



## Council Minutes

Minutes of the Council meeting held at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde on Thursday 28 November 2013.

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### Councillors present:

The Mayor, Councillor Hodgkinson  
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Anderson

Councillor Amos	Councillor R Gandhi OBE	Councillor Robinson
Councillor M Anderton	Councillor Gibson	Councillor Rogers
Councillor Lady Atkins	Councillor Greenhough	Councillor Shewan
Councillor Balmain	Councillor Henderson	Councillor Smith
Councillor Bannister	Councillor Hewitt	Councillor B Stephenson
Councillor Beavers	Councillor K Jones	Councillor E Stephenson
Councillor Berry	Councillor Kay	Councillor Swift
Councillor Birch MBE	Councillor Lees	Councillor T Taylor
Councillor Bowen	Councillor Martin	Councillor V Taylor
Councillor Bridge	Councillor MacNaughton	Councillor Treece-Birch
Councillor Brooks	Councillor McCann	Councillor Turner
Councillor Catterall	Councillor Moon	Councillor A Vincent
Councillor Cocker	Councillor Murphy	Councillor M Vincent
Councillor Collinson	Councillor Newsham	Councillor Walmsley
Councillor I Duffy	Councillor Ormrod	Councillor Williams
Councillor R Duffy	Councillor Pimbley	Councillor Wilson
Councillor F M Gandhi		

**Apologies:** Councillors E Anderton, Hargreaves, Lawrenson and McKay.

### 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)  
Peter Foulsham (Democratic Services Officer)

**Also present:** 1 representative of the press, 7 members of the public, and the 4 members of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

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**COU. 66**      **Confirmation of Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 October 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

**COU. 67**      **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Brooks declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8(f) (Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder Executive report) because it referred to the Forest of Bowland (AONB) partnership and he was the Council's representative on the Joint Advisory Committee of that organisation.

Councillor A Vincent declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 14 (Shaping Your Neighbourhood: Fleetwood Performance Report) because, as chairman of the Fleetwood food bank, he was involved in the relocation of the "cook and eat together project" to new premises, which was referred to in the report.

Councillor Beavers declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 18 (Notice of Motion: Dementia Care Centre at Bowgreave) because she was the Lancashire County Council Lead Member for Health.

**COU. 68**      **Announcements**

- (1) The Mayor welcomed Councillor Cocker back to the chamber and wished him well for his continuing recovery.
- (2) The Mayor expressed the Council's best wishes to Councillor Hargreaves in dealing with his current illness.
- (3) The Mayor reminded Members of the Mayor's Charity Christmas by Candlelight event, to be held at Rossall School Chapel on Wednesday 11 December, for which tickets were still available.
- (4) The Mayor apologised to any Councillors who had turned up at the opening of the new Home Bargains store in Poulton-le-Fylde after the ceremony had taken place because of a confusion over the timing of the event. He said that the opening of the new Wetherspoons premises in Poulton would take place at 8.45am on 17 December.

**COU. 69**      **Presentations**

None

**COU. 70**      **Public Questions, Statements and Petitions**

None

**COU. Questions “On Notice” From Councillors**  
**71**

None

**COU. Executive Reports**  
**72**

(a) Leader of the Council

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

Councillor Gibson updated Council on the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Rural Growth Strategy referred to in paragraph 3.1 and 3.2 of his report. He and the Chief Executive had met on the 27 November with the Chairmen of the Local Action Groups (LAG) for the areas of Lancashire West, North Lancashire and Rural Futures and Pennine Lancashire, and 2 senior officers from the County Council, to discuss the continued development of a rural growth strategy for Lancashire. He said that it had been a very positive and proactive meeting and that the views expressed would be reported back to the LEP Boarding meeting in February, at which further decisions on the development of the strategy would be taken.

Councillor Gibson also referred to the marketing of the Council’s three licensed wedding venues referred to in paragraph 2.3 of his report. He mentioned, in particular, the use of Marine Hall at Fleetwood for that purpose. He also spoke of other recent events organised by the Council to promote Fleetwood. He then expressed his dissatisfaction about comments recently made by Councillors R Duffy and I Duffy “talking down” a Wyre Council venue and criticised them for their lack of support for initiatives and events in Fleetwood.

