



MINUTES

Council

Date:	Monday, 11 February 2019
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Members Present:	Mayor (Councillor Peter Collins) Deputy Mayor (Councillor Jan Barker) Councillors Ben Aitken, Frank Andrews, Peter Anthony, Tim Ashton, Karen Buckley, Maxine Chew, Alan Clayton, Delma Collins, Michael Cornah, Chris Dixon, David Donaldson, Susan Fazackerley MBE, Tony Ford JP, Gail Goodman JP, Shirley Green, Peter Hardy, Neil Harvey, Paul Hayhurst, Karen Henshaw JP, Paul Hodgson, Angela Jacques, John Kirkham, Cheryl Little, Roger Lloyd, Edward Nash, Graeme Neale, Jayne Nixon, Liz Oades, Sandra Pitman, Richard Redcliffe, Louis Rigby, 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, Colin Dockery.
Other Attendees:	Seven members of the public were present.

Prayers

Prayers were offered by Mr. Ian Curtis.

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 Anthony declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 11, Coastal Revival Fund Bid: Lytham Hall. The nature of the interest being that they were his employers. The Councillor Anthony left the meeting for the duration of item 11.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2018 as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

3. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor had been busy with the Christmas drinks evening which was made even more enjoyable by the Community Choir singing outside on the night. He had attended the Showmans Guild Annual Luncheon which had raised £1,500 for the Mayoral charities and the Lytham St Annes Classical Association final.

The Mayor reminded those present that tickets were available for the Mayors' Charity Ball that was to be held on 15th March 2019.

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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

Councillor Gail Goodman read out her question that had been submitted before the requisite deadline as outlined in the Council's Constitution.

"As Councillors, in Fylde Borough, we all have a particular affection for our Wards, and I am most fortunate in that Ashton Ward boasts many features of a seaside town. These include the north side of the Square, the Victorian buildings of Garden Street, Ashton Gardens, and of course, the beach area from the Pier toward Blackpool.

I receive most enquiries and concerns regarding the Sand Dunes, and I should like to read the following from the Spring 2019 National Trust Magazine.

'Efforts to save threatened sand dunes around England and Wales are getting a helping hand with £4.3 million of funding from the European Union LIFE programme. Sand dunes are one of Europe's most at risks habitats. Only 20,000 hectares (49,422 acres) remain in England and Wales – equivalent to around half the size of the Isle of White. DuneLIFE, run by Natural England, in partnership with the National Trust, Plantlife, the Wildlife Trusts and Natural Resources Wales will improve the condition of key sand dunes by tackling the root cause of decline'.

Are we to receive any part of the £4.3 million, and if so, how do we propose to best maintain and preserve this local heritage?"

Councillor Cheryl Little, Chairman of Tourism and Leisure, responded by confirming that Fylde Council had successfully led the partnership in the management of the Fylde Sand Dunes since 2008. Grant Funding of £717,000 was secured in December 2016 from the Environment Agency by the partnership to continue the Fylde Sand Dunes Project for a further five years. The funding is used to conserve, manage and improve over 80 hectares of dune estate which included a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest, County Biological Heritage Sites and Local Nature Reserve. A further grant application would be made to the Environment Agency in 2021/22, to continue the project for a further 5 years.

The funding from the European Union LIFE programme, is fundamentally for the same type of sand dune conservation work that is currently being carried out under the Fylde Sand Dunes Project and as such an application to this fund would be classed as 'double funding' for a project that is currently fully funded by the Environmental Agency. The LIFE programme fund also prioritise's failing dune systems in both the natural build-up of sand and failing habitat. The Fylde Sand Dunes Project has been successful in mitigating these issues since 2008, and therefore Fylde would not be classed as an essential project to the European Union LIFE programme.

Councillor Goodman did not ask a supplementary question but was pleased that funding had been secured.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

Decision Items

7. Notice of Motion – Sir Bill Beaumont

Following notice given under rule 12 of the Council Procedure Rules, the following Motion was proposed by Councillor Cheryl Little.

Before moving her motion, Councillor Little spoke a little about Sir Beaumonts' career and ties to the Fylde coast.

"I would like to move that the Council recognises and congratulates Fylde resident Sir Bill Beaumont who has been honoured for services to Rugby in the Queen's New Year Honours list in 2019."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Aitken and following a show of hands the motion was CARRIED.

8. Invitation to Accept Appointment as Mayor 2019/20

Councillor Sue Fazackerley proposed that Councillor Angela Jacques be invited to accept the appointment of Mayor of the Borough of Fylde for the municipal year 2019/20.

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Councillor Karen Buckley seconded the proposal, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to appoint Councillor Angela Jacques as Mayor of the Borough of Fylde for the municipal year 2019/20, at the next Annual Meeting.

9. Invitation to Accept Appointment as Deputy Mayor 2019/20

Councillor Angela Jacques proposed that Councillor Richard Redcliffe be invited to accept the appointment of Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Vince Settle seconded the proposal and it was RESOLVED unanimously to appoint Councillor Richard Redcliffe as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Fylde for the municipal year 2019/20, at the next Annual Meeting.

10. Schedule of Meetings 2019/20

Councillor Susan Fazackerley presented the proposed schedule of meetings for the forthcoming municipal year 2019/20 with the exception that the proposed meeting of the Audit and Standards committee in May 2019 be removed as the meeting had been rescheduled to the 25th April 2019.

