



Council Minutes

Minutes of the Council meeting of the Wyre Borough Council meeting held at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde on Thursday 20 October 2011.

Councillors present:

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

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

Apologies:

Councillors E Anderton, Collinson, I Duffy, R Gandhi OBE, C Grunshaw, Newsham and V Taylor.

Officers present:

Garry Payne (Chief Executive)
Michael Ryan (Corporate Director, People and Places)
Elizabeth O'Connor (Legal Services Manager)
Nikki Wilcock (Communications Manager)
Roy Saunders (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager)
Duncan Jowitt (Democratic Services Officer)

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

COU. 58 **Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 September 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

COU. 59 **Declarations of Interest**

None

COU. 60 **Announcements**

Before starting his formal announcements the Mayor informed Members that it was Councillor Hargreaves 60th wedding anniversary but he had nevertheless chosen to attend this Council meeting. Councillor Lees said it was also Councillor Martin's wedding anniversary.

(a) **Garstang in Bloom and North West in Bloom Awards 2011**

The Mayor paid tribute to the fantastic achievements of the Garstang in Bloom Team, led by Norah Hoyles MBE. He said, the team, which comprised over 40 members, did various jobs to help keep Garstang looking wonderful all year round.

They had won numerous awards since they were first established in the late 1980's. In the 1990's they had been regular winners of the first prize in the Lancashire small country town section. Since then, they had gone on to win national and even international recognition, as well as well as picking up several prestigious gold medals.

He said that he had recently had the pleasure of visiting St Andrews, where Garstang had been finalists in the 2011 Champion of Champions category and had been awarded a Royal Horticultural Society Gold Medal, which he said was a great achievement.

This year, Garstang had also been invited to represent the UK in the International Communities in Bloom Challenge 2011. A ten strong party were heading to Quebec later this month for the awards ceremony. He stressed that the Group were all self funding the trip and were making it their main annual holiday, such was their commitment to In Bloom.

On top of all this, he had just returned that afternoon from the North West in Bloom Awards in Southport, where he was delighted to announce that an incredible 22 awards had been made to communities or locations in Wyre, as follows:

Best Town	Thornton Poulton	Silver Gilt Silver Gilt
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Best Small Town	Preesall and Knott End Carleton Garstang	Bronze Silver Gold and overall group winner
Best Large Village	Forton Hambleton Gt Eccleston	Silver Silver Silver Gilt
Best Village	Inskip St Michaels	Silver Gold
Best Small Coastal Resort	Cleveleys	Silver
Best Small Tourist Attraction	Poulton Railway Station	Gold and overall group winner – and described as 'absolutely magnificent'.
Best Large Accommodation	Best Western Garstang Golf Club and Resort	Gold
Best Small Accommodation /Hostelry	The Pickerings, Garstang The Tavern at the Mill, Thornton The New Holly, Forton The Lake at Cleveley Mere, Forton Little Stubbins B&B, Claughton	Silver Gold Gold Gold Gold and overall group winner
Best Caravan Park	Fold House, Pilling Rawcliffe Hall, Out Rawcliffe Claylands, Garstang Foxhouses, Scorton Wyresdale, Hambleton Sunset, Hambleton	Silver Silver Gilt Silver Gilt Silver Gilt Gold Gold
Best Retail Park	Marsh Mill Village	Silver Gilt
Environmental Award for Schools	St Michaels School	

The Mayor also announced that Jo Sharpe had received a special achievement award for her outstanding support for Britain in Bloom in Wyre over a ten year period.

(b) Festival of Remembrance

The Mayor reminded Members of the Festival of Remembrance to be held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 8 November at the Marine Hall. All proceeds would be donated to the Mayor's Charity 2011/12 – Trinity

Hospice and also to the Royal British Legion. He urged Members to purchase tickets from Andrea Mullin.

(c) Elizabeth O'Connor

The Mayor said that this would be the last of many Council meetings which Elizabeth O'Connor would have attended over the past fourteen years, because she was leaving the Council at the end of the coming week. He said he would like to record the appreciation of Members for the help and advice she had provided in her role as Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer and, to wish her all the best for the future.

(d) Garstang Tourist Information Centre

The Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder Cllr Bowen presented the Mayor with the award for the Best Tourist Information Centre in Lancashire, won recently by the Visit Garstang Centre TIC. She said that the Garstang Centre had seen off stiff competition from larger venues in Blackburn, Lancaster and Pendle to win this prestigious award. The Garstang Centre would now be entered into the national Visit England Awards for Excellence 2012.

COU. 61 Presentations

None

COU. 62 Public Questions

None

COU. 63 Questions "On Notice" from Councillors

None

COU. 64 Executive Reports

(a) Leader of the Council

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

Councillor Gibson responded to various comments made by Councillors Brooks, V Taylor and Shewan about local government structures in Liverpool and, in particular, the effectiveness of local councils in promoting the economic development of their areas. Councillor Gibson said that although Wyre had been unsuccessful in a bid to include the Hillhouse site in an Enterprise Zone, it had, nevertheless, increased the awareness at Lancashire County Council of the potential development opportunities at that site, which was now included as a priority within the County.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(b) Resources Portfolio Holder

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

Councillor Vincent acknowledged, in response to comments made by Councillors Beavers, Shewan, Martin and Bridge, that the changes being made by Government to the Council Tax Benefits Scheme would have an impact on low income families and he was sympathetic to the problems that they would face. He said that this was a serious issue and one where the Council would be faced with difficult decisions. He said that discussions would need to take place with neighbouring authorities to ensure that a consistent approach was adopted and to avoid a situation where people would move to a different area to obtain a higher level of benefits. He said that the Council would do what it could to avoid increasing child poverty and to minimise the impact of the changes on vulnerable people.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(c) Street Scene Portfolio Holder

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

Councillor Murphy confirmed, in response to questions from Councillors Beavers and Hewitt, that Veolia would be employing its own employees, not agency staff to deliver the waste management service. Discussions were currently taking place on the TUPE transfer of existing staff from Fylde Borough Council.

Councillor Murphy confirmed, in response to a question from Councillor Martin, that he would be meeting a group of church leaders to discuss the arrangements for the collection of waste from church premises. Councillor Murphy said that, if Councillor Martin sent him a copy of a document she had referred to about changes made by some councils to charges for waste collections from churches, he would respond to her on any potential implications for Wyre.

Councillor Gibson welcomed positive comments from Councillors Brooks and Shewan congratulating him for the successful introduction of the new containerised waste collection service in Fleetwood.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(d) Economy Portfolio

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

Councillor Birch said, in response to questions and comments from Councillor Shewan, that discussions were taking place with various agencies to enable work to improve the beaches at Fleetwood to be carried out. He said that this was issue which it might be useful for a Task Group to consider.

Councillor Birch agreed with comments made by Councillor Brooks about the importance of ensuring that the planned numbers of affordable houses were built.

Councillor Birch said, in response to comments made to Councillor Brooks on the potential economic benefits and environmental hazards of large scale shale gas extraction on the Fylde coast that he had not been able to come to a view on this issue and was awaiting for more information before reaching any conclusions.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(e) Neighbourhood Services Portfolio

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

Councillor Berry accepted comments made by Councillor Turner that the figures quoted in paragraph 9 of his report related to reported crimes and that there were additional hidden levels of unreported crimes, particularly domestic violence. He said that there was extensive multi-agency activity taking place to deal with such problems. He also said that a women's centre was to be opened soon in Fleetwood.

Councillor Berry said, in response to comments by Councillor McCann about future power generation from wind that it was important for the Council to have clear planning directives and policies in place. Planning applications could then be considered in the light of those policies.

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 T

Taylor, that Fleetwood Swimming Pool had recently been closed for public use earlier than previously, because of lack of demand and was occasionally being used for children's swimming parties at that time. She said she would provide further information to Councillor Taylor on the complete list of opening times at Fleetwood Swimming Pool, including an explanation of the reasons for any recent changes to the times of public swimming sessions.