Councillor Martin extended the Labour Group’s best wishes to Councillor Cocker. She stated her disappointment at the comments made by Councillor Gibson about Fleetwood Councillors. She referred to actions taken by local Councillors to defend Fleetwood and reiterated the Labour Group’s support for the town. She said however that she did support Councillor Gibson’s recent comments in the media about the outcome of the recent Boundary Commission review of Wyre and, particularly, the Commission’s dismissal of the Council’s well reasoned arguments that single member wards were less effective than two or three member wards.

Councillor Gibson agreed with Councillor Martin that the Boundary Commission had placed too much emphasis on representations made to it during the review by a single, non-elected group.

Councillor R Duffy said that the concerns expressed by her and Cllr I Duffy in their letter to the press had been about the need to obtain best value for local residents and ensuring that proper procurement procedures were followed when obtaining supplies for the Marine Hall.

Councillor Gibson said that the comments in Councillor Duffy's letter had been incorrect but, he was unable to comment further at this stage, because their complaint was being considered by the Local Government Ombudsman.

Councillor Gibson confirmed, in response to a question from Councillor MacNaughton, that he had seen comments made by Brandan Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government, nominating Wyre as Council of the month and an article in the Local Government Association 'First' Magazine which had also praised Wyre Council.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

(b) Resources Portfolio Holder

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

Councillor Vincent said that, as Chairman of the working group which had considered the Council's submission to the Boundary Commission, he was very disappointed that the Commission's final recommendations had taken more account of the views of a single, unelected group in preference to the clear, logical and well evidenced submission of the Council, with regard to single member wards.

Councillor Birch commented, with reference to the information on the current financial position in part 2 of the report, that it must be difficult to prepare the budget for 2014/15 when the Government had recently consulted on a possible changing of 'changed of new homes bonus by 35%.

Councillor Vincent accepted that it was difficult to finalise a budget when significant funding elements might be change but, he said that, because the Council had been prudent in the past and was in a relatively strong financial position, it would be possible to take account of the changes within the budget for 2014/15.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

(c) Street Scene Portfolio Holder

The Street Scene Portfolio Holder (Councillor Murphy) submitted a report.

Councillor Murphy asked members to report requests or problems raised with them by their constituents via the contact centre, so that the jobs requested could be logged on the CRM system and actions chased up, if necessary.

In answer to a question from Councillor B Stephenson, Councillor Murphy provided an update on actions which had been taken to combat antisocial behaviour at King George's playing field.

Councillor Jones commended the work undertaken by children at Stanah School for the recycle week competition and said that she looked forward to seeing the winning entries included in Council literature. Councillor Murphy agreed that the winning entries had been very good and he hoped that such messages from children would be a powerful way of encouraging adults to recycle more effectively.

Councillor Murphy endorsed comments made by Councillor Brooks urging Councillors to attend the Victorian Festival in Garstang on 9th and 10th December.

Councillor Murphy said, in response to a question from Councillor Hewitt, that work was being undertaken to improve the feedback provided to Councillors on issues reported via the CRM system.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

(d) Economy Portfolio Holder

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

Councillor Shewan said that he welcomed the proposed Growth Plan referred to in paragraph 3.1 of the report. He referred to the growth of industrial estates at Poulton and Garstang, but contrasted those to the current empty industrial sites in Fleetwood.

Councillor McCann referred to various developments which had taken place in Fleetwood and to further proposed developments. He mentioned, for example, the five projects for which an application had been made for Coastal Communities Funding, referred to in paragraph 6.1 of his report. He said he was doing as much as he could to bring businesses and jobs to Fleetwood. He pointed out, for example, that measures were being taken to ensure that as many local people as possible were employed on the project for the reconstruction of the Rossall sea wall.

Councillor B Stephenson asked whether there was a likelihood that future fracking operations in the area would bring new jobs to Fleetwood.

Councillor McCann pointed out that decisions on fracking would have to be taken by the County Council and central Government, not by Wyre. He said that, in the USA, jobs had been created where fracking operations had taken place.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

(e) Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder

The Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder (Councillor Berry) submitted a report. When introducing his report, Councillor Berry referred to the re-launch of the Poulton pub watch scheme mentioned in paragraph 4.1. He said that such schemes were an important way of creating safer environments in pubs and clubs. He said that the existing scheme in Fleetwood, in which 7 pubs were participating, had also been effective, as demonstrated by a recent initiative to discourage illegal drug use, which had taken place at those pubs.

Councillor Berry stated, in response to a question from Councillor Rogers, that the new licensing arrangements for scrap metal dealers would prohibit cash payments for scrap metal and would hopefully prevent some of the problems currently being experienced.

