



Morecambe Town Council

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Proper Officer: Mr Luke Trevaskis

Minutes of Environment Committee Meeting of Morecambe Town Council held at Morecambe Town Hall at 18.00 on the twenty-fifth October 2025

Members present: Councillors Clark Kent (Chair), Joanne Ainscough, Dan Blacow, Paul Hart, Geoff Knight, Jason Slater

In attendance: Luke Trevaskis, Helen Freeborough, Peter Fisher.

Minute EC2425 - 001- Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs C Cozler, J Rogerson, J Livermore.

Minute EC2425 - 002 - Declarations of Interest

Cllr J Ainscough - Member of Lancaster City Council, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

Minute EC2425 - 003 - Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Minute EC2425 - 004 - Vice Chairman

The Committee duly elected Cllr Dan Blacow as Vice-Chair.

Minute EC2425 - 005 - Public Participation

5 Members of public in attendance (representatives of Heysham Allotment Association) speaking about ongoing working relationships with the Council.

Minute EC2425 - 006 - Noticeboards

The Committee agreed to delegate a budget of £30,000.00 to officers (to be coded to Public Realm Enhancements budget line) to facilitate the production and installation of up to seven noticeboards across the town in preferred locations. Subject to final approval of Lancaster City Council. It was noted that this resolution may need to be referred to Full Council for ratification, or an amend to the Committee's Terms of Reference be made to permit it to make decisions within its allocated budget lines.

Minute EC2425 - 007 - Community Skip Scheme

Committee received a verbal update on the Community Skip scheme. LT advised that the new Maintenance Manager will be tasked with sorting out the community skip and liaise with Lancaster City Council. Members agreed that the scheme should be piloted using 1 skip located on Central Drive in Morecambe.

Minute EC2425 - 008 - Foamstream

Cllr Ainscough updated Members on the demonstration of Foamstream that was undertaken on Ellesmere Road. She reported that this was successful and the product worked well. Cllr Ainscough outlined her concerns with Foamstream in particular the size of the unit which is quite small and not

necessarily practical for district wide use due to the size, but that it could be effectively used in Morecambe. Another concern is that the current foam stream unit is diesel powered and bio-fuel should be considered. Members thanked Cllr Ainscough for her update.

Minute EC2425 - 009 - Land Parcels

Members were asked considered the draft land parcels survey and approved the survey for use,

Minute EC2425 - 010 - Allotments

The meeting was joined by 5 members of the West End and Heysham Allotment Association who wished to discuss the future of the site and any changes that Morecambe Town Council is considering.

Chief Officer reported on two recent meetings that have taken place between the Allotment Association and the Council and members considered the report. The report highlighted key concerns including inheritance of plots, difficulties with policy enforcement, absence of digitised records, conflict management, fee structures, and ongoing challenges in site management. The report also noted that the Council has vicarious liability for the site, and may need to take a lead on certain issues at the site such as Health & Safety.

The Association also requested additional support in understanding environmental sustainability issues such as water retention, and methods to best optimise biodiversity on the site.

The Committee agreed to support ongoing discussions with the Allotment Association regarding potential strategies for future working.

Cllr C Kent, Chair of Environment Committee said that the West End and Heysham Allotment Association would be a standing agenda item at all future Environment Committee meetings.

Minute EC2425 - 011 - Climate Action Champion

The Committee agreed that there would be a proposal from the Chairman of the Environment Committee to full council in January, for there to be an invitation sent to invite United Utilities to talk to the Council about storm overflows and discharge of raw sewage into the bay.

Minute EC2425 - 012 - Spring Flower Beds

At the September Full Council meeting, Morecambe Town Council committed to pursuing a Spring Planting scheme, delegated to the Environment Committee and Chief Officer for facilitation.

Members were asked to consider the report on Spring Planting.

This decision comes after years without such seasonal planting (save for a few beds), during which the visual appeal of Morecambe's public spaces has gradually declined - a trend that members felt does not reflect the community's vision for their town. Members acknowledged that, while Morecambe has a long history of well-maintained parks and floral displays, recent reductions in public realm services have adversely impacted its public spaces. This outcome, in their view, illustrates broader challenges facing many local authorities as resources are increasingly diverted to essential services such as social care, creating funding pressures across councils nationwide.

Members emphasised the urgency of addressing these declines, noting that Morecambe Town Council was specifically established to address local needs and make improvements where Lancaster City Council may be constrained by limited resources. They observed that cuts to public services have become the norm across the UK, reflecting a national trend of shifting budgetary priorities.

Members cited their ongoing struggles to gain clear information about the current level of service in Morecambe and there did not appear to be any evidence available nationally on the effect of service reductions over time on other key social outcomes such as health, wellbeing, and crime. Town Councillors empathised with Lancaster City Council officers, who face overwhelming workloads, but raised concerns about the difficulty of achieving local improvements when the Town Council's requests are sometimes deprioritised, leading to delays that hinder effective response to residents' needs.

In summary, Morecambe Town Council's decision to under Planting scheme reflects a proactive approach to counteracting service declines and prioritising local quality of life. By revitalising green spaces, the Council hopes to in-still a renewed sense of pride and purpose among residents, attract visitors, and create an environment that supports public well-being. As these spaces improve, they aim to foster community resilience and civic pride, helping Morecambe to thrive despite the constraints on public funding for traditional council services.

There was a discussion amongst members about the proposal and it was agreed to delegate the facilitation of three-year phased planting scheme to the Chief Officer, alongside budgets and resources that would be required as outlined in the report (including the allocations of £10K in year 1, £10-15K in year 2, and £15K-£20K in year 3, with the recruitment of an additional town ranger to be implemented in time for the spring planting season in Year 1 Spring 2025, noting that there would be additional recruitment required by Year 3, to facilitate spring flower beds across Morecambe, in locations to be agreed with Lancaster City Council.

The Chair of Committee Cllr C Kent, and the Chief Officer, will arrange a meeting with Will Griffiths, Chief Officer for Environment Services at Lancaster City Council to discuss the spring planting proposal.

Minute EC2425 - 013 - Christmas Lights

Members were asked to consider the report and agree actions on Christmas Lights. It was agreed that officers should draft a plan for Christmas Lights 2025 - including equipment procurement to present back to the Committee in the new year. It is understood that purchasing lights during low season would also result in financial savings.