



Council Minutes

Minutes of the Council meeting of the Wyre Borough Council held at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde on Thursday 8 September 2011.

Councillors present:

The Mayor, Councillor Bannister, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Williams

Councillor Amos	Councillor R Gandhi OBE	Councillor Ormrod
Councillor Anderson	Councillor Gibson	Councillor Perkin
Councillor E Anderton	Councillor Greenhough	Councillor Robinson
Councillor M Anderton	Councillor C Grunshaw	Councillor Rogers
Councillor Lady Atkins	Councillor J Grunshaw	Councillor Shewan
Councillor Beavers	Councillor Hargreaves	Councillor Smith
Councillor Berry	Councillor Hewitt	Councillor Swift
Councillor Birch MBE	Councillor Lawrenson	Councillor T Taylor
Councillor Bridge	Councillor Lees	Councillor V Taylor
Councillor Bowen	Councillor Martin	Councillor Treece-Birch
Councillor Brooks	Councillor MacNaughton	Councillor Turner
Councillor Catterall	Councillor McCann	Councillor M Vincent
Councillor Cocker	Councillor McKay	Councillor Walmsley
Councillor I Duffy	Councillor Moon	Councillor Wilson
Councillor R Duffy	Councillor Murphy	
Councillor M Gandhi	Councillor Newsham	

Apologies:

Councillors Balmain, Collinson, Henderson, Hodgkinson, Kay, Pimbley and A Vincent.

Officers present:

Garry Payne (Chief Executive)
Philippa Davies (Corporate Director, Resources)
Michael Ryan (Corporate Director, People and Places)
Nikki Wilcock (Communications Manager)
Roy Saunders (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager)
Carole Leary (Democratic Services Officer)

Also present: The Mayor's Chaplain (Reverend Martin Keighley), Aldermen Colby and H Taylor, five members of the public and two members of the press.

COU. 45 **Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meetings held on 14 July and 4 August 2011 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of an apology for absence from Councillor Hewitt for the meeting on 4 August.

COU. 46 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor C Grunshaw declared a personal interest, and a potential prejudicial interest, on agenda item 12 (Police Station Closures, Response to Consultation) because he was a member of the Police Authority.

Councillors Beavers and Shewan both declared a personal interest on agenda item 9(c) (Street Scene Portfolio Holder Executive Reports) as members of the Board of Refurb.

Councillor Smith declared a personal interest on agenda item 13 (Household Waste Recycling Centre Near Garstang – Response to Consultation on Proposed Closure) as a member of Lancashire County Council.

Councillor Moon declared a personal interest on agenda item 14 (Depot Facilities for Future operations) because his son works at the Council's current depot.

COU. 47 **Announcements**

(a) The Mayor informed members that a Festival of Remembrance would be held at the Marine Hall on Tuesday 8 November, starting at 7.00pm. He said tickets would be available soon.

(b) The Mayor also informed members of an Indian banquet in aid of the Mayor's charity, which would be held at Michaels Restaurant in Thornton Cleveleys at 7.00pm on Wednesday 19 October.

He said that tickets or further information about either of these events were available from Andrea Mullin.

COU. 48 **Presentations**

None

COU. 49 **Public Questions**

None

COU. 50 **Questions "On Notice" from Councillors**

None

Executive Reports

(a) **Leader of the Council**

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) submitted a report.

Councillor Gibson said, in response to a question from Councillor Perkin, that he was aware of a leaflet circulating around Fleetwood criticising him for his opposition to the police station closures and for the level of his allowances. Councillor Gibson said that he was opposed to the police station closures and that his allowances were a matter of public record. He said that, in the spirit of freedom of information, fairness and transparency, Councillor C Grunshaw's allowances should also be known to the residents of Fleetwood. He said that he understood that in 2010 Councillor Grunshaw had received £10,790 from Wyre Council, £19,675 from Lancashire County Council and £17,210 from the Police Authority, making a total of £47,675. He said that when that sum was added to the £4,720 received by Councillor Mrs Grunshaw from Wyre Council, this made a total public purse income to the Grunshaw household of £51,695.

Councillor Gibson stated, in response to a question from Councillor MacNaughton in which Councillor MacNaughton had said he had been appalled that Councillor C Grunshaw had criticised the Leader for "gloating" about job losses at Wyre, that he had issued a press release on the efficiency savings which had been made at Wyre. He had referred in that press release to the actions which had been taken, including the deletion of unfilled posts which were no longer required following staffing restructures and not renewing short term contracts but, that unfortunately, some job losses had been unavoidable. He had certainly not "gloated" about those job losses. He emphasised that without the savings that had been achieved, it would not have been possible to deliver the Council's priority services to local residents.

