

**The Annual Town Meeting
of Morecambe Town Council
will be held in
The Council Chamber, Town Hall, Morecambe
on Thursday 30th May, 2013 at 7.00 p.m.**

Agenda

Meeting to be chaired by Chair of Morecambe Town Council

- 1. Opening remarks by Chairman of Morecambe Town Council.**
- 2. To accept apologies for absence.**
- 3. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Town Meetings held on 19th April and 17th May 2012**
- 4. Policing in Morecambe 2012/13 Report by Lancashire Constabulary**
- 5. Town Council Annual Report**

To receive reports from the Committee Chairs for 2012/13 and the Chairman of the Council

- 6. Town Council Annual Accounts 2012/13**
- 7. To receive comments and deal with questions from those electors within the Town of Morecambe on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affect the town**

Notes for members of the Public:

Members of the public may ask questions or raise issues which they would like the Council to consider. At a Town Meeting the Town Council cannot make decisions, instead it is an opportunity to listen to the views of the public which can then be considered at the appropriate Council Committee or Full Council whichever would be the most appropriate.

At a Town Meeting, an issue is decided by a majority of those present and voting. Each local government elector present has one vote on an issue which is put to the vote. Decisions taken are not legally binding on the Town Council although it must consider the outcome of all votes taken at a future meeting.

For the purposes of the Town Meeting only those members of the public who reside in the Town Council area and are on the Electoral Register may take part in the proceedings.



**David Croxall
Clerk to the Council
16th May, 2013**

MORECAMBE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Annual Town Meeting** held on Thursday 19th April, 2012, at 6.30pm at Morecambe Town Hall

Present: Councillors D. Kerr (Chairman), D. Clifford (Vice-Chairman) T. Anderson, P. Kerr, D. Andrew, J. Day, E. Archer, J. Ashworth, H. Ball, N. Baxter, T. Brown, S. Burns, L. Davies, R. Dennison, J. Firth, J. Hanson, P. A. Heath, S. Lomax, G. Marsland, T.A. Metcalfe, M. Pattison, C. Wade, G. Walker, J. Rudkin and D. Whitaker

Also in Attendance: 7 members of public, Inspector Edmonds and Sergeant Brown (Lancashire Constabulary) and Mr B. Walker (Fire Safety Manager Northern Area- Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service)

Officers in Attendance: David Croxall (Clerk to the Council) and A. Fawcett (Business Administration Apprentice)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Due to a complaint received from a member of public, the Chairman requested the Town Clerk to read out a statement on his behalf. The Statement contained an apology regarding the oversight that had occurred when advertising the Annual Town Meeting. Due to legislation, the Annual Town Meetings' agenda should be made public seven clear days prior to the Meeting, but on this occasion it was only made public five clear days prior.

Resolved:

That a further Town Meeting be held at a later date but no later than the 1st June, 2012

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillor N. Baxter, H. Ball, J. Hanson, G. Marsland, R. Dennison and C. Wade.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

4. Minutes from the meeting held on the 31st May, 2011

A member of the public raised his concerns about the accuracy of the minutes from the meeting held on the 31st May, 2011 and asked questions regarding the requests made by the Town Meeting for the Town Council to consider including the issue regarding recorded votes and the Planning Committee.

The Clerk answered the questions raised indicating that the matters had been considered by Council and not accepted.

5. Fire Safety-Presentation by Mr B. Walker, Fire Safety Manager Northern Area-Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Fire Safety Manager gave a presentation about how the Fire Service is involved with the Community and the services they can offer outside of the normal Fire and Rescue duties. Currently the Fire Service breaks their procedures up into three sections in order to give the best possible service.

- (1) Response - Operational i.e. attending fires, road accidents etc.
- (2) Prevention - With the use of the Fire Safety Team, who visit homes to do fire safety checks and offer advice on how to prevent fires occurring and installing smoke alarms.

- (3) Protection - A team of enforcement officers with powers to prosecute businesses and premises owners if they do not follow the correct procedures and guidelines relating to fire safety laws.

The presentation also explained how the Fire Service worked alongside the Princess Trust who facilitated a 12 week programme for under privileged 16-25 year olds which demonstrates life coaching with lessons on Curriculum Vitae writing, Mathematics and English.

6. Police Report

Sergeant Brown reported on policing issues within the town.

Due to cuts of 20% on financing within the Police, Lancashire Constabulary has had to review their ways of policing. So far even with the cuts to the budget all crime within the area had reduced by 7.6%

Metal theft, which was a huge problem across the Country, had been a focus for tackling this year. Vacant properties had been targeted for thefts of copper piping and wiring. The PCSO's have worked hard to identify these targeted properties and have been contacting the property owners to make them aware the importance of securing their premises if it is vacant. The Police had managed to negotiate with local scrap metal dealers a working partnership to combat the problem.

The West End of Morecambe had seen a rise anti-social behaviour and this was something the Police were utilising powers to reduce the problem, and it was believed the sale of cheap alcohol was largely the cause of this.

