

Council Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday, 6 February 2020 at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Councillors present:

The Mayor, Councillor Ann Turner and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Barry Birch.

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

Apologies: Councillors Moon, Raynor and Williams.

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
Emma Lyons, Communications and Marketing Lead
Roy Saunders, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager
Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer.

Also present: Two members of the public.

63 Confirmation of minutes

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record (by 35 votes to 6).

64 Declarations of Interest

None.

65 Announcements

The Mayor announced:

1. That tickets were still available for The Mayor's Civic Dinner at The North Euston Hotel, Fleetwood on Friday 28 February 2020 at 7.00 pm.
2. That a Spring Concert by the Blackpool Male Voice Choir to be held at St Nicholas' Church, Fleetwood on Saturday 21 March 2020 at 7.30 pm and, that tickets were on sale from Andrea Mullin at £8 each.
3. That the "Angel Night" held at the Cube in Poulton on 5 February had been successful. The Mayor thanked Joan Berry for organising the event and also thanked everyone who had attended.

66 Public questions or statements

None received.

67 Questions "On Notice" from councillors

Cllr Gerrard submitted the following question to the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder under Procedure Rule 11.3:

"I noticed in the constitution there was a Police and Crime Panel, could you please provide some information about this as I have not heard about it before?"

The Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder, Cllr Berry said that he was Wyre's representative on the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire, which was a formal body established by the fifteen local authorities in Lancashire under the Police Reform and Social Accountability Act 2011. Each Council appointed one representative (currently, 9 Labour, 4 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent). In addition to the local authority representatives there were two co-opted independent members. There was also scope to appoint up to three extra representatives to achieve overall political balance, if necessary, although no such additional appointments were currently in place.

The role of the Panel was, essentially, to scrutinise and hold to account the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire. The specific functions undertaken in doing so included:

- Reviewing and making recommendations on the Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan;
- Reviewing the Commissioner's Annual Report and putting questions to him/her a public meeting;
- Reviewing and making recommendations on proposed appointments by the Commissioner of the Chief Constable, Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Making reports and recommendations on the discharge of the

Commissioner's functions.

Cllr Berry said, in response to a supplementary question from Cllr Gerrard, that he thought it was quite likely that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire would be willing to attend a meeting on policing issues in Fleetwood, if he was invited to do so by a community group. He said he would be happy to relay such an invitation if such an event was to be held.

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Executive reports

- (a) Leader of the Council (Councillor Henderson)

The Leader of the Council (Cllr Henderson) submitted a report.

Cllr Henderson said when introducing his report that, earlier in the day, he and Cllr Sir Robert Atkins had attended a very effective "Arbor Day" event at Myerscough College.

Cllr Henderson responded to questions and comments from Cllr Beavers, Cllr Fail and Cllr Sir Robert Atkins.

Agreed that the report noted.

- (a) Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor A Vincent)

The Resources Portfolio Holder (Cllr A Vincent) submitted a report.

There were no questions or comments to Cllr Vincent.

Agreed that the report be noted.

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

The Street scene, parks And Open Spaces Portfolio Holder (Cllr Bridge) submitted a report.

Cllr Bridge responded to questions and comments from Cllr George, Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Smith and Birch.

Cllr Bridge said, in response to the question from Cllr Smith, that he would discuss with officers the possibility of monitoring in some way the number of people visiting the new sensory garden at Memorial Park, Fleetwood.

Agreed that the report be noted.

- (a) Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder (Councillor Michael Vincent)

The Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder (Cllr Michael Vincent) submitted a report.

Cllr Vincent responded to comments and questions from Cllr Fail, Cllr S Turner, Cllr Armstrong and Cllr Stirzaker.

Cllr Vincent said, in response to the question from Cllr Stirzaker, that he would ask officers to identify a suitable location for an outside shelter adjacent to but away from the customer entrances at Fleetwood Market, where traders could smoke.

Agreed that the report be noted.

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

The Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety portfolio Holder (Cllr Berry) submitted a report.

Cllr Berry responded to questions and comments from Cllr Ballard and Cllr Beavers.

Agreed that the report be noted.

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

The Leisure, Health and Community Engagement portfolio Holder (Cllr Bowen) submitted a report.

Cllr Bowen said, in response to comments and a question from Cllr Fail, that she would arrange for a further letter to be sent urging the Government to make it a statutory requirement that Food Standards Agency Hygiene Ratings be displayed at premises serving food to the public in England (as was already the case in some other parts of the UK).

Agreed that the report be noted.

- (a) Questions and comments from members of the Cabinet to their colleagues

Cllr Henderson asked a question to Cllr A Vincent about funding for the proposed Poulton - Fleetwood Rail Link Feasibility Study.

69 Lead member for Children and Young People: Periodic Report

The Lead member for Children and Young People (Cllr Kay) submitted a report on some of the activities she had been involved with over the last year.

When introducing her report, Cllr Kay said that copies of the book entitled

'Sincerely You', including letters written by children and young people leaving care, referred to in her report, were now available. She said that she had a copy which she was happy to make available to councillors to read, and recommended it to them.

Cllr Kay also responded to positive comments made by Cllr Orme and Cllr George about the activities mentioned in her report.

Agreed that the report be noted.

70 Members' Allowances Scheme

The Leader of the Council (Cllr Henderson) and the Corporate Director Resources submitted a report on the outcome of an interim review of the Members' Allowances Scheme undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Agreed (unanimously):

1. That the Report of the Corporate Director Resources on the review of the Members' Allowances Scheme undertaken by the Independent remuneration Panel be noted.
2. That, in line with the formula applied since 2012 and endorsed last year, the Basic Allowance paid to each Councillor be increased by 2%, from £4,260 per annum, to £4,347 with effect from 3 May 2020.
3. That no other changes be made to the Scheme for 2020/21.

71 Notices of Motion

None.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 8.04 pm. (The meeting was adjourned at 7.30 pm and the building was evacuated when the fire alarm sounded. When it had been established that it was a fire alarm test, councillors, officers and members of the public returned to the Chamber and the meeting recommenced at 7.35 pm)

Note: An audio recording of this meeting is available on the Council's website via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bdjyyp-gLEw>