



Members of Morecambe Town Council

Cllr R Walsh - Chairman
Cllr G Knight - Vice Chairman

Cllr C Ainscough, Cllr J Ainscough, Cllr D Blacow, Cllr D Bottoms, Cllr L Bradbury, Cllr P Clarke, Cllr B Cooper, Cllr F Cooper, Cllr C Cozler, Cllr R Dennison, Cllr W Dixon, Cllr K Gee, Cllr P Hart, Cllr J Goodrich, Cllr J Hanson, Cllr C Kent, Cllr D Knight, Cllr J Livermore, Cllr M Pattison, Cllr J Pilling, Cllr J Rogerson, Cllr J Slater, Cllr M Stenneken, Cllr D Whitaker

Minutes 19 September 2024

Minutes of Morecambe Town Council's Full Council Meeting held at 7pm on the nineteenth day of September 2024 at Morecambe Town Hall, Marine Road, Morecambe, LA4 5AF.

Record of Attendance:

Councillors: R Walsh (Chairman), C Ainscough, J Ainscough, D Blacow, D Bottoms, L Bradbury, B Cooper, R Dennison, W Dixon, J Goodrich, J Hanson, P Hart, C Kent, D Knight, G Knight, J Livermore, M Pattison, J Rogerson, J Slater, D Whittaker.

Officers: Luke Trevaskis, Peter Fisher, Joel Turner, Helen Freeborough

Press: Beyond Radio

Public: 5

Minute 2024/25 - 036 - Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance received from Cllrs P Clarke, F Cooper, C Cozler, K Gee, J Pilling, M Stenneken.

Minute 2024/25 - 037- Declarations of Interest

Cllrs R Dennison, P Hart, M Pattison, M Bottoms, J Livermore, J Ainscough declared an interest as a Councillor of Lancaster City Council.

Cllrs C Ainscough and D Whittaker declared they are employees of Lancashire County Council.

Cllr M Pattison declared an interest as a Councillor of Lancashire County Council.

Cllrs J Slater and C Kent declared an interest as Committee Member of Morecambe Sparkle CIC (Baylight).

Cllr J Ainscough declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Items 8 & 9 as portfolio holder for Environmental Services at Lancaster City Council.

Minute 2024/25 - 038 - Minutes

The minutes of the last full council meeting were approved.

Minute 2024/25 - 039 - Public Participation

To receive representations from electors that have requested to speak by 10am regarding a matter on the agenda. ([Morecambe Town Council Standing Orders - Sections 1d-1f](#)).

A resident of Poulton, Morecambe, addressed the Council with regard to anti-social behaviour that is taking place within this area. The resident explained that Poulton experiences frequent anti-social behaviour that severely impacts residents' safety and well-being. Noisy vehicles, quad bikes, barking dogs, and late-night disturbances occur regularly after 10:30 pm, disrupting the neighbourhood. Youth gangs engage in suspected substance abuse, causing property damage and public disturbances. A specific incident involved a woman locked out overnight, and a youth repeatedly disturbing the area with groups of friends after hours. This behaviour has caused sleeplessness, intimidation, and a sense of danger, making everyday life unsafe and unenjoyable. The situation is untenable and unacceptable, leaving residents fearful in their own community.

Minute 2024/25 - 040 - Planning Application 24/00621/FUL

Members were asked to approve the objection to the planning application 24/00621/FUL which was submitted to Lancaster City Council on 16 August 2024. The objection included the impact on the local community, parking and safety concerns, concerns about resident safety and care, lack of outdoor space and poor living conditions and disregard for planning protocols.

The Council approved the objection.

Minute 2024/25 - 041 - Baylight Festival

Members received a presentation from Morecambe Sparkle CIC, who highlighted the ongoing challenges of producing the festival, and future requirements.

Members were presented with a Sponsor Prospectus and particular attention was drawn to the Headline Sponsorship tier.

Members agreed to fund a three-year deal, in 2025, 2026, and 2027, at £25,000.00 per annum, on the proviso that the Town Council would become the Headline Sponsor of Baylight, with all publicity of the event being prefaced with ‘Presented in Association with Morecambe Town Council’.

Minute 2024/25 - 042 - PKF Littlejohn Invoice

Members were asked to approve the payment of £13,310.40 to PKF Littlejohn for external auditing services following challenge correspondence submitted by Internal Audit Yorkshire in relation to the Council’s FY2324 accounts. This invoice had been presented to full council as the outcome of paying this invoice will result in an overspend of the budget line.

