a great deal of public mistrust at the apparent lack of openness and transparency at the time. We as councillors can help change that public perception.

This transparency is what local people expect and need. It would be helpful if we as councillors ensure that future decisions on the Institute will only be considered at council or committee level, similar I believe as to how the planning committee operates today.

So, I ask the council in the spirit of this transparency that councillors should urgently consider introducing a process to temporarily suspend the delegation of decision making over the Institute to officers, at least until the process to conclude a new governance document is completed.

This would not prevent officers from preparing reports and giving advice to members. The temporary suspension would demonstrate the council's intention to deal openly with the Institute. It is this very openness and transparency that is needed to gain the support of the community again in Lytham.

Minutes – Council – 10 February 2020

Therefore, I would ask that a separate meeting of the full council be held to determine how the council should proceed with the Institute in its new charitable role. Its role should include.

a) Gathering of the evidence needed to inform the Council's future debates regarding the Institute.

b) Considering and identifying the circumstances that make it necessary to alter the present purposes of the Institute

c) Ensuring that the council meet the criteria for making a scheme

d) Considering what similar purposes that the charity and property should have in the future."

Councillor Karen Buckley responded to the question. She agreed that it was important for decision making to be open and transparent but disagreed that decisions relating to the Institute would not meet those standards. She advised that the Charity Commission's guidance advised that where an authority was a trustee of a charity, it was the corporate body of the council acting in accordance with its usual decision-making processes, which was the trustee. The guidance was also clear that it was for the local authority in question to determine what that decision-making process should be.

She laid out the decisions taken so far in regard to the Institute, and she advised that a further meeting of the Finance and Democracy Committee, to be held on 17 February 2020, would consider updating the purpose of the Trust and determine an administrative scheme.

Councillor Lloyd in asking a supplementary question, reiterated his point that he felt the matter should be considered by a meeting of full council.

Councillor Buckley advised that the decision-making being undertaken by the Finance and Democracy Committee, was part of the council's usual decision-making procedures.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public on this occasion.

Decision Items

7. Notice of Motion – Anti-Semitism Definition

Following notice given under rule 11 of the Council Procedure Rules, the following Motion was proposed by Councillor Susan Fazackerley;

"that Fylde Council adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Anti-Semitism which is that 'Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.'"

The motion was seconded by Councillor Michelle Morris.

The motion was CARRIED unanimously.

8. Invitation to accept appointment as Deputy Mayor 2020/21

Councillor Cheryl Little proposed that Councillor Roger Small be invited to accept the appointment of Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Tommy Threlfall seconded the proposal and it was RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Roger Small as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Fylde for the municipal year 2020/21, at the next Annual Meeting.

9. Schedule of Meetings 2020-2021

Councillor Susan Fazackerley presented the proposed schedule of meetings for the forthcoming municipal year 2020/21.

Councillor Karen Buckley seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED to approve the schedule of meetings for 2020/21.

10. The Annual Pay Policy Statement 2020

Councillor Karen Buckley presented the report that provided details of the Pay Policy Statement for Fylde Council which was required to be adopted annually. She advised that the Policy Statement was in line with the Localism Act and guidance from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Councillor Vince Settle seconded the proposal, and it was RESOLVED to approve the Pay Policy Statement 2020, as set out in the appendix to the report, with the required statement on Gender Pay Gap information.

11. Council Tax Reduction Scheme

(Councillors Buckley, Fiddler, Ed Nash and Threlfall, having declared an interest, left the room for the duration of item 11).

(Before the commencement of the item, Councillor Mulholland left the meeting).

Councillor Vince Settle 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.

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 2020/21 as set out in section 3 of the report;
2. That Council approve the continuation of Discretionary Hardship Relief for 2020/21 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 2020/21 onwards as necessary.

(Councillors Buckley, Ed Nash, Fiddler and Threlfall returned to the room).

12. Council Tax Premium 2020/21 & 2021/22

Councillor Viv Willder presented a report regarding the Council Tax Premium. She advised that since 2018 the Government had, under legislation, allowed local authorities the discretion to charge an additional 100% premium to the owners of properties left empty for over two years. She advised that the same legislation provided for further discretionary premium levels. These discretionary premiums would increase the premium up to 200% for properties left empty for more than five years, with effect from 1st April 2020; and increase the premium up to 300% for properties left empty for more than ten years, with effect from 1st April 2021.

She advised that there were currently 50 properties in Fylde that had been empty for over 5 years and 20 properties that had been empty for over 10 years. Since the premiums had been introduced the number of empty properties had reduced from 710 in 2013, to 512 in 2019.

Councillor Vince Settle seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED:

1. That with effect from 1 April 2020 a premium of 200% would be charged against properties that had remained empty for more than five years; and
2. That with effect from 1 April 2021 a premium of 300% would be charged against properties that had remained empty for more than ten years.

13. Financial Forecast Update 2019-20 to 2023/24 (position as at January 2020)

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced the Financial Forecast Update report, advising that it had been considered by the Finance and Democracy Committee on 27 January 2020. It included changes that had arisen since the Budget was set by Council in March 2019. She advised that the forecast had been updated to reflect the impact of the

Minutes – Council – 10 February 2020

2020/21 Local Government Finance Settlement announced in December 2019. Other budget adjustments including the approved continuation of distribution of New Homes Bonus funding to Town and Parish Councils were also included in the update.

She concluded advising that the Chief Financial Officer's opinion was that the Council's finances remained robust.

Councillor Vince Settle seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED to approve the updated financial forecast.

14. Mid Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2019/20

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 28th October 2019.

He provided a detailed overview of the report highlighting the economic forecast, interest rates and investment activity. Councillor Singleton concluded by thanking the Finance Team for their work.

Councillor Ed Nash seconded the proposal.

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

15. Highways and Transportation Liaison Group

Councillor Trevor Fiddler advised that at the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13 November 2019, it was recommended to include the newly established Highways and Transportation Group on the Council's list of Outside Bodies. It was also recommended that Councillors Liz Oades, Chris Dixon and Stan Trudgill be appointed to the group.

Councillor Richard Redcliffe seconded the proposals.

It was RESOLVED

1. To add the Highways and Transportation Group to the Council's approved list of Outside Bodies; and
2. To appoint Councillors Liz Oades, Chris Dixon and Stan Trudgill to the group.

16. The Corporate Plan

The Mayor advised that the final item was for information. She advised that the Corporate Plan would come before a future meeting of the Council, for discussion and decision. The draft Corporate Plan had previously been circulated to all committees and was before Council to remind members that any feedback should be received by 17 February 2020.

(Councillor Bamforth, accessing the meeting via remote means, did not participate in the vote on any matter, pursuant to Schedule 12, Part VI 39(1) of the Local Government Act 1972)

Fylde Borough Council copyright [2020]

You may re-use this document/publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium. You must re-use it accurately and not in a misleading context.

The material must be acknowledged as Fylde Borough Council copyright and you must give the title of the source document/publication.

Where we have identified any third party copyright material you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This document/publication was also available on our website at www.fylde.gov.uk

Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to the Town Hall, St Annes Road West, St Annes FY8 1LW, or to listening@fylde.gov.uk.