



Morