



Morecambe Town Council

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Proper Officer: Mr Luke Trevaskis

Minutes of the Meeting of Morecambe Town Council held at Morecambe Town Hall at 7pm on the fourth day of November 2021

Present: Councillors C Matthews (Chairman); P Clarke; I Clift; P Heath; D Whitaker; P Hart; J Pilling; C Pilling; G Blaikie; J Firth; A Ashworth; J Ashworth; V Boyd-Power; G Dennison; Mirka Balcer; Mariusz Balcer.

In attendance: Luke Trevaskis (Proper Officer), Gavin Dring (Community Engagement and Events Officer), Cllr Charles Edwards (Lancashire County Council), and twenty-seven members of the public.

Minute 20356

Apologies

Apologies for absence received from T Anderson, R Dennison, S Burns, J Bates, J Goodwin, M Pattison.

Minute 20357

Declarations of Interests

Cllr V Boyd-Power declared membership of Morecambe BID.

Minute 20358

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Minute 20359

Morecambe Sparkle 2022-2025

Councillor Charlie Edwards from Lancashire County Council delivered a presentation regarding Morecambe Sparkle 2022-2025 - an opportunity to receive £500,000 Economic Recovery & Growth Fund Grant from the County Council for a "new 21st century version of Morecambe Illuminations".

The project demonstrates potential to meet the County's economic strategic goals for hospitality and tourism, town centres, and growth infrastructure.

The draft business template is currently being reviewed by the County's Fund Manager.

Agreement is being sought to commission an independent feasibility study.

A commitment to match funding is required for project to progress.

Consideration is being given to the setting up of a new trust to run the project through a Community Interest Organisation (CIO).

The final scope of the project is to be completed by end of November, with a target for approval by end of 2021.

The Council approved (in principle and subject to final approval of project by Lancashire County Council) an annual contribution of £20,000 to the project for its four year lifespan.

Minute 20360

Elections

It was noted that the Returning Officer has fixed an election date of Friday 26 November 2021 for the two vacant seats in Heysham North Ward and Westgate Ward.

Minute 20361

Public Participation

A member of the public detailed increased anti-social behaviour in Bare - including a cafe that has been broken into, a shelter on the golf course that has been vandalised, and bus shelters targeted. Updates were requested as to whether any criminals had been caught in relation to the crimes. An update on CCTV proposals for Happy Mount Park was requested. Clarification was requested on the long term aims of the Police and whether they are encouraging members of the public to gather photographic evidence. Clarification was requested regarding the relationship between Morecambe Town Council and Lancaster City Council, and their differing roles and responsibilities.

A member of the public spoke to Item 8 on the agenda - expressing concerns regarding highways safety in Bare.

A member of the public congratulated new members on the election result, advised members' register of interests could not be accessed on the Council's website, and advised information has not been transferred from older generations of the website to the current iteration.

Minute 20362

Welcome Back Fund

Following an ideation session via Zoom, members discussed the updated projects that meet the criteria for financing through the Welcome Back Fund and agreed to submit the proposals to Lancaster City Council.

Minute 20363

Highways

It was resolved, due to road safety concern, that Morecambe Town Council requests that Lancashire County Council Highways Department investigate and consider the installation of a pedestrian crossing on the B5275 at a suitable point between Bare Lane Station and Princes Crescent.

Minute 20364

Neighbourhood Plan

An update was received on the current status of the Neighbourhood Plan and members noted that a further grant application would be submitted by the Proper Officer.

Minute 20365

Finance

The Council accepted the Q2 transaction list.

The Council accepted the Q2 budget report.

The Council accepted the Q2 bank reconciliation.

The Council noted Committee meetings will be taking place in the coming weeks for 2022-2023 budget considerations.

Minute 20366

Morecambe BID

It was resolved for the Community and Engagement Officer to sit on the illuminations steering group.

Minute 20367

Future Meetings

The Council noted a meeting date of 24 February 2022 had been approved by Lancaster City Council, owing to a prior booking on the first Thursday of March 2022.