



Council Minutes

Minutes of the Council meeting of the Wyre Borough Council meeting held at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde on 1 December 2011.

Councillors present:

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

Councillor Amos	Councillor R Duffy	Councillor Murphy
Councillor Anderson	Councillor M Gandhi	Councillor Ormrod
Councillor E Anderton	Councillor R Gandhi OBE	Councillor Perkin
Councillor M Anderton	Councillor Gibson	Councillor Pimbley
Councillor Lady Atkins	Councillor Greenhough	Councillor Robinson
Councillor Balmain	Councillor C Grunshaw	Councillor Rogers
Councillor Berry	Councillor Hargreaves	Councillor Shewan
Councillor Birch MBE	Councillor Henderson	Councillor Swift
Councillor Bridge	Councillor Hodgkinson	Councillor T Taylor
Councillor Bowen	Councillor Lees	Councillor Treece-Birch
Councillor Brooks	Councillor Martin	Councillor Turner
Councillor Catterall	Councillor MacNaughton	Councillor A Vincent
Councillor Cocker	Councillor McCann	Councillor M Vincent
Councillor Collinson	Councillor McKay	Councillor Walmsley
Councillor I Duffy	Councillor Moon	Councillor Wilson

Apologies:

Councillors Beavers, J Grunshaw, Hewitt, Kay, Lawrenson, Newsham and Smith.

Officers present:

Garry Payne (Chief Executive)
Michael Ryan (Corporate Director, People and Places)
Philippa Davies (Corporate Director, Resources)
Roy Saunders (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager)
Peter Foulsham (Democratic Services Officer)

Also present: The Mayor's Chaplain (Reverend Martin Keighley) and two members of the public.

COU. 71 **Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 October 2011 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the substitution of the name of Councillor Murphy with the name of Councillor Gibson in the penultimate paragraph of the Minutes on the Street Scene Portfolio Holder's Executive Report (Minute COU.64(c)).

COU. 72 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor C Grunshaw declared a personal interest in paragraph 5.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Periodic Report relating to police station closures (agenda item 12) because he was a member of the Lancashire Police Authority.

COU. 73 **Announcements**

(a) **Christmas Fayre**

The Mayor reminded Members that his Christmas Fayre was at 10.00am on Saturday 3 December at the Civic Centre, with all proceeds going to the Mayor's Charity, Trinity Hospice.

(b) **Councillor Michael Vincent: Fund Raising**

The Mayor reminded Members that Councillor Michael Vincent would be climbing mount Kilimanjaro at Christmas. He asked Members to sponsor him in aid of Trinity Hospice.

(c) **Garstang in Bloom**

The Mayor said that at the last Council meeting he had announced that, following its success in North West in Bloom and Britain in Bloom competition, Garstang had been invited to represent the UK in the International Communities in Bloom Challenge 2011 in Quebec. He said that he was pleased to be able to report that Garstang had been awarded a top rating 5 'Blooms' and had received a special mention for its youth engagement in environmental issues. However, the overall winner of the small community category had been Tallanstown in Ireland.

(d) **Annual Council Meeting 2011**

The Mayor reminded Members that the Leader, in his Executive Report to Council on 9 June 2011, had referred to arrangements being made as part of the Council's quest for efficiency savings, to cut out non-essential spending on the mayoralty, whilst maintaining the importance of the civic role of the Mayor as first citizen of the borough. One of the proposed actions he had reported on was the intention to hold future Annual Council meetings at the Civic Centre,

rather than at the Marine Hall, and to reduce the catering costs associated with that event. Following further discussions since then about the practical arrangements of that move, the Mayor announced that the 2012/13 Annual Meeting would be held at 7.00pm on Thursday 10 May 2012 at the Civic Centre, instead of 11.00am on Friday 11 May at the Marine Hall as previously scheduled.

- (e) Councillor Gibson announced that he had appointed Councillor Gordon McCann to the Cabinet as Economy Portfolio Holder, with effect from 1 December 2011. He thanked Councillor Birch for his hard work as the previous occupier of that position.

Councillor Gibson also reported that he had appointed Councillor Robinson as Lead Member for Rural Issues, in place of Councillor McCann.

COU. 74 **Presentations**

None

COU. 75 **Public Questions**

None

COU. 76 **Questions “On Notice” from Councillors**

None

COU. 77 **Executive Reports**

- (a) **Leader of the Council**

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

When introducing his report, Councillor Gibson referred to the intention to involve local community groups in the Council's new Neighbourhood Engagement Strategy. He emphasised that this was an opportunity for an enhanced role but, he stressed that such community groups would need to be properly constituted, to have properly elected officers and to meet regularly in order to be involved. He also stressed the importance of local Ward Councillors being actively involved in neighbourhood engagement.

Councillor Gibson stated, in response to a question from Councillor Martin, that Parish and Town Councils would be involved in the new process. He said that in areas where there were no Parish Councils or properly constituted neighbourhood groups, the role of Ward Councillors in identifying local issues and suggesting possible solutions to problems, would be even more important.