Organised crime groups had been another major focus with 18 warrants issued and 96 arrests made resulting in a large sum of money being seized. The rise of 2.7% in shop lifting was being tackled with an operation called Neutron but although this was very successful the offenders were targeting elsewhere. It was believed that economic factors are one of the main causes for the rise in shop lifting as mostly food and alcohol was stolen.

Sergeant Brown informed the chamber that the entire Neighbourhood policing team cancelled their rest days on the day of the Seaside Festival to ensure the day went as well as it could. Halloween saw a reduction in crime with PCSO's working alongside the Fire Service and travelling in Fire vehicles patrolling the area.

Lancashire Constabulary were considering the quality of policing across the district as they had received complaints from the public with regards to their level of service.

7. Comments and Questions from the Public

A member of public expressed his concern about the lack of advertisement of the Annual Town Meeting. He felt that it was not advertised widely to the residents in Morecambe and the advert in the Visitor newspaper was not sufficiently sized for locals to see. The member of public commented that he did not see the agenda for the annual town meeting in the library.

A member of public stated that he did not think it was the Town Council's responsibility to provide extra litter bins within the town as this he felt was the responsibility of Lancaster City Council. He also raised an issue about the litter bins not being on the Town Council's asset register.

A member of the public made a comment that he thought microphones should be used in the Council Chamber as he found it difficult to hear some of the conversation.

A member of the public raised an issue regarding the lack of public toilets in the town and he felt the existing ones should not have a compulsory charge.

The following actions were agreed:

- (1) That the Town Clerk to review the future advertisement of meetings and the Library be contacted to ascertain whether the agenda for the annual town meeting had been displayed on the notice board in the Library Foyer.

- (2) That the Town Clerk to raise the any issues regarding the Asset Register with the Internal Auditor to clarify items to be listed as a Morecambe Town Council asset and to write to the member of the public concerned once the advice had been received..
- (3) That the possibility of the microphones being used in the Council Chamber be looked at as a possibility for future meetings.
- (4) The member of public was informed that the public toilets in the town are the responsibility of Lancaster City Council but his comments would be passed on to them.

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Chairman

Any queries regarding this meeting, please contact David Croxall, Clerk to the Council on 01524 422929 or via email to clerk@morecambe.gov.uk

David Croxall

Clerk to the Council

8th May, 2012

MORECAMBE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Annual Town Meeting** held on Thursday 17th May, 2012, at 6.00pm at Morecambe Town Hall

Present: Councillors D. Kerr (Chairman), T. Anderson, P. Kerr, D. Andrew, T. Brown, L. Davies, R. Dennison, S. Lomax, G. Marsland, T.A. Metcalfe, M. Pattison, , and D. Whitaker, G. Walker and B. Spelling

Also in Attendance: Members of public, Sergeant Brown (Lancashire Constabulary)

Officers in Attendance: David Croxall (Clerk to the Council) and A. Fawcett (Business Administration Apprentice)

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors D. Clifford (Vice-Chairman), J. Day, E. Archer, J. Ashworth, H. Ball, N. Baxter, S. Burns, J. Firth, J. Hanson, P. A. Heath, C. Wade, J. Rudkin

2. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman updated the Chamber on what had been achieved and the work carried out in the previous year.

Resolved:

3. Minutes from the meeting held on the 19th April, 2012

A member of the public raised his concerns that the minutes were not a true record of the previous meeting held on the 19th April, 2012

Resolved:

- **That his comments be noted**
- **When taken to vote it was agreed that the minutes were to be signed as a true record**

4. Public Comments

(1) A member of the public raised concerns regarding the lack of Councillors present at the Annual Town Meeting and asked questions regarding the process of how Councillors that do not attend are dealt with.

Resolved:

- **The Town Clerk explained that all Councillors are to attend at least one meeting every six months or they will no longer be able to be part of the Town Council.**

(2) A member of the Public added to her comments from a previous meeting regarding her mother's care at St John's Hospice. She believed that money should be spent on patients of the Hospice and not on advertising it.

Resolved:

- **The Town Clerk reminded her that her comments had been passed on to the relevant authority. She was also informed that Councillor Clifford was prepared to read the case notes and offer his advice based on his qualifications and experience in this field on the understanding that in doing so he would be acting as an individual and not as an elected representative of Morecambe Town Council.**

(3) A member of the public raised concern on the following:

- He was not able to obtain a financial statement of Morecambe Town Council's funds.
- He questioned what the Town Council had achieved for the residents of Morecambe.
- He did not believe that the Town Council accepted that they were a public serving trustee.
- He believed that the Town Council was saving money for something.
- He believed that was the worst attended meeting he had seen.
- He wanted answers on how a vote was recorded.
- He wanted to know why a recorded vote was not taken every time.
- He did not agree with the timescales of the Annual Town Meeting.
- He was not happy with the amount of training the Councillors had received so far.

The following action was agreed:

- **The Town Clerk to write to the member of public with the answers to all his questions along with a financial statement.**

Meeting Closed at 7.00pm

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Chairman

Any queries regarding this meeting, please contact David Croxall, Clerk to the Council on 01524 422929 or via email to clerk@morecambe.gov.uk

David Croxall

Clerk to the Council 15th June, 2012