



MINUTES

Council

Date:	Monday, 27 March 2023
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Mayor Councillor Ben Aitken Deputy Mayor Councillor Alan Clayton Councillors Frank Andrews, Peter Anthony, Brenda Blackshaw, Julie Brickles, Karen Buckley, Delma Collins, Peter Collins, Chris Dixon, Sue Fazackerley MBE, Trevor Fiddler, Brian Gill, Shirley Green, Noreen Griffiths, Will Harris, Gavin Harrison, Paul Hayhurst, Karen Henshaw JP, Paul Hodgson, Angela Jacques, John Kirkham, Matthew Lee, Cheryl Little, Jayne Nixon, Linda Nulty, Liz Oades, David O'Rourke, Richard Redcliffe, Michael Sayward, Vince Settle, Elaine Silverwood, John Singleton JP, Roger Small, Ray Thomas, Tommy Threlfall, Stan Trudgill, Viv Willder.
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Tracy Manning, Ian Curtis, Sharon Wadsworth, Mark Evans, Howie Dawson, Kassie Navarasi, Lucie Warburton.
Other Attendees:	Councillor Mark Bamforth (via remote access) 2 Members of the public

Prayers

Prayers were offered by the Mayor's Chaplain, Father Philip Newbold.

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 John Kirkham declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 9 – M55 – Heyhouses Link Road and left the meeting for the duration of the item.

Council Roger Small declared a personal interest in Item 8 – Invitation to Accept Appointment as Deputy Mayor 2023/24 and left the meeting for the duration of the item.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Council meeting, held on 2 March 2023, as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

3. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor was delighted to announce that the upcoming Mayoral event of afternoon tea at Wesham Community Centre on Saturday 1st April between 10.30-12.30 was fully booked. The Mayors Ball would be held on Saturday 15th April 2023 at Ribby Hall, Wrea Green.

4. Chief Executive's Communications

The Chief Executive, on behalf of all employees, passed on thanks to the elected members for their time, dedication and support over the last four years and wished all the best to members whether they are standing for re-election or standing down.

The Mayor, on behalf of members, conveyed his thanks to the Chief Executive and members of staff.

5. Questions from Members of the Council

No questions had been received from Members of the Council.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

No questions had been received from members of the public.

Decision Items

7. Invitation to Accept Appointment as Mayor 2023/24

Councillor Roger Small proposed that Councillor Cheryl Little be invited to accept the appointment of Mayor of the Borough of Fylde for the municipal year 2023/24.

Councillor Sue Fazackerley MBE seconded the proposal and it was RESOLVED to invite Councillor Cheryl Little to accept appointment as Mayor of the Borough of Fylde for the municipal year 2023/24, at the next Annual Meeting.

(Councillor Little left the meeting for the duration of item 7)

8. Invitation to Accept Appointment as Deputy Mayor 2023/24

Having declared an interest, Councillor Small left the meeting for the duration of item 8.

Councillor Cheryl Little proposed that Councillor Roger Small be invited to accept the office of Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Fylde for the municipal year 2023/24.

Councillor David O'Rourke seconded the proposal, and it was RESOLVED to invite Councillor Roger Small to accept appointment as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Fylde for the municipal year 2023/24, at the next Annual Meeting.

9. M55 – Heyhouses Link Road

Having declared an interest, Councillor Kirkham left the meeting for the duration of item 9.

Councillor Buckley proposed that now that the construction work on the M55 link road was well underway Lancashire County Council, as the responsible body overseeing the delivery of the project, had requested that Fylde's contribution to the project was now transferred to them.

Alongside the contributions there was a residual sum of £0.121m of available s106 developer contribution monies which had previously been approved to be paid to Lancashire County Council as further and final contribution towards the scheme design costs.

The link road was expected to be opened to vehicular traffic in December 2023.

Following a brief discussion it was unanimously RESOLVED to:

1. Authorise the payment of £2m to Lancashire County Council as a contribution towards the construction of the accelerated M55 link road based on Heads of Terms as detailed in the report, fully funded from the M55 Link Road Reserve which had been established for this purpose;
2. Note that the intended payment of the remaining s106 developer contributions that had been previously approved as a contribution to the design costs of the scheme in the sum of £0.121m would be paid to Lancashire County Council.

10. Members' Allowances

Councillor Buckley introduced a report on the findings from the Independent Remuneration Panel, that had met on 5 October 2022 and again on 3 February 2023. The panel proposed an increase in members' allowances with effect from 9 May 2023.

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Councillor Buckley explained that the panel took into consideration the reduction in the number of councillors and changes to ward boundaries and the new proposed committee structure coming into effect from May 2023. The increase in the allowances would still achieve a revenue budget saving going forward due to the overall reduction in the number of councillors from May 2023.

Councillor Small seconded the proposal and reserved his right to speak.

Following a brief debate it was RESOLVED by a show of hands:

1. To adopt the following recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel with effect from 9 May 2023:
 - i. To increase to the level of basic allowance to £4,540
 - ii. To increase the special responsibility allowances as follows:

Leader of the Council - £12,059
Deputy Leader - £3,621
Chairmen of Policy, Scrutiny & Planning Committees - £4,824
Vice-Chairman of above - £2,412
Chairmen of Audit and Standards committees- £1,958
Vice- Chairmen of Audit and Standards committees - £982
Chairmen of Public Protection and Licensing committees - £1,958
Vice-Chairmen of above - £982
Chairman of Member Development Steering Group - £2,412
Leader of each political group - £39 per group member
 - iii. To introduce a special responsibility allowance for lead members of £4,824
 - iv. To maintain the present level of travel and subsistence allowances and dependent carers' allowance for 2023-24.
 - v. To amend the Policy on the Operation of the Mayoralty to reflect that mayoral allowances will receive an annual uplift based on CPI levels, with a cap of 2.5%.

11. Leadership Board – Closure Report

Councillor Buckley introduced a report that requested the leadership board, that had been established and appointed by Council, be formally closed and disbanded for the new council to review and determine the most appropriate arrangements under the new governance structure.

Councillor Threlfall seconded the proposal and extended his thanks for the dedication and contributions to all those that had been involved on the board.

It was RESOLVED to disband the Leadership Board and acknowledge that the members of the Board appointed had fulfilled the intended objectives and aims set.

12. Committee Minutes

Councillor Buckley introduced a report for members to confirm the minutes from the last cycle of programme committee meetings as correct records as those committee would not exist in the same format under the new committee structure from May 2023.

Councillor Small seconded the proposal and it was RESOLVED:

1. To confirm the minutes, as previously circulated, of the meetings of the programme committees as correct records as follow:-
 - i. Environment, Health and Housing Committee held on 7 March 2023;
 - ii. Tourism and Leisure Committee held on 9 March 2023;
 - iii. Operational Management Committee held on 14 March 2023;
 - iv. Finance and Democracy Committee held on 20 March 2023.

13. Council Tax Premiums 2024/25

This item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Prior to the closure of the meeting the Mayor wished all those standing in the May election good luck and thanked those that were not seeking re-election.

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