

Council Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Thursday, 7 July 2022 at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Council members present:

The Mayor, Councillor Robinson and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Catterall

Councillors Amos, Lady D Atkins, Sir R Atkins, Ballard, Baxter, Beavers, Berry, Bowen, Collinson, E Ellison, Fail, Gerrard, George, Holden, Ibison, Ingham, Kay, Le Marinel, Leech, Longton, McKay, Minto, Moon, Orme, Raynor, Stirzaker, Swales, S Turner, A Vincent, Matthew Vincent, M Vincent, D Walmsley, L Walmsley, Webster and Williams

Apologies for absence:

Councillors Armstrong, B Birch, C Birch, Bridge, Cartridge, P Ellison, Fairbanks, Henderson, O'Neill, Rendell, Smith and A Turner

Officers present:

Garry Payne, Chief Executive
Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment
Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities
Clare James, Corporate Director Resources and Section 151 Officer
Joanne Billington, Head of Governance and Business Support
Jane Collier, Human Resources Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Duncan Jowitt, Democratic Services Officer
Daphne Courtenage, Assistant Democratic Services Officer
Bethan McDonough, Communications and Marketing Officer

Others present:

Honorary Alderman John Hodgkinson, Reverend John Squires, the Mayor's Chaplain and the Mayor's consort.

One member of the public attended the meeting.

9 Confirmation of minutes

The following amendment to Item 6d of the minutes of 14 April 2022 was proposed by Councillor Fail and seconded by Councillor Beavers:

“Cllr Fail asked with regard to planning breaches whether investigations were being done quickly enough to stop unauthorised

breaches from progressing to completion, and if not, whether this indicated there was still a staffing level issue. Cllr Fail also asked if formal action should be taken more frequently than currently (with a view to discouraging unauthorised development). The Portfolio Holder provided no view on this, with the Chief Exec intervening to confirm that it was he who had responsibility for staffing, not the Portfolio Holder.”

The amendment was lost (by 30 votes to 5 with 0 abstentions).

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Michael Vincent, then proposed and the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder, Councillor Berry, seconded that the minutes of the meeting of the full Council held on 14 April 2022 be confirmed as a correct record. It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 14 April be agreed as a correct record (by 30 votes to 5 with 0 abstentions)

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Michael Vincent, then proposed and the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder, Councillor Berry, seconded that the minutes of the meeting of the full Council held on 12 May 2022 be confirmed as a correct record. It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting of 12 May be confirmed as a correct record.

10 Declarations of Interest

None.

11 Announcements

The Mayor gave details of a number of fund-raising events that had been arranged to be held in aid of the Mayor’s charities:

- Tuesday 16 August – Prosecco afternoon tea with live music in the Mayor’s Parlour, Civic Centre - tickets £15.
- Monday 5 September – Prosecco afternoon tea in the Mayor’s Parlour (2nd event by popular demand) - tickets £15.
- Friday 9 September – Brush and tipple! An art class with a difference at the Venue, Cleveleys.
- Friday 21 October – Northern Soul live band The Casinos and fish and chip supper at the Stumble Inn, Myerscough - tickets £20.
- Saturday 19 November – pre-loved fashion show and sale by Gemma’s designer agency at Wyrebank, Garstang.
- The Mayor’s Charity Ball at Garstang Golf Club on Saturday 25 February 2023.

12 Public questions or statements

None.

13 Questions "On Notice" from councillors

None.

14 Executive reports

(a) Leader of the Council (Councillor Henderson)

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

In the absence of Councillor Henderson, the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Michael Vincent, responded to questions from Councillor Fail about the problems of deprivation in Wyre, from Councillor Beavers about issues surrounding local homes being sold for holiday lets and from Councillor Lady D. Atkins about properties that had been left unoccupied for long periods.

The report was noted.

(b) Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor Michael Vincent)

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

Cllr Vincent provided details of payments that were to be made from a discretionary scheme that would provide financial help to those on Local Council Tax Support.

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 Michael Vincent responded to questions and comments.

Councillor Vincent responded to a question from Councillor Fail about the lack of fixed penalty notices issued for dog fouling and said that a written response would be provided. He also responded to a question from Councillor Longton on the subject of littering.

Councillor Ingham asked that his thanks be passed onto the Portfolio Holder and to the Arts and Events Development Officer, Chris Wyatt, and Gary Scott at Copse Road for their help towards the Queen's Party held at Roylen Avenue, which had raised over £1000 for Brian House.

Councillor Beavers commented that the new Changing Places facility next to the Beach Bungalows, to which Fleetwood Town Council had contributed £10,000, would encourage more people to use the facilities.

The report was noted.

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

Councillor Alice Collinson, 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 Engagement Portfolio Holder, Councillor Berry, submitted a report.

Councillor Berry responded to questions from Councillors Fail and Longton about the recent flooding in Cleveleys. Councillor Baxter thanked Councillor Berry for his input and Senior Engineer, Paul Long, for agreeing to take up communications.

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 thanked the Events Team for their efforts in respect of the Jubilee celebrations. Councillor Le Marinel added his thanks to Chris Wyatt, to Emma Lyons and the Communications Team and to Marianne Unwin and Daphne Courtenage of Democratic Services.

Councillor Stirzaker emphasised that the Big Picnic event in Fleetwood had been organised by Fleetwood Town Council and Cllr Bowen thanked them for doing so.

The report was noted.

15 Treasury management activity 2021/22

Councillor Michael Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder, and Clare James, Corporate Director Resources and S151 Officer, submitted a report detailing the overall position and activities in respect of Treasury Management for the financial year 2021/22.

It was agreed unanimously that the Annual report on Treasury Management Activity for the 2021/22 financial year be approved.

16 Appointment of Independent Person

Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council, and Clare James, Corporate Director Resources, submitted a report to enable an additional Independent Person to be appointed to be involved in dealing with Councillors' Code of Conduct complaints and any disciplinary procedures for statutory officers.

It was agreed (by 34 votes to zero with one abstention) that David Gregson be appointed as an Independent Person, in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

17 Periodic Report - Lead Member for Older People

Councillor Lynn Walmsley, Lead Member for Older People, presented a report detailing some of the activities she had been involved in over the previous year.

The report was noted.

18 Notices of Motion

None.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 7.44 pm.

Date of Publication: 12 July 2022