

Council Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Thursday, 27 January 2022 in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Council members present:

Councillors Kay, Ballard, I Amos, Armstrong, Lady D Atkins, Sir R Atkins, Baxter, Beavers, Berry, B Birch, C Birch, Bowen, Bridge, Cartridge, Catterall, Collinson, E Ellison, P Ellison, Fail, Fairbanks, Gerrard, George, Henderson, Holden, Ibison, Ingham, Le Marinel, Leech, Longton, McKay, Minto, Moon, Orme, O'Neill, Robinson, Smith, Swales, A Turner, S Turner, A Vincent, Matthew Vincent, M Vincent, D Walmsley, L Walmsley and Webster

Apologies for absence:

Councillor(s) R Amos, Cropper, Raynor, Stirzaker and Williams

Other councillors present:

None

Officers present:

Garry Payne, Chief Executive
Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment
Clare James, Corporate Director Resources and Section 151 Officer
Mary Grimshaw, Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer
Jane Collier, Human Resources Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Duncan Jowitt, Democratic Services Officer
Marianne Unwin, Democratic Services Officer
Emily Wareing, Engagement and Communications Officer
Debra Thornton, Web / Digital Officer

Two members of the public or press attended the meeting.

51 Confirmation of minutes

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Michael Vincent, proposed and the Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder, Councillor Bowen, seconded that the minutes of the meeting of the full Council held on 2 December 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

It was agreed (by 37 votes to 5) that the minutes of the full Council meeting held on 2 December 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

52 Declarations of Interest

None.

53 Announcements

Councillor Bridge presented the Mayor with an award that the council and Danfo had won at the British Toilet Association Awards.

The Mayor announced that £250 had been raised by Fleetwood Town Flyers Walking Football Club and Cllr Ian Amos' team and that a number of events would be held before the end of the mayoral year

54 Public questions or statements

None received.

55 Questions "On Notice" from councillors

None received.

56 Executive reports

(a) Leader of the Council (Councillor Henderson)

The Leader of the Council submitted a report.

Cllr Henderson noted a general point made by Cllr Fail asking that all Members should be given a response to any questions asked at Council.

The report was noted.

(b) Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor Michael Vincent)

The Resources Portfolio Holder submitted a report.

Cllr Vincent congratulated Marianne Unwin on her ADSO Rookie of the Year award as did Cllr Fail who also praised Peter Foulsham and Duncan Jowitt whose mentoring had contributed to her award.

Cllr Sir R Atkins asked about the progress of the Bourne Hill site development. Cllr Vincent said that specific details were commercially sensitive but it was progressing nicely and new building regulations from 1 June 2021 would make it much harder for developers to build anything other than carbon neutral properties.

Cllr Vincent said he would provide a written response to a question from Cllr Longton about the high volume of change of circumstances notifications in respect of Universal Credit and the introduction of a

system of tolerances.

The report was noted.

- (c) Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder (Councillor Bridge)

The Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder submitted a report.

Cllr Fail said that Wyre Labour Group had set up an operation to report dog fouling incidents to council. Cllr Bridge appreciated this being reported and said he believed enforcement was going well and that dog fouling issues were due to the actions of the irresponsible few.

The report was noted.

- (d) Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder (Councillor Collinson)

The Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder submitted a report.

The report was noted.

- (e) Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder (Councillor Berry)

The Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder submitted a report.

Cllr Berry announced that

- bathing water quality at Fleetwood and Cleveleys beaches had retained “good” status
- a presentation by the Rural Crime Task Force was to be made on Friday 11 February at Lancaster House and Members should contact him if they would like to attend.

Cllr Smith put a question to Cllr Berry about Wyre’s rough sleepers. Cllr Berry said the Housing Team had helped 28 rough sleepers into permanent accommodation and had saved about 450 people from being homeless. Cllr Fairbanks praised the council’s Housing Team who, she said were second to none and the Mayor congratulated the Housing Team on their work over the Christmas period and the Baines Trust for supporting them.

Cllr D Atkins asked about a closure of Garstang’s High Street car park that had taken place and a protocol to inform councillors in the event of closure. Cllr Berry confirmed that there was such a protocol but Keyworker Homes had not followed it. They had been advised to do so

in future.

The report was noted.

- (f) Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder
(Councillor Bowen)

The Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder submitted a report.

Cllr Gerrard asked what was planned for the borough in respect of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Cllr Bowen said that Chris Wyatt and the new Communications Team were working on events throughout the borough and two children's events themed around the "Frozen" film had just been announced for Poulton and Garstang

The report was noted.

58 Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Henderson and the Chief Executive, Garry Payne, submitted a report to provide Full Council with an update on work undertaken towards development of strengthened joint working, a long term strategic plan and a County Deal for the Lancashire area and seek agreement to progress this work.

Cllr Henderson obtained the permission of the Mayor to allow Cllr Michael Vincent to answer any questions that were in relation to relevant meetings that he had attended.

Cllr Ibison commented that the principles were sound and it was good for Lancashire and for Wyre. Cllr Beavers and Cllr Fail thanked Cllr Henderson and those who had contributed to the report whilst expressing concerns about the lack of detail included in the report as did Cllr O'Neill. Cllr Alan Vincent thanked all district leaders for helping put together the package, which was, he said, the first step on the journey.

Cllrs Henderson and Michael Vincent responded to the points made.

The recommendations were approved unanimously.

59 Local Government Association (LGA) Model Code of Conduct for Members

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Henderson and the Chief Executive, Garry Payne, submitted a report asking Council to consider the recommendation of the Standards Committee to adopt the LGA Model Code of Conduct ("the model code") as amended.

The recommendations were approved unanimously.

The Mayor advised that all councillors were expected to attend the Code of Conduct training event on Thursday 3 February.

60 Appointments to committees

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Henderson and the Chief Executive, Garry Payne, submitted a report to enable changes to be made to the membership of committees for the remainder of the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

The recommendation was approved unanimously.

61 Periodic report - Children and Young People's Champion

Cllr Kay submitted a report to update the Council on some of the activities she had been involved in over the last year as Lead Member for Children and Young People.

Cllr Ballard informed the council about Mood Tracker, a tool that could be offered to schools that would help young people by tracking their anxiety levels, etc. and could be demonstrated to councillors at a future pre-Council session (subsequently arranged for 6pm on 20 April 2022).

Cllr George added that her Support Teenage Parents group was well underway.

The report was noted.

62 Notices of Motion

None received.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 7.54 pm.

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