Councillor Bowen thanked Councillor Beavers for her positive comments on recent improvements at the Marine Hall.

Councillor Bowen said, in response to a question from Councillor Rogers, that, following recent discussions which he had referred to with County Councillor Jim Lawrenson on tourism issues, she had nominated herself as tourism champion for Wyre, in her capacity as portfolio holder.

Councillor Bowen stated, in response to comments and questions from Councillor Shewan, that contact had been made with English Nature and DeFRA to make arrangements to improve the state of the beach of Fleetwood.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

COU. The Audit Committee: Periodic Report
65

The Chairman of the Audit Committee (Councillor Balmain) submitted a report informing the Council on the current position on issues being dealt with by the Audit Committee and asked that the Finance Team be thanked for the very good report the Council had received from the External Auditors.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

COU. Polling Districts and Polling Places: Review
66

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) and the Returning Officer submitted a report on proposals arising from the review of polling districts and polling places within Wyre. Councillor Gibson said that only relatively minor changes were proposed.

RESOLVED that the proposals contained in Appendix A to the report be approved.

COU. Parliamentary Constituencies: Review 2013
67

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) and the Chief Executive submitted a report on initial proposals published by the Boundary Commission of England on new parliamentary constituencies in the North West region.

The proposal in his report was that the four Poulton wards of Breck, Hardhorn, Highcross and Tithebarn should be included in the Wyre and Blackpool North constituency, rather than the Fylde constituency as currently proposed by the Boundary Commission. He said that the alternative proposal met the requirements specified in the Boundary Commission Review and would reunite the communities of Poulton, Cleveleys and Fleetwood in a single constituency, as they had been in the past.

Councillor Beavers indicated that the Labour Group did not support the alternative proposals and that the local Labour Party would be submitting its own response to the Boundary Commission, supporting the Commission's original proposals.

RESOLVED that the alternative proposals for parliamentary constituencies within Wyre, as detailed in appendix B of the report, be approved and submitted to the Boundary Commission for England as the Council's preferred option.

COU. **Scheme of Delegation to Officers**
68

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) and the Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report on proposed changes to the Council's Scheme of Delegation, to reflect the appointment of Heads of Service as part of the Council's new management structure.

RESOLVED that the revised Scheme of Delegation to Officers, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved with immediate effect and included in Part 7.02 of the Constitution.

COU. **Councillor Development Strategy 2011/2012 and Councillor**
69 **Development Programme 2011/12**

The Street Scene Portfolio Holder (Councillor Murphy) and the Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report on a proposed Councillor Development Strategy for 2011/12 and a proposed Councillor Development Programme for 2011/12.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposed Councillor Development Strategy for 2011/12 set out in at Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
- (2) That the proposed Councillor Development Programme 2011/12 in Appendix 2 of the report be approved, and that the Corporate Director of Resources be asked to make arrangements for the provision of appropriate development opportunities for all councillors within the agreed budget.

- (3) That the proposed Mentor Scheme as set out in the Councillor Development Programme 2011/12 be approved, and that the leaders of each political group continue to allocate a suitable number of senior councillors of their group to act as mentors to newly elected councillors.
- (4) That the proposed system of Councillor Development Plans (CDPs), Discussions and Reviews as set out in the Councillor Development Programme 2011/12 be endorsed and that the leaders of each political group be asked to actively encourage all elected Members within their group to participate fully in the CDP process and the Development Needs Analysis (DNA).
- (5) That the Corporate Director of Resources be asked to make arrangements for the provision of CDPs and ongoing CDP reviews for all councillors on an annual basis as soon as possible.
- (6) That the Corporate Director of Resources be asked to make arrangements, using the collated requirements identified by the CDP and DNA process and in consultation with the Councillor Development Group, for the preparation of annual programmes of training and development for councillors.
- (7) That the elected Member role descriptions and person specifications as set out in the Councillor Development Programme 2011/12 be noted and endorsed.

COU. Notices of Motion

70

None

The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.15pm

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