Councillor Rogers said that he welcomed the recent decision by the Clinical Commissioning Group to reopen Rossall Hospital with 20 beds, but asked whether, in that circumstance, the proposed route for lorries delivering materials to the Rossall Sea Wall project would need to be reconsidered.

Councillor Berry said that he appreciated that there would be some disturbance caused by the deliveries but, regrettably, that was unavoidable. However, residents had been consulted and would be continue to be consulted throughout the period of the 4 year contract, to ensure that nuisance was kept to a minimum.

Councillor Berry said, in response to a question from Councillor Lees, that free parking would be provided in Council car parks throughout the Borough on Saturday 7 December, as part of a national initiative to promote small business. He said that the proposals had already been publicised and the Council would continue to promote them in the next few days.

Councillor B Stephenson mentioned the distribution of leaflets in Poulton advising residents on fire safety, anti-social behaviour, cold callers, internet safety, domestic abuse and bulky waste removal referred to in paragraph 4.1 of the report, and asked whether similar leaflets would be provided in Fleetwood. Councillor Berry said that one of these campaigns was undertaken each year. Similar leaflets had been distributed in Fleetwood in the past and he envisaged that the scheme would continue in the future.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

(e) Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder

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

When introducing her report Councillor Bowen referred to comments made earlier in the meeting about actions taken to reduce anti-social behaviour at King George's playing fields and pointed out that the car park had also been resurfaced to improve conditions at the playing field.

Councillor Bowen stated, in response to a question from Councillor Rogers, that the Council would participate in events to be held in 2014 to commemorate the end of World War I and she said that it was particularly important that all schools were made aware of the significance of the commemoration events. She said that a number of such events would be held at the Memorial Park in Fleetwood.

Councillor Lady Atkins said that poppies had already been sown at the Millennium Green in Garstang to commemorate the First World War and poppy seeds were also being provided to local schools.

Councillor Lady Atkins said that the renovation works to the skate park facility at Garstang completed early in the month had been very well received by users of the facility. She said, however, that the Garstang swimming baths were badly in need of redecoration.

Councillor Bowen said that the Garstang swimming baths would be closed for a 2 day period over Christmas, to enable painting and various other minor improvements to be undertaken.

Councillor M Anderton congratulated Council officers on behalf of the Labour Group for arranging two very successful events recently held at the Marine Hall and gardens, which, she said, highlighted the potential for the site. She hoped there would similar events in the future. Councillor Bowen thanked Councillor Anderton for her comments and said that she would pass on her thanks to relevant officers.

Councillor Bowen welcomed comments from Councillors M and R Gandhi thanking the Council's officers for the excellent service they had provided at a recent private family function held at the Marine Hall.

Councillor Lees said that, as the Chairman of the former Parks Task Group, he welcomed the steps taken at the King George's playing fields which were in accordance with recommendations made by the task group.

Councillor Bowen said, in response to a question from Councillor Hewitt, that the new Parks Manager to be appointed at the Memorial Park at Fleetwood would undertake a wide ranging role. Part of the role would be to encourage local people to use the park. She also confirmed that

the Friends of Memorial Park would be involved throughout the project.

**RESOLVED** that report be noted.

**COU  
73** **Overview and Scrutiny Committee Periodic Report**

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Councillor M Gandhi) submitted a report.

She thanked Councillors Lees, V. Taylor, Moon and E. Anderton for their excellent work in chairing recent and current task groups. She also thanked Peter Foulsham for his work in supporting the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its task groups.

**RESOLVED** that report be noted.

**COU.  
74** **Older People Lead Member Report**

The Lead Member for Older People (Councillor Ormrod) submitted a report.

Councillor Ormrod agreed with comments made by Councillor Lees that venues such as the St. Chad's church hall were important for community groups supporting older people and that the closure of the hall would have an impact on those groups. Councillor Gibson said that the church hall had recently closed but meetings were currently taking place about the possibility of establishing a trust to make a bid for lottery funding which might, hopefully, enable the hall to open again in the future.

**RESOLVED** that report be noted.

**COU.  
75** **Council Tax Discounts/Exemptions**

The Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor A Vincent) and the Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report on proposed changes to the level of discounts and exemptions currently awarded, in advance of the tax setting process for 2014/15.

**RESOLVED** that the changes to the levels of discounts and exemptions set out in Appendix 1 of the report be implemented with effect from 1 April 2014.