The Council approved the payment, acknowledging that it was an obligatory fee beyond their control. They pointed out the cost to taxpayers resulting from one or two individuals who had obstructed the Council's work with continuous, baseless accusations. Members noted the accusations that have now been officially dismissed by independently appointed auditors PKF Littlejohn.

Minute 2024/25 - 043 - Treasury Management

Members were asked to note that the Finance and Governance Committee has given due consideration to a Treasury Management scheme that aims to maximise returns of public funds, and agree that the Finance and Governance Committee’s Terms of Reference should be amended to include the additional wording:

ix: ‘To *arrange*, monitor and review any council investments, including receipt of *regular* treasury reports on treasure activity’.

The Council approved the amendment.

Minute 2024/25 - 044 - Morecambe Promenade Weeds

Members were asked to consider the motion ‘Approach Lancaster City Council regarding weed growth on Morecambe Promenade and Car parks’.

**The motion is listed in full Agenda item 9. In summary -*

- To approach Lancaster City Council to express concerns regarding the weed infection on Morecambe Promenade and car parks across the town*
- Acknowledge past efforts by the City Council to engage a contractor for manual weed removal, but emphasise that current methods have not resolved the issues*
- Propose a discussion about use of alternative methods that do not involve glyphosate*
- Highlight the wider impact that the visible neglect of public spaces can have on the town*
- Stress the importance of pride in place*
- Reduce resource demands on Lancaster City Council*
- Underscore the need for a mutual resolution between both Council’s which can lead to a long term solution for tackling weed management.*

Cllr C Kent as Chair of the Environment Committee agreed to write to Lancaster City Council and asked them to attend the Environment Committee meeting in October 2024.

The Council approved the motion:

1. **Approach Lancaster City Council** to express concerns regarding the growing issue of weed infestation on the promenade and in car parks across the town, and to seek a cooperative solution that addresses both aesthetic and environmental concerns.
2. **Acknowledge past efforts** by Lancaster City Council to engage contractors for manual weed removal but emphasise that the current methods have not resolved the issue as the roots remain untreated, leading to continuous regrowth.
3. **Propose a discussion** about alternative weed treatment methods that do not involve the use of glyphosate but are effective in reducing regrowth. The Town Council is open to exploring these options and costing them, aiming to work with the City Council to implement a solution that benefits the entire community.
4. **Highlight the wider impact** that the visible neglect of public spaces can have on the town. Uncontrolled weeds and unmaintained areas can damage town morale, affecting the sense of pride that residents feel in their surroundings. When public areas appear neglected, it reflects poorly on the town, potentially discouraging visitors and impacting the local economy and tourism.
5. **Stress the importance of pride in place** by noting that well-maintained public spaces not only boost the wellbeing and morale of local residents but also create a more welcoming environment for tourists. Improved aesthetics lead to better experiences for visitors, which can encourage positive word-of-mouth and repeat visits, ultimately benefiting local businesses.
6. **Reducing Resource Demands on Lancaster City Council:** Greater control of weed growth on the Promenade will also reduce the burden on Lancaster City Council. Currently, the absence of a long term solution has led to complaints from residents about the lack of weed management. By working with Lancaster City Council to resolve this, Morecambe Town Council will help to alleviate these concerns and prevent unnecessary strain on the City Council's resources, as there will be fewer complaints. This partnership approach allows the Town Council to be proactive in meeting residents' expectations, while freeing up Lancaster City Council to focus on other priority areas.
7. **Underscore the need for a mutual resolution** between both Councils, which can lead to a long-term solution. By collaborating, both Councils can share expertise, ensuring that Morecambe's public spaces are well-maintained, uplifting for residents, and attractive to tourists.

Minute 2024/25 - 045 - Morecambe Spring Planting

Members were asked to consider the motion 'Morecambe Spring Planting - Enquiry to Lancaster City Council regarding phased spring bedding plant schemes'. *The motion is listed in full Agenda item 10.

The City Council has previously indicated that due to resource limitations, it is no longer able to undertake work around spring-bedding plant schemes. Morecambe Town Council would like to explore the possibility of reintroducing phased spring-planting to enhance the town's public areas. The introduction of phased spring bedding plant schemes in Morecambe will bring significant economic and social benefits to the town, enhancing both its visual appeal and the well-being of the local community.

