

Council Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Thursday, 14 April 2022 at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Council members present:

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

Apologies for absence:

Councillors Armstrong, Bridge, Cropper, Holden, Stirzaker, A Vincent and Matthew Vincent

Others present:

Honorary Alderman Hodgkinson

Officers present:

Garry Payne, Chief Executive
Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment
Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities
Clare James, Corporate Director Resources
Peter Foulsham, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer
Duncan Jowitt, Democratic Services Officer
Mary Grimshaw, Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer
Steve Smith, Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager
Emily Wareing, Communications Officer
Stephanie McAuley, Graphic Designer

No members of the public or press attended the meeting.

1 Confirmation of minutes

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Henderson, proposed and the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Michael Vincent, seconded that the minutes of the meeting of the full Council held on 10 March 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

It was agreed, by 26 votes to 0, with 6 abstentions, that the minutes of the full

Council meeting held on 10 March 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

2 Declarations of Interest

The Monitoring Officer had granted a dispensation to all Members to enable participation in the debate and vote on item 11, the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Councillor Baxter disclosed a significant interest in agenda item 9, Wyre Local Plan Partial Review (2011-20310).

3 Announcements

The Mayor announced that the total amount raised at the full Council meeting held on 10 March 2022 in aid of the Ukraine appeal was £492.20.

A number of other events were planned over the next month, for which tickets were available, including a Golf Day (22 April), Musical Showcase (24 April), a clay pigeon shoot (30 April) and a concert by the Blackpool Male Voice Choir (7 May).

The Mayor announced the three winners of the Mayor's Easter Raffle.

4 Public questions or statements

None.

5 Questions "On Notice" from councillors

None.

6 Executive reports

(a) Leader of the Council (Councillor Henderson)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor David Henderson, submitted a report.

Councillor Henderson informed councillors that the Lancashire Leaders' Group meetings would recommence after the forthcoming elections.

Councillor Henderson responded to questions from Councillor Beavers, about the Poulton to Fleetwood link, and from Councillor Fail, about the County Deal, Theme 4, with regard to fracking. Councillor Minto also made a comment about fracking.

The report was noted.

(b) Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor M Vincent)

The Resources Portfolio Holder, Councillor Michael Vincent, submitted a report.

Councillor Vincent responded to a question from Councillor Sir Robert Atkins about the way in which the council supported Wyre residents who were on low incomes and struggling with rising household costs.

The report was noted.

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

The Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder, Councillor Simon Bridge, submitted a report. In the absence of Councillor Bridge, Councillor Henderson responded to questions and comments.

Councillor Henderson responded to a question from Councillor Swales regarding the numbers of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for littering, dog-related offences and fly tipping, to which Cllr Henderson said he would provide a written response.

Councillor Baxter asked about the progress and likely timescale for the insurance claim in relation to the fire at the duck pond in Cleveleys. Councillor Henderson confirmed that the insurance claim had been submitted and once settled, the work would go out to tender to replace like for like.

Councillor Minto asked about the continued lack of a replacement seat at the junction of Raikes Road and Underbank Road. Councillor Henderson agreed to refer the matter to the appropriate officer.

The Mayor thanked Sandra Byrne for her work on the Great British Spring Clean.

The report was noted.

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

The Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, Councillor Alice Collinson, submitted a report.

Councillor Fail asked about breaches of planning control and whether the council had the correct staffing levels to deal with the number of cases. The Chief Executive intervened to confirm that it was he who had responsibility for staffing, not the Portfolio Holder.

The report was noted.

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

The Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder, Councillor Roger Berry, submitted a report.

Councillor Berry responded to questions and comments from

- Councillor Lady Atkins, regarding the number of Ukrainian refugees being housed on the borough,
- Councillor Sir Robert Atkins, regarding housing and benefits for Ukrainian refugees,
- Councillor Cartridge, about the Multi-Agency Support Panel,
- Councillor Longton, about Ukrainian refugees who had not come through the official sponsor scheme
- Councillor S Turner, who complimented the successful way in which the Council distributed Disabled Facilities Grants.

The report was noted.