Councillor C Grunshaw stated, as a point of personal explanation, that he had not used the word "gloating" in his statement and that the Leader should not rely on information in the newspaper, or still less from "bloggers" commenting on a press article, for information about his expenses. He said that his allowances from Wyre were in order of £5,000 per year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(b) **Resources Portfolio Holder**

In the absence of Councillor A Vincent, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) introduced the report of the Resources Portfolio Holder.

Councillor Gibson said that he had no problem, in principal, with the proposals for business rate retention referred to in paragraph 1.2 of the Appendix to the report but, he was awaiting information on details of the proposed scheme before making any firm comments.

Councillor Gibson welcomed comments made by Councillor Ormrod about a document published by Age UK on proposals for safer neighbourhoods. He said that some of the suggestions would potentially be of value for district Councils, and for Wyre in particular. Using Ward Walks to enable local councillors to identify potential problem areas or issues for investigation, for example, was an option which might usefully be pursued locally.

Councillor Gibson said that he disagreed with comments made by Councillor C Grunshaw suggesting that the government's proposals for business rates retention by local councils could exacerbate current inequalities and advantage well-off, rather than deprived areas. Councillor Gibson said that the proposal to enable local councils to keep the NNDR monies they collected was an economic measure to promote economic growth and create jobs, not a way of tackling inequalities.

He said, in response to further comments from Councillor Shewan on the same subject, that he welcomed the principal of central government funding being allocated in a way which rewarded best practice in local government, rather than propping up "failing" councils.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(c) Street Scene Portfolio Holder

The Street Scene Portfolio Holder (Councillor Murphy) submitted a report). He informed Council that at the special meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 September the contract for Waste Collection and Recycling had been awarded to Veolia Environmental Services for an 8 year period starting on 1 April 2012.

He also reported that plastic bins to replace the current black sack collections were to be introduced in Fleetwood in the coming week.

Councillor Murphy stated, in response to comments from Councillor Beavers, that he was not aware why information about Refurb had apparently been deleted from the Council's website. He said he would arrange for a written response to be sent to her on that issue. He also stated, in response to further comments from Councillor Beavers, that he would find out where white goods collected by Bulky Waste were sent and inform Councillor Beavers accordingly. He was aware that 13 white good items had been collected and that

16 refrigerators had also been picked up, but he was not aware what had happened to them.

Councillor Murphy confirmed, in response a question from Councillor Brooks, that the two unsuccessful tenderers for the waste collection contract had been SITA UK and BIFFA.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(d) Economy Portfolio

The Economy Portfolio Holder (Councillor Birch) submitted a report.

Councillor Birch stated that, despite some rumours to the contrary the contract for the Rossall Point Project, as part of the Sea Change proposals, had been approved and work was expected to start in 8 to 12 weeks.

Councillor Birch stated, in response to questions from Councillor T Taylor, that he shared Councillor Taylor's concerns about the availability of funding for the proposed fish and food park. However, he remained quite positive that a fish processing facility would be provided eventually, although it was not clear at this stage how big the park would be.

Councillor Birch said that he agreed with comments made by Councillor M Anderton that the beach-front area adjacent to the former pier site in Fleetwood was an eyesore. He said that a letter would be sent to the tenant requesting that the area be cleared. If no action was taken he would arrange for the possibility of the Council clearing the site and sending a bill to the tenant to be investigated.

Councillor Birch said that he had noted comments from Councillor Brooks about the need for more affordable housing and the frequent opposition to particular planning applications from local people.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(e) Neighbourhood Services Portfolio

The Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder (Councillor Berry) submitted a report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(f) Leisure and Culture Portfolio

The Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder (Councillor Bowen) submitted a report.

Councillor Bowen stated, in response to a question from Councillor T Taylor, that nominations to carry the Olympic torch should be submitted to the London 2012 Organising Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

COU. Standards Committee Annual Report 2010/10
52

The Chairman of the Standards Committee (John Shaw) submitted a report summarising the activities undertaken by the Standards Committee in the 2010/11 civic year. He said that the big issue in the coming year was the future of the ethical standards regime in the light of the proposals in the Localism Bill. Whilst there was clearly a consensus that the complex, time consuming and bureaucratic procedures for investigating code of conduct complaints under the current arrangements should not be retained, the initial view of the Committee was that it remained important that high standards of behaviour were maintained and that the local electorate could have confidence in its representatives.

