



Morecambe Town Council

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Proper Officer: Mr Luke Trevaskis

Minutes of the Meeting of Morecambe Town Council's Full Council Meeting held at Morecambe Town Hall at 7pm on the seventh day of July 2022

Present: Councillors C Matthews, P Anderton, I Clift, D Whitaker, V Boyd-Power, J Bates, A Balcer, G Blaikie, B Jackson, J Pilling, C Pilling, L Stansfield, P Clarke, P Forster.

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

Minute 20423

Apologies

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs P Heath, A Ashworth, J Ashworth, G Dennison, R Dennison, M Pattison, J Goodwin, M Balcer.

Minute 20424

Declarations of Interests

Cllr P Anderton registered an interest in the agenda item as a Trustee of Morecambe Winter Gardens.

Cllr C Matthews registered an interest in the agenda item due to an association with a Trustee of Morecambe Winter Gardens.

Minute 20425

Public Participation

A member of the public addressed the meeting, stating:

“Supporting events such as Morecambe Pride should be one of the priorities of the Town Council. Whilst Pride is glorious display of colour and is fun, it also champions acceptance. It promotes the idea that people should be accepted for the person that they are, and everyone is valued regardless of who they love or how they choose to present.”

Morecambe has a long history with regards to LGBTQ+ rights. It was the location for the very first national conference for the Campaign for Homosexual Equality on the Central Pier in 1973. Correspondence in the local newspapers at the time indicates that Morecambe and Heysham Borough council initially blocked the conference booking and when it did go ahead attendees had to face down faced homophobic protestors who demonstrated outside every day.

Thankfully we've come a long way since those days but LGBTQ+ rights were hard fought for and are easily lost. Figures from the Press Association in December 2021 showed homophobic and transphobic hate crimes reported to police in the UK rose sharply after lockdown restrictions eased 1 , the actual figure is probably much higher as many people often don't report harassment in the street. The work of Pride is more important than ever, especially for our young people who need positive accepting role models.

Whilst the Town Council should be praised for its work in developing new festivals and events, it is imperative that existing events should continue to be supported especially after a precept increase of almost 50%.

A seaside resort like Morecambe thrives best when it has a diverse range of festivals and events to fill its calendar throughout the year. I would request that Councillors re-examine closely the decision made to turn down the funding application and ask questions why our existing festivals like Morecambe Pride aren't getting the vital support they need."

Minute 20426

Special Motion - Festivals

The Council resolved that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, 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.

The Council resolved to approve a grant of £12,000 to the Vintage by the Sea Festival.

The Council resolved to approved a grant of £7,000 to LGBT Out in the Bay for Morecambe Pride, allocating a further £3,000 to be offered as a guarantee against any losses that may be identified after audited accounts are produced.

The Council resolved that both organisations would prepare documentation following each event and present a report to the Council.

Consideration of the membership for the Sponsorships, Festivals and Events Committee was deferred.