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

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

Councillor Bowen, in response to a question from Councillor Gerrard, confirmed that a meeting with the YMCA at the end of April would consider such issues as the availability of a Government grant to assist with the additional cost of heating swimming pools, and the introduction of LED lighting in Leisure Centres.

Cllr Robinson commented on the recent hosting of the North West Stages Rally which brought many people to the borough and also provided significant support for local charities.

Cllr Fairbanks asked a question about access to Kids Clubs.

The report was noted.

7 **Treasury Management Policy and Annual Investment Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Capital Strategy 2022/23**

Councillor Michael Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder and Clare James, Corporate Director Resources, submitted a report.

Councillor Vincent thanked Clare James and her team for their thorough and comprehensive work.

It was agreed, unanimously, to approve the Treasury Management Policy and Annual Investment Strategy, MRP Policy Statement and Capital Strategy

for 2022/23 as considered by Cabinet at their meeting 23 March 2022.

8 Wyre Local Plan Partial Review (2011-2031)

Councillor Baxter left the Council Chamber for this item.

Councillor Alice Collinson, Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder and Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities, submitted a report.

Councillor Collinson responded to questions and comments from Councillors Sir Robert Atkins, Fail, S Turner and Ballard.

It was agreed (by 33 votes to 0, with 6 abstentions),

1. That the 'Publication' draft Wyre Local Plan Partial Review (2011-2031) Schedule of Revisions, labelled as Appendix 1 to this report; the 'Submission' draft Wyre Local Plan Partial Review (2011-2031) Schedule of Additional Minor Modifications, labelled as Appendix 2 to this report; and the Statement of Consultation, labelled as Appendix 3 to this report be approved for submission to the Secretary of State for examination.
2. That powers be delegated to the Head of Planning Services to make amendments to the 'Submission' draft Wyre Local Plan Partial Review (2011-2031) in consultation with the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, before it is submitted for examination. Such amendments could include (but are not limited to) improvements to the clarity of the document, factual and typing errors and necessary updates to reflect final recommendations from technical assessments.
3. That the 'Submission' draft Wyre Local Plan Partial Review (2011-2031) be approved for appropriate Development Management purposes.

9 Constitution (Scheme of Delegation) Amendments

Councillor Baxter returned to the Council Chamber.

Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council, and Garry Payne, Chief Executive submitted a report.

It was agreed, unanimously, that Part 7.02 (Scheme of Delegation) of the Council's Constitution be amended to reflect several changes to the current Executive and Non-Executive officer delegations.

10 Members' Allowances Scheme

Clare James, Corporate Director Resources, submitted a report, which was presented by Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council.

Councillor Henderson thanked the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel for their sterling work.

It was agreed, unanimously:

- (i) That, in line with the formula applied since 2012, the Basic Allowance paid to each councillor be increased by 1.75%, from £4,467 per annum to £4,545 per annum, with effect from 12 May 2022.
- (ii) That, with the exception of the Chairman of the Audit Committee (see below), the method in which Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) for members of the Executive, Group Leaders or Chairmen of Committees are calculated continue to be based on the various current multipliers of the Basic Allowance for each of the posts as set out in Part 6.01 Appendix A of the Constitution.
- (iii) That the SRA paid to the Chairman of the Audit Committee be increased from 0.8x to 1x basic allowance.
- (iv) That the SRAs paid to the Lead Member for Children and Young People and the Lead Member for Older People remain unchanged.
- (v) That no changes be made to the SRAs paid to the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor.
- (vi) That the levels of allowances to be paid in 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 2, be noted.
- (vii) That all other elements of the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme remain unchanged.
- (viii) That the members of the IRP be thanked for their work on this review.

11 Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Annual Report

Councillor John Ibison, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, presented the Committee's Annual Report.

The report was noted.

12 Periodic report - Audit Committee

Councillor Lesley Mc Kay, Chairman of the Audit Committee, presented a report.

Councillor Moon commended the Chairman and officers for helping the committee to deal with complex information so effectively.

The Chief Executive, Garry Payne, confirmed that there had been external

issues which had resulted in a delay in signing off the annual accounts; it had not been as a result of any internal matters.

The report was noted.

13 Notices of Motion

None.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 8.09 pm.

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