

Council Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Thursday, 15 September 2022 at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Council members present:

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

Apologies for absence:

Councillors Armstrong, Gerrard, Minto, Moon, O'Neill and Raynor

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
Peter Foulsham, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager
Emma Lyons, Communications and Marketing Lead
Marianne Unwin, Democratic Services Officer
Harry Grundy, Corporate Apprentice

Three members of the public attended the meeting.

Before the meeting began, those present participated in two minutes' silence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who passed away on Thursday 8 September.

The Mayor paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II. Further tributes were paid by the Leader of the Council, Councillor David Henderson, Councillor Sir Robert Atkins, Councillor Peter Le Marinel, Councillor Rob Fail and Councillor Colette Fairbanks.

19 Confirmation of minutes

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Michael Vincent, proposed and the Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder, Councillor Lynne Bowen seconded that the minutes of the meeting of the full Council

held on 7 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

It was agreed, unanimously, that the minutes of the full Council meeting held on 7 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

20 Declarations of Interest

None.

21 Announcements

None.

22 Public questions or statements

None received.

23 Questions "On Notice" from councillors

None received.

24 Executive reports

(a) Leader of the Council (Councillor Henderson)

The Leader of the Council submitted a report.

Councillor Henderson updated members about the Poulton to Fleetwood rail link, and confirmed that Network Rail were now leading on the project. The objective was to develop a business plan, which would include two options for (i) tram-train, and (ii) heavy rail.

The next meeting of the Economic Prosperity Board had been postponed to a later date.

Councillor Henderson responded to a question from Councillor Fail about the council's response to the pressures on residents as a result of the current cost of living crisis, and to a comment from Councillor Stirzaker about the Poulton to Fleetwood link.

The report was noted.

(b) Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor Michael Vincent)

The Resources Portfolio Holder submitted a report.

Councillor Vincent provided an update to 5.1 of his report and explained that 330 businesses had received support resulting a distribution of 88% of monies from the Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF).

Councillor Vincent responded to questions and comments from Councillors Sir R Atkins, Fail, Ibison and George about the way in which the council and other councils in Lancashire dealt with Localised Council Tax Support, adding that the council would continue to do all that it could to assist residents, and to work closely with partner organisations.

Councillor Vincent also responded to a question from Councillor Beavers about the Neptune Fish and Food Processing Park.

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.

Councillor Bridge thanked Mark Billington and his team for their work in securing five more Green Flag Awards for Wyre.

Councillor Bridge also agreed to provide a written response to Councillor Fail regarding the number of fixed penalty notices issued for dog fouling, which had been promised at the previous meeting.

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.

Councillor Berry confirmed that a bid to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to extend support for housing for ex-offenders had been successful. The council would receive £42,000, to be shared with Fylde Council. Councillor Berry responded to comments from Councillors George and Kay.

In response to a question from Councillor Beavers, Councillor Berry agreed to clarify the regulations for policing the sale of vaping products to young people.

In response to a question from Councillor Fail about dealing with homelessness, Councillor Berry confirmed that the council was working closely with Lancashire County Council and would continue to try to support people in their accommodation.

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.

Councillor Bowen responded to a question from Councillor Lady Atkins about the closure of the Garstang Tourist Information Centre and to a questions form Councillor Cartridge about membership levels at the YMCA leisure centres.

The report was noted.

- (g) Cabinet members questions and comments

Councillor Michael Vincent reminded members that Shelter was a very good organisation for providing advice about homelessness.

Councillor Henderson praised officers for the organisation of live outdoor theatre performances of *Frozen* at Jean Stansfield Park, Poulton, recently.

25 Appointments to Committees

The Leader of the Council and Chief Executive submitted a report to enable changes to be made to the membership of committees for the remainder of the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

It was agreed, unanimously, that the recommendations be approved.

26 Periodic report - Armed Forces Champion

Councillor Le Marinel, Armed Forces Champion, submitted a report. He thanked Paul Deacon for the valuable work that he had undertaken in supporting the role in recent years.

The report was noted.

27 Notice of Motion - Councils for Fair Tax Declaration

Councillors Fail, Beavers, Longton, Raynor, Smith and Stirzaker submitted a Notice of Motion under Procedure Rule 14 on the *Councils for Fair Tax Declaration*. The motion was proposed by Councillor Fail and seconded by

Councillor Beavers.

Councillors Michael Vincent and Henderson responded to the proposal, after which Councillor Bridge proposed that the question be now put. The Mayor, considering that the item had been sufficiently discussed, invited the seconder of the motion, Councillor Beavers to speak. Councillor Fail responded to the debate.

The motion was lost, by 7 votes to 35.

28 Notice of Motion - Fireworks

Councillors Bridge, Raynor, Stirzaker and Michael Vincent submitted a Notice of Motion under Procedure Rule 14 on the use of fireworks in the borough. The motion was proposed by Councillor Bridge and seconded by Councillor Stirzaker.

The motion was supported unanimously.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 8.07 pm.

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