- Boosting wellbeing and community pride
- Attracting visitors and boosting local businesses
- Environmental sustainability
- Creating a welcoming atmosphere
- Reducing resource demands of Lancaster City Council.

Cllr D Whittaker suggested that we should also have a dialogue with Lancaster City Council with regard to revisiting Morecambe In Bloom.

The Council approved the motion:

1. **Make enquiries** with Lancaster City Council to seek permission for Morecambe Town Council to introduce phased planting for spring bedding plant schemes in public spaces throughout Morecambe. The Town Council will assure the City Council that all plants will be purchased/grown by Morecambe Town Council and all planting will be undertaken by Morecambe Town Council officers, with no resources required from Lancaster City Council unless they wish to support a partnership approach, which will remain at their discretion.
2. **Request detailed information** from Lancaster City Council regarding:
 - Areas previously planted with spring bedding schemes.
 - Any logistical or legal considerations involved in Morecambe Town Council taking over the responsibility for planting spring bedding schemes, while noting that the Town Council does not seek any long-term lease or asset transfer of the flower beds. The Town Council wishes only to undertake the planting and maintenance work, with full autonomy over the choice of plants, colour schemes, and methods.
3. **Report back** to the Environment Committee with findings and recommendations for introducing phased spring planting schemes, including:
 - Potential costs and budget considerations for FY2526, and beyond.
 - Partnership opportunities with local businesses, volunteers, and community groups.
 - Any requirements from Lancaster City Council regarding the scheme.

It was agreed that the Environment Committee would be delegated to facilitate the phased spring planting scheme, in line with allocated annual budgets.

Minute 2024/25 - 046 - Police and Crime Plan Public Consultation

Members were asked to consider and approve the draft response to the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's Public Consultation. The draft response has been compiled from feedback to the Council. The draft response includes

- General Safety Concerns in Morecambe - areas where residents feel less safe
- Local Crime Issues
- Substance Abuse
- Areas for improvement
- Lancashire Police Strength.

A discussion took place and Cllr R Dennison commented that tackling anti-social behaviour should be a priority, Cllr D Whittaker commented that tackling hate-crime should be a priority and Cllr W Dixon commented on the problems of illegally altered e-bikes and scooters which can endanger the public.

The Council approved the response.

Minute 2024/25 - 047 - Response to Call for Evidence for the National Independent Curriculum and Assessment Review

Members were asked to consider a Response to the Department for Education's call for evidence due to launch in September 2024. The aim is to educate and encourage young people to participate in parish and town councils across the UK.

Challenges that have been identified due to the age demographic include - Diverse Representation, Sustaining local democracy, Building Civic Responsibility and Engagement, Adapting to Contemporary issues, bridging the gap between communities and governance, and strengthening Community Bonds.

The Council approved the response.

Minute 2024/25 - 048 - Website and Digital Document Delivery Solutions

Members were asked to consider the report and recommendation.

Members approved Officer recommendation Option A (website)

Members approved Officer recommendation - Option C (digital document solution)

Minute 2024/5 - 049 - Festivals and Events Committee

Members agreed the following recommendations:-

That Criterion 1(a) be amended to:

That each application is to be considered on its own merit and applications can apply for no more than £10,000.00. At the discretion of the committee they can make a recommendation to Council for a larger award to be granted.

Amends were also made to Criteria 1(m), 3(a), 3(g), 3(j), 3(k), 3(i), 3(q).

Members agreed the inclusion of the 'Checklist for Applicants'.

Members agreed Criterion 1(m) to be included in the application form.

Members agreed the inclusion of the 'Grant Appraisal Form' to be used by members to assess each application.

Members agreed to have one application window per annum, commencing in time for next financial year.

Members agreed that as the total fund for the Festivals and Events budget has now been allocated in full, applications for funding would now be closed, and re-opened in time for the new financial year, with the first awards to be paid from April 2025 onwards.

Minute 2024/5 - 050 - Grants Committee

Members agreed the same recommendations as prior agenda item.

Minute 2024/5 - 052 - Lancaster Local Plan - Issues and opportunities Consultation

Members were asked to consider the draft responses to Lancaster City Council's Local Plan consultation.

**Draft responses in full found at Agenda item 16.*

Members approved the responses.