Councillor Gibson stated, in response to a question from Councillor Treece-Birch, that the Cabinet would be willing to consider new priorities such as the provision of disabled playground equipment but, he stressed that the Council's priorities were now set out clearly in the Business Plan and that, if any significant additional projects were to be added, then other items would need to be removed from the programme.

Councillor Gibson stated, in response to comments and a question from Councillor Brooks, that the format of Council meetings should be reviewed on a regular basis and that he was happy for proposals for changes to the format of Executive Reports to be considered.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(b) Resources Portfolio Holder

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

Councillor Vincent confirmed, in response to a question from Councillor Martin on paragraph 3.3 of the appendix to his report, that the shortlist for both the demolition and the design and build of the Council's new depot at Copse Road, included suppliers based in Lancashire.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(c) Street Scene Portfolio Holder

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

Councillor Murphy reminded Members that the trip to the Bulky Waste facility at Morecambe had been rearranged for 13 December. 8 of the 16 places available had, so far, been taken.

Councillor Murphy said, in response to a question from Councillor Shewan, that Council Officers and the police were working closely together to identify and apprehend the 'bin ratters' who had been turning over and slashing bags in Fleetwood, possibly to obtain identity information. He also pointed out that a person had recently been fined £130 for littering.

Councillor Murphy confirmed, in response to a question from Councillor Brooks, that a report was being submitted to the Cabinet on 7 December about the introduction of Dog Control Orders. That would complete the consultation stage and a timetable for implementation would be agreed. The signs required were currently being manufactured or had been ordered from external suppliers.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(d) Economy Portfolio

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

Councillor McCann said, in response to comments made by Councillor M Anderton about the Sea Change project referred to in paragraph 1.2 of the Appendix to his report, that the possibility of calling the new tower Rossall Point Tower, rather than Rossall Tower would be considered.

Councillor McCann welcomed comments from Councillor C Grunshaw about the apparent success of the new Poulton Market and said that it was too early to reach a clear assessment of the impact on other traders in the town. He nevertheless emphasised that the market had been very successful and that it appeared that a significant number of additional people had visited Poulton on Mondays since the market had been operating.

Councillor McCann said, in response to comments made by Councillor Martin about the need for regeneration in Cleveleys, that plans for improving infrastructure in the area, such as the redevelopment of the bus station, would have a positive effect.

Councillor McCann agreed with comments made by Councillor MacNaughton welcoming the decision of Lancashire County Council to reinstate funding for a study on the possibility of re-opening of the Poulton to Fleetwood railway line.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(e) Neighbourhood Services Portfolio

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

Councillor Berry stated, in response to comments from Councillor Brooks, that he would pass on to Councillor McCann, his desire for the new Portfolio Holder to continue to support the need for affordable housing in the Borough. He said that he was aware that Regenda had made an application for funding from central government.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(f) Leisure and Culture Portfolio

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

Councillor Bowen said, in response to a question from Councillor Brooks, that it was not intended that the terms of reference for the review of leisure facilities being carried out by Max Associates would be published and, that the report was due to be received around the end of March. Councillor Bowen stated, in response to a further question from Councillor Lady Atkins, that the formal consultation on the review would commence at the end of December or the beginning of January and she confirmed that town and parish councils would be consulted as part of that process.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

COU. Cabinet Membership
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The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) and the Chief Executive submitted a report, informing Council of a change to the membership of the Cabinet.

Councillor Gibson asked the Council to note the appointment of Councillor Gordon McCann to the Cabinet, with effect from 1 December, as he had announced at the beginning of this meeting. He also asked the Council to approve the appointment of Councillor Birch to the Planning Committee in place of Councillor McCann.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the resignation of Councillor Birch from the Cabinet with effect from 15 November 2011 be noted.
- (2) That the appointment of Councillor McCann to the Cabinet as Economy Portfolio Holder with effect from 2 December 2011 be noted.
- (3) That the appointment of Councillor Birch to the Planning Committee in place of Councillor McCann, with from 1 December 2011, be approved.

COU. Licensing Committee Periodic Report
79

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee (Councillor M Vincent) submitted a report informing the Council of the current position on issues dealt with by the Licensing Team and the Licensing Committee during the period from May 2011 to October 2011, inclusive.

Councillor Vincent said in response to a question and comments made by

Councillor Rogers that he would urge Lancashire County Council officers to carry out the agreed programme of re-lining and signage works required for the provision of hackney carriage stands in Fleetwood, as quickly as possible.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

COU. 80 **Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Periodic Report**

The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Councillor M Gandhi) submitted a report, informing Council of the work currently being undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. She said that, her personal view was that the new scrutiny structure was working well and that steady progress was being made. She thanked officers supporting the scrutiny function, members of the Committee and, in particular, the chairmen of the task and finish groups for their commitment to ensuring effective scrutiny.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

COU. 81 **Appointment of Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer for Elections**

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) and the Chief Executive submitted a report, on the designation of the Council's Electoral Registration Officer and Elections Returning Officer.

RESOLVED;

- (1) That Garry Payne be designated as the Council's Electoral Registration Officer and Elections Returning Officer.
- (2) That the scheme of delegation be amended to include the electoral registration role within the responsibility of the Chief Executive.

COU. 82 **Notices of Motion**

None

The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 7.45pm

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