**COU.  
76** **Scheme of Delegation: List of Assets of Community Value**

The Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor A Vincent) and the Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report on proposed amendments to the Scheme of Delegation, to enable procedures relating to the maintenance of a list of community assets to be implemented.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the administrative procedures for dealing with applications for the listing of community assets, referred to in the report, be noted.
- (2) That, in order to enable those procedures to be implemented, the Scheme of Delegation in Part 7 of the Council's Constitution be amended, as follows:
  - (a) The Head of Governance be authorised to determine whether nominated assets will be listed as an "asset of community value" in the Council's List of Community Assets.
  - (b) The Senior Solicitor be authorised to undertake an internal review of a decision to list a community asset, in the event of an application for such a review being received.
  - (c) The Corporate Director of Resources be authorised to consider compensation claims from an owner of land or premises for loss or expense incurred as a consequence of an asset being listed and, where necessary, to make payments in accordance with Regulations.
  - (d) The Senior Solicitor be authorised to undertake an internal review of a decision concerning a compensation claim, within 8 weeks of receiving the request for a review.

### **COU. 77 Shaping Your Neighbourhood: Cleveleys Performance Report**

The Neighbourhood Lead Member for Cleveleys (Councillor Kay) and the Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report showing progress on the priorities and issues in the Locality Plan, including progress on funded project.

Councillor Kay expressed her thanks to the Parks Team for their work at North Drive Park.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### **COU. 78 Shaping Your Neighbourhood: Fleetwood Performance Report**

The Neighbourhood Lead Member for Fleetwood (Councillor Treece-Birch) and the Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report showing progress on the priorities and issues in the Locality Plan, including progress on funded project.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**COU.  
79**      **Shaping Your Neighbourhood: Poulton Performance Report**

The Neighbourhood Lead Member for Poulton (Councillor Henderson) and the Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report showing progress on the priorities and issues in the Locality Plan, including progress on funded project.

He said that the Parks and Open Spaces Team had done a wonderful job at Vicarage Park.

Councillor Henderson confirmed, in response to a comment from Councillor Birch, that following the Booth's development at the Teanlowe Centre, parking would be provided free of charge for up to 3 hours at the Teanlowe Centre car park, but not for an unlimited period, as might be construed from the report.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**COU.  
80**      **Shaping Your Neighbourhood: Rural East Performance Report**

The Neighbourhood Lead Member for Rural East (Councillor Lady Atkins) and the Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report showing progress on the priorities and issues in the Locality Plan, including progress on funded project.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**COU.  
81**      **Shaping Your Neighbourhood: Rural West Performance Report**

The Neighbourhood Lead Member for Rural West (Councillor Robinson) and the Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report showing progress on the priorities and issues in the Locality Plan, including progress on funded project.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**COU.  
82**      **Shaping Your Neighbourhood: Thornton Performance Report**

The Neighbourhood Lead Member for Thornton (Councillor MacNaughton) and the Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report showing progress on the priorities and issues in the Locality Plan, including progress on funded project.

Councillor MacNaughton confirmed, in response to comments and questions from Councillor Martin, that a planning application for a proposed housing development south of Bourne Road had not yet been submitted and no decision on that proposal had yet been made.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**Notice of Motion: Dementia Centre a Bowgreave Rise, Garstang**

Councillors Lady Atkins, Balmain, Brooks, Collinson, Murphy, Swift, Williams and Wilson submitted the following Notice of Motion, in accordance with paragraph 15 of the Council Procedure Rules.

*“The Council recognises;*

- 1. that Dementia is an appalling, progressive and incurable disease that particularly afflicts the elderly;*
- 2. that there is high proportion of elderly residents in parts of the Borough, adjoining Boroughs as well as in this part of Lancashire as a whole;*
- 3. that specialist facilities are essential for the treatment and care of Dementia;*
- 4. that the planned and budgeted Centre of Excellence for the treatment and care of Dementia at Bowgreave Rise Residential Home, south of Garstang, has been warmly welcomed by sufferers, their carers and the wider public;*
- 5. that news that the Centre of Excellence might not, after all, be located at Bowgreave Rise has been received with dismay and disappointment.*

*The Council therefore RESOLVES*

*that by its members, officers and partners in whatever capacity to use its best endeavours to bring influence to bear on Lancashire County Council to honour its original policy commitment to establish a Centre of Excellence for the treatment of Dementia at Bowgreave Rise or to justify the reversal of the policy.”*

The motion was formally proposed by Councillor Wilson and seconded by Councillor Williams.

Following a debate, it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the motion be approved.

The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 9.20pm