



Morecambe Town Council

Morecambe Town Hall,
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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 twenty-fourth day of March 2022

Present: Councillors C Matthews (Chairman); P Anderton, C Pilling, B Jackson, G Blaikie, V Boyd-Power, T Heath, J Hanson, I Clift, P Clarke, P Hart, J Goodwin, A Balcer, M Balcer.

In attendance: Luke Trevaskis (Proper Officer), two members of the public, one member of the press.

Minute 20383

Apologies

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs D Whitaker, M Pattison, G Dennison, R Dennison, J Ashworth, A Ashworth, L Stansfield, J Pilling.

Minute 20384

Declarations of Interests

Cllrs C Matthews and P Anderton declared an interest in Item 11.

Minute 20385

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10.6.21 were approved.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6.1.22 were approved.

The minutes of the meeting held on 7.2.22 were approved subject to an amend to the attendance to include Cllrs A Ashworth and G Dennison.

Minute 20386

Elections

The Council noted a vacancy had arisen in Lowlands Road Ward.

Minute 20387

Public Forum

A member of the public thank the Council for a response to their Freedom of Information request and asked why a response had not yet been received regarding the questions they had raised concerning the

audit. The member of the public asked for an explanation as to why the external audit had not yet concluded.

A member of the public accused a member of the Council of bullying.

The Chief Officer advised the meeting the external audit had concluded and the Council would publish a notice forthwith. The meeting was advised the auditor had raised no concern regarding the change in contractor and that the auditor was satisfied the selected Internal Auditor had performed an adequate audit for 20-21.

The Final External Audit Report and Certificate 2020-21 states that in the opinion of the auditor "Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met".

Minute 20388

Lancashire County Council Parish and Town Council Charter

The Council considered the Charter and agreed to support its aims.

Minute 20389

Welcome Back Fund Report

The Council received a report on the Dino-Shore-Us weekend.

Minute 20390

Community Action Plan

The Council received an update on the action points achieved in the plan.

Minute 20391

General Power of Competence

The Council, having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, adopted the General Power of Competence.

Minute 20392

Communication

The Council approved the newsletter and agreed to hold a satellite monthly surgery across the town supported by two members each month.

Minute 20393

Luke Jerram Artwork

The Council approved the recommendations within the report and resolved to increase the budget to £51,000.00, charging an entry fee to recoup an anticipated £30,000.00

Minute 20394

Branding

The Council approved to invite branding agencies to quote for the creation of visuals that can be used across MTC's service delivery.

Minute 20395

Economic Data Capture Software

The Council approved to engage with local stakeholders (including Morecambe BID) to see how all agencies could contribute to resourcing software that would help capture the economic data for Morecambe.

Minute 20396

Climate Emergency Declaration

The Council declared a climate emergency and recognised the effects of global warming, resolving to tackle the climate emergency by:

- 1) Forming a working group involving councillors, residents, business owners, and experts from local education institutions to establish a plan to identify how Morecambe can be net-zero carbon by 2030.
- 2) Introducing climate change impact assessments, including carbon emission appraisals to all council activities.

Minute 20397

Accessibility Statement

The Council approved the Accessibility Statement.

Minute 20398

Local Council Award Scheme

The Council agreed to apply for Quality Gold accreditation from the National Association of Local Councils.

Minute 20399

Finance

The Council received Month 10 and Month 11 income and expenditure reports and bank reconciliations.

The Council approved a payment of £26,348.92 to Lancaster City Council for by-election costs.

Cllr Heath requested consideration be given in future to co-option.

Minute 20400

Exclusion of Press and Public

The Council resolved, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following business on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

Minute 20401

Town Hall Lease

The Council noted its hire costs of Morecambe Town Hall thus far for 2021-2022 totalled £6,337.86

The Council noted the important service it provides to Morecambe and its duty to achieve best value.

To uphold best value and reduce overheads, the Council agreed to pursue statutory user rights with Lancaster City Council.