



# Minutes

## Special Council

<b>Date:</b>	Monday, 6 July 2015
<b>Venue:</b>	Lowther Pavilion, Lytham
<b>Members:</b>	<p>Mayor (Councillor Peter Hardy)</p> <p>Councillors Ben Aiken, Christine Akeroyd, Frank Andrews, Jan Barker, Keith Beckett ISO, Brenda Blackshaw, Julie Brickles, Karen Buckley, Maxine Chew, Alan Clayton, Peter Collins, Michael Cornah, David Donaldson, David Eaves, Sue Fazackerley, Trevor Fiddler, Tony Ford JP, Richard Fradley, Gail Goodman, Shirley Green, Neil Harvey, Paul Hayhurst, Karen Henshaw JP, Paul Hodgson, Angela Jacques, Cheryl Little, Roger Lloyd, Kiran Mulholland, Barbara Nash, Edward Nash, Graeme Neale, Linda Nulty, Elizabeth Oades, Sandra Pitman, Albert Pounder, Richard Redcliffe, Louis Rigby, Vince Settle, Elaine Silverwood, John Singleton JP, Roger Small, Richard Taylor, Raymond Thomas, Thomas Threlfall, Vivienne Willder</p>
<b>Officers:</b>	Allan Oldfield, Tracy Morrison, Ian Curtis, Lewis Middleton, Ross McKelvie, Murray Don, Sharon Wadsworth, Katharine McDonnell.
<b>Other attendees:</b>	Five members of the public

### Prayers

Prayers were offered by Mr Ian Curtis, the 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.

Councillor Karen Henshaw declared a personal interest in agenda item 2, the nature of the interest being that her husband was subject to the decision.

#### 2. Honorary Aldermen

The Mayor, Councillor Peter Hardy introduced the item stating that it gave him great pleasure to propose that the Council bestow the status of Honorary Alderman to former councillors Dawn Prestwich and Howard Henshaw who had both served the borough for 20 years or more. He advised that an event would be held at the Town Hall later in the year to formally recognise the occasion, at which Dawn and Howard would receive plaudits and certification.

Councillor Ford seconded the proposal.

Following a show of hands, it was RESOLVED to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Dawn Prestwich and Howard Henshaw.

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<b>Other attendees:</b>	Five members of the public

## 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.

## 2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Council meeting, held on 20 May 2015, as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

## 3. Committee Minutes

The Mayor, Councillor Peter Hardy, proposed that the minutes from the former scrutiny meetings, Cabinet and the meetings of the former Audit and Standards committees were approved so they could be formally signed off. He also proposed that the minutes of the first cycle of committee meetings be noted. He advised it was intended that in future the minutes from the committees would only come before the Full Council in the event of the recovery of a decision.

Councillor Susan Fazackerley seconded the proposal.

Clarification was sought as to the status of the minutes from the programme committees. The Chief Executive advised that the minutes were for noting as decisions were delegated to the programme committees and any amendments to the minutes should be made at the committees.

It was RESOLVED by a show of hands,

- 1) to confirm the minutes of the former committees, scrutiny, cabinet, audit and standards; and
- 2) to note the minutes of the first cycle of meetings.

#### 4. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor spoke about how he had had a busy but enjoyable start to his year. He advised that on 26 July 2015, a garden party was to be held at the Deputy Mayor's house, and invited Councillors to attend and support his charities.

#### 5. Chief Executive's Communications

The Chief Executive had no communications on this occasion.

#### 6. Questions from Members of the Council

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

#### 7. Questions from Members of the Public

There were two questions from members of the public.

Question 1 – Mr Fred Moor, St Annes;

*"Fylde's current Constitution empowers the Full Council to set the terms of reference for Committees. It has done so and, most of those committees may now 'establish any Working Group to consider, and make recommendations, on any issues within the remit of the committee's terms of reference. So my question is: To whom may a Working Group make such recommendations - to the full Council, or only to the Committee from which they were formed?"*

Councillor Fazackerley, Leader of the Council, responded advising that the committees could establish any working groups thought necessary to consider and make recommendations regarding any issue within the committee's remit. If a working group made recommendations these would be duly considered by the committee which established the working group, the committee could make a decision based on those recommendations.

Mr Moor's supplementary question was;

*"Given that working groups will be making decision on the recommendations they are making, are they technically classed as sub-committees?"*

Councillor Fazackerley advised that the working groups would make recommendations, not decisions. The committee would make decisions.