Councillor Karen Buckley seconded the proposal.

Following a show of hands in favour of the proposal, it was RESOLVED to approve the schedule of meetings for 2019/20, subject to the above amendment.

11. Coastal Revival Fund Bid : Lytham Hall

(Councillors Peter Anthony and Tim Ashton left the room for the discussion and voting on Item 11)

Councillor Cheryl Little introduced a report following the successful bid to the Coastal Revival Fund by the Lytham Hall Partnership for £42,500. The funding would be used to restore the Georgian Hall East Elevation and produce a Parkland research and feasibility study.

Councillor Vince Settle seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED:

1. To approve that the Council acts as the accountable body for the Lytham Hall Partnership Coastal Revival Fund grant;
2. To approve a fully funded addition of £42,500 to the Councils 2018/19 Capital Programme for the restoration works at Lytham Hall to be met from a grant from the Coastal Revival Fund of the same amount; and
3. To approve the payment of the grant monies to the Lytham Hall Partnership upon completion of a legal agreement between the partnership and Fylde Council restricting the purposes to which the grant can be applied to those as described within the bid document and requiring the provision of supporting documentation to confirm compliance with that agreement.

12. Revocation of Dog Byelaws

Councillor Roger Small introduced the report about the range of public spaces protection orders the Council introduced containing measures that enable all dog owners to enjoy exercising their dogs whilst providing enforcement measures to target irresponsible owners. The council's existing byelaws that dealt with the control of dogs are of no effect during the period of the PSPO, however if they are not revoked they would become effective again when the PSPOs lapsed.

The Council decided, in February 2018, to revoke the existing byelaws, subject to no representations being received in response to the statutory publicity requirements. As one representation had been received the council required to take that representation into account and confirm whether it still wished to revoke the existing dog control byelaws.

Councillor Sandra Pitman seconded the proposal it was RESOLVED that notwithstanding the representation received, to make the byelaw revoking the dog control byelaws.

13. The Annual Pay Policy Statement 2019

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 the Policy Statement was in line with the Localism Act and guidance from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Councillor Neil Harvey seconded the proposal, and it was RESOLVED to approve the Pay Policy Statement 2019 for Fylde Council.

14. Constitutional Amendments

Councillor John Singleton introduced a report on the proposed changes to the Council procedure Rules, to allow for remote access to meetings, and for the adoption of the to the Term of Reference for the Audit and Standards committee following their consideration of the results of an assessment carried out to compare the Council's current arrangements with the guidance issued by CIPFA "Audit Committees - Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018" to ensure that the Committee continued to operate in accordance with best practice.

Councillor David Donaldson seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED:

1. To amend the Council Procedure Rules to allow for remote access as follows:

2 REMOTE ATTENDANCE:

2.1 Arrangements for remote attendance

(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 in a meeting of the council including any committee (s) of which that Councillor is a member, if the following circumstances apply

(i) M has notified the Director of Resources in writing no later than one week before the meeting of their wish to participate remotely; and

(ii) M reasonably believes that it would be detrimental to their physical or mental wellbeing to attend the meeting in person.

(b) Any arrangements must ensure so far as possible that any person attending the meeting is able to hear M's contributions as easily as those of members attending in person.

2.2 Substitutes

M may be represented by a substitute under rule 22 or 23 but not by remote access means.

2.3 Exempt and confidential items

M may not participate remotely in any part of a meeting in which the public have been excluded under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972.

2.4 Maximum number of members participating remotely

The maximum number of members who may participate remotely in a council meeting is 2.

2. To adopt the revised Terms of Reference for the Audit and Standards Committee as shown at Appendix A to the report.

15. Council Tax Premium 2019/20

Councillor Ben Aitken presented a report detailing that in November 2018, the government amended the legislation, allowing local authorities the discretion to charge an additional 50% premium to the owners of properties left empty for over two years, by increasing the premium to 100% with effect from 1st April 2019.

The Environment, Health and Housing Committee discussed the proposed increase at the meeting held on 8th January 2019.

Councillor Viv Willder seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED:

1. To note the recommendation of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee from the meeting of 8th January 2019 with respect to the Council Tax Premium for properties left empty for over two years; and
2. To approve the introduction of a new Council Tax Premium level of 100% payable in respect of properties that have remained empty for more than two years, to be effective from 1st April 2019.

16. Financial Forecast Update 2018/19 to 2022/23 (position as at January 2019)

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced the Financial Forecast Update report, advising that it had been considered by the Finance and Democracy Committee on 28 January 2019. She advised that the update reflected the impact of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

Councillor Buckley highlighted that the Government had confirmed there would be no change to the calculation methodology for New Homes Bonus and that the bid by the Lancashire Authorities to form part of the 75% Business Rate Retention Pilot Scheme for 2019/20 had been successful.

Councillor Neil Harvey seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED to note the implications of the updated financial forecast.

17. Review of Statement of Gambling Policy

Councillor Angela Jacques introduced a report advising that the Gambling policy had been reviewed and considered by the Licensing Committee on 30 January 2019 before being presented to council for adoption.

Councillor Frank Andrews seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the revised Policy.

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