The report was formally proposed by Councillor M Gandhi and seconded by Councillor V Taylor as Councillor members on the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

COU. Business Plan 2011/12-2012/14
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The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) submitted a report on a proposed 3 year business plan, from the current financial year to 2012/14. He thanked members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their comments on and contributions to the draft plan. He said that it would be important for overview and scrutiny members to hold the executive accountable for the delivery of the business plan. He said that individual ward councillors also had an important role to play in identifying issues for consideration within their wards.

The Leader of the Labour Group (Councillor Grunshaw) said that his group supported the plan and welcomed the acceptance of comments made by Labour members at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED that the Business Plan, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, endorsed by the Cabinet on 3 August 2011, be approved and adopted as a corporate document for regular review.

COU. Police Station Closures: Response to Consultation
54

The Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder (Councillor Berry), the Corporate Director of Resources (Philippa Davies) and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Councillor M Gandhi) submitted a report, setting out a suggested response to the police station closures consultation.

He thanked the Councillors involved in drawing up the suggested response , i.e. Councillors Balmain (Chairman)(Garstang Ward), Anderton (Staina Ward), Lady Atkins (Garstang Ward), cocker (Hardhorn Ward), Henderson (Breck Ward), Hewitt (Rossall Ward), Lees (Bourne Ward), Martin (Cleveleys Park Ward), Ormrod (Victoria Ward) and Perkin (Staina Ward). He said that the list of names would be added, as an appendix, to the Council's response.

Councillor Martin proposed, as an amendment, that a further paragraph be added to the response stating that:

“This Council expresses its deep regret at this Government brutal cuts to funding for our police service and consequently commits to lobby our local MPs that they may in turn lobby central government on behalf of the residents of Wyre and that particularly in the light of recent riots this Government re-visits the priorities putting the safety of ordinary people to the fore.”

The amendment was lost, 13 members voting in favour and 30 against. (Councillor C Grunshaw abstained having previously declared a personal interest).

RESOLVED that the consultation response attached as Appendix 1 to the report, plus the members involved in the consultation review, be approved and submitted to the Lancashire Constabulary as part of the public consultation exercise.

COU. 55 **Household Waste Recycling Centre Near Garstang: Response to Consultation on the Proposed Closure**

The Street Scene Portfolio Holder (Councillor Murphy), the Chairman of the Overview &Scrutiny Committee (Councillor M Gandhi) and the Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report on a proposed response to the intended closure, by Lancashire County Council, of the household waste recycling centre near Garstang.

Councillor Murphy thanked the members of the task group which had drawn up the detailed response, i.e. Councillors Brooks (Chairman), Lady Atkins, Balmain, Lawrenson, McCann, V. Taylor, Williams and Wilson. He said that the list of names would be added, as an appendix, to the response.

RESOLVED that the response, attached as appendix to the report, be approved, subject to the inclusion of the list of Councillors involved in the scrutiny group, and that it be submitted to Lancashire County Council in accordance with the consultation requirements.

COU. 56 **Depot Facilities for Future Operations**

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) and the Chief Executive submitted a report on the progress of arrangements for the provision of new

depot facilities to meet the Council's future operational requirements. He said it was unfortunate that the previously preferred option could not now be pursued because of the contamination on that site. Alternative options were now being pursued and a further report would be submitted as soon as possible.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposed exchange of land at Solway Road, Hillhouse Business Park and land at Fleetwood Road North, Thornton in the ownership of NPL Estates Limited and the Council respectively, should not be pursued further.
- (2) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet on other options for the provision of new depot facilities.

COU. 57 Notice of Motion: Closure of Tramway at Lauderdale Avenue, Anchorsholme to Vehicular Traffic

Councillors Hodgkinson, Ormrod, M Vincent and Walmsley submitted the following notice of motion in accordance with paragraph 15 of the Council's procedure rules.

"That the Council deplores the decision by Blackpool Council to close the tramway crossing Lauderdale Avenue, Anchorsholme to vehicular traffic with resulting inconvenience to the residents of Wyre in Jubilee Ward, Victoria Ward and indeed beyond and calls upon Blackpool Council to reverse its decision."

The motion was formally proposed by Councillor Ormrod and seconded by Councillor Walmsley.

Following a debate it was:

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the motion be approved.

The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.40pm

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