Question 2 – Mr Kevin Eastham, St Annes;

*“THE BLACKPOOL AIRPORT GREEN BELT*

*A proposal has been put forward by Lancashire Enterprise Partnership on behalf of Balfour Beatty, and CBRE the landowners, to create an Enterprise Zone at Blackpool Airport.*

*Fylde’s Green Belt land up to approximately 150 yards north of the main runway has been included within the Enterprise Zone and is likely to be built upon in due course.*

*Lancashire Enterprise Partnership say the Green Belt will remain, but have chosen to include it within their plan? The reason can only be because Airport Authorities and Undertakings have extensive permitted development rights to carry out ‘operational development’ within their site boundaries. This loophole is not widely understood, but Balfour Beatty is clearly aware of it and considers terminal buildings, hangars and car parks to be classed ‘operational’.*

*If therefore the development and taxation advantages associate within an Enterprise Zone are being brought into being the existing operational uses north of the Airport are likely to be sold and developed for commercial and retail uses. As and when this happens the ‘operational development’ displaced will gradually be transferred onto the Green Belt land without the need for planning permission, provided it does not exceed prescribed size limitations at any one time.*

*I understand from Mr Martin Kelly, the Chief Executive of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, that local MPs and Fylde Council are supportive of this Enterprise Zone designation. Assuming that what I have said is correct - and I feel sure I will be told if this not so – my question is could Fylde’s position on this issue be explained especially regarding development in the Green Belt and whether the Council considers development upon the Green belt will become more likely than it is now, if an Enterprise Zone is approved. “*

Councillor Fiddler, Chairman of Development Management Committee, advised that Fylde Borough Council were consulted on the inclusion of the airport into the Enterprise Zone and were supportive on the understanding that the Council’s greenbelt policies were not compromised.

In regards to whether the inclusion of the airport in the enterprise zone materially or significantly affect the development of the greenbelt, Councillor Fiddler advised it would not. He explained that the airport enjoyed extensive permitted development rights, including green belt land, provided the development is associated with related airport operation.

Mr Eastham’s supplementary question was;

*“Why if the greenbelt is not to be affected, why was it included in the Enterprise Zone designation?”*

Councillor Fiddler advised the inclusion of the greenbelt land in the Enterprise Zone was irrelevant as it did not change the permitted development rights already granted to the airport.

8. Appointments to the Licensing Committee and Member Development Steering Group

Councillor Susan Fazackerley, Leader of the Council, advised that at the last meeting of the Council, only 14 members had been appointed to the Licensing Committee, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Member Development Steering Group had been appointed. She proposed that Councillor Christine Akeroyd be appointed to the vacant seat on the Licensing Committee, and Councillors Julie Brickles, Barbara Nash, Graeme Neale, Jan Barker, Delma Collins, and Sandra Pitman be appointed to the Member Development Steering Group.

Councillor Ed Nash seconded the proposal.

Following a vote by a show of hands it was RESOLVED to confirm the proposed appointments to the Licensing Committee and Member Development Steering Group.

#### 9. Appointments to Outside Bodies

Councillor Susan Fazackerley, Leader of the Council, introduced the report. She advised that the council made a number of appointments to outside bodies, which were confirmed each year by the council. She explained that the nominations had been sought from the programme committees, and those nominations were presented to the Council in the attached appendix. She advised that nominations for representations were taken from the parent committee, unless a particular member who was not a member of the parent committee, had an area of expertise or specialism best suited for that Outside Body.

Councillor Fazackerley advised that there was a number of small changes to the appendix, namely that Councillor Oades be proposed as the Independent representative on the Police Crime Commissioner Panel; that the nomination to Fylde Coast Women's Aid be changed to Councillor Willder; that Councillor Nulty be added to the list of representatives to the Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau; and finally Councillor Jacques be nominated as the represented to the Ormerod Trust.

Councillor Fazackerley proposed that with those amendments that those members nominated be appointed to represent the Council on the Outside Bodies as listed in the appendix, and was seconded by Councillor David Eaves.

Following a discussion an amendment was moved by Councillor Peter Collins and seconded by Councillor Beckett as follows;

"That all appointments as listed be approved with the exception of the Local Liaison Committee Springfield Works, which be amended to the Leader of the Council as the Council's representative."

Following a show of hands the amendment was LOST.

A further amendment was moved by Councillor Mulholland and seconded by Councillor Brickles as follows;

"That the Councillor Threlfall be replaced as the nominee to Local Liaison Committee Springfield Works by the Chairman of Environment, Health and Housing Committee."

Following a show of hands the amendment was LOST.

Returning to the substantive motion, it was RESOLVED by a show of hands;

- 1) to confirm the appointments to outside bodies for the 2015/16 municipal year as listed in the appendix to the report, with the following amendments;
- 2) that Councillor Oades be appointed as the Independent representative on the Police Crime Commissioners Panel;
- 3) the nomination to Fylde Coast Women's Aid be changed to Councillor Willder;
- 4) that Councillor Nulty be added to the representatives to Fylde Citizen's Advice Bureau; and
- 5) that Councillor Jacques be the representative to the Ormerod Trust.

#### 10. Members' Allowances

Councillor Karen Buckley, Chairman of Finance and Democracy Committee, presented proposals for changes to the members' allowance scheme. She advised that at the council meeting of 26 January 2015 members considered a report on members' allowances, incorporating the recommendations of

the council's independent remuneration panel. The council decided to implement those recommendations on an interim basis pending further consideration. Following the first cycle of the programme committees, a number of changes were proposed.

Councillor Buckley expressed her thanks to the Independent Remuneration Panel for their work. She advised that the Council had not increased the basic allowance for councillors since 2006, against the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Councillor Buckley referred members to the Independent Remuneration Panel's deliberations and specifically to their view that the change of governance would place more responsibility on the chairmen of the committees. She advised that whilst the Chairmen did not have the individual responsibility of decision making, the workload had increased.

Councillor Buckley outlined the proposed changes including an increase of the basic allowance paid to all councillors of £250 to £3,750; to the special responsibility allowances including increases for Chairmen of programme committees from £3,250 to £4,000; and the introduction of an allowance for the Chairman of the Member Development Steering Group of £2,000.

Turning to the position of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Buckley outlined the level of the Leader's workload and proposed that the special responsibility allowance be increased to reflect the workload from £6,000 to £10,000.

Finally, she advised that the changes amounted to a total of £56,318 of special responsibility payments compared with special responsibility payments under the previous governance system of £60,888, so represented an overall reduction. To make provision for these changes together with expenses and national insurance, Councillor Buckley proposed an unfunded budget increase of £8,180.

Councillor Small seconded the proposal.

Following a debate, an amendment was moved by Councillor Beckett and seconded by Councillor Brickles as follows;

"That the item be deferred until all members have all the proposed changes in writing."

Following a show of hands the amendment was LOST.

Returning to the substantive motion and a further debate, a request for a recorded vote was received from five members or more under council procedure rule 15.5(i). The vote was then held;

***Votes for the motion (28):*** Councillors Aitken, Akeroyd, Andrews, Blackshaw, Buckley, Cornah, Donaldson, Eaves, Fazackerley, Fiddler, Fradley, Goodman, Green, Harvey, Jacques, Little, B Nash, E Nash, Neale, Pitman, Pounder, Redcliffe, Settle, Singleton, Small, Taylor, Thomas and Willder

***Votes against the motion (16):*** Councillors Barker, Beckett, Brickles, Chew, Clayton, P Collins, Ford, Hayhurst, Henshaw, Hodgson, Lloyd, Mulholland, Nulty, Oades, Rigby and Silverwood.

***Abstentions (1):*** Councillor Hardy

The proposal was carried and it was therefore RESOLVED to

1. Increase the basic allowance to £3,750 with effect from 7 May 2015;
2. Continue to pay travel and subsistence allowances at the current level, with a mileage rate of 45p per mile;

3. Confirm the time limit of three months on claims, i.e. claims must be made within three months of the meeting or travel occurring. Any claims made after three months would not be paid;
4. Recognise the change in governance with the following changes to the Members' special responsibility allowance, with effect from 20 May 2015:
  - a. Leader of the Council - £10,000
  - b. Chairman of Development Management; Finance and Democracy; Operational Management; Environment, Health and Housing; and Tourism and Leisure Committees - £4,000
  - c. Vice Chairman of Development Management; Finance and Democracy; Operational Management; Environment, Health and Housing; and Tourism and Leisure Committees - £2,000
  - d. Chairman of Member Development Steering Group - £2,000
5. Maintain the Members' special responsibility allowances for the following positions, as agreed at the 26 January 2015 Council meeting:
  - a. Chairman Audit and Standards Committee - £3,250
  - b. Chairman of Public Protection and Licensing Committees - £1,625
  - c. Vice Chairman of Audit and Standard Committee - £1,625
  - d. Vice Chairman of Public Protection and Licensing Committees - £812.50
  - e. Leader of each political group - £32 per group member
6. Continue the payment of £250 per annum to each of the three Independent persons
7. Approve a recurring unfunded budget increase of £8,180 per annum from 2015/16 onwards to accommodate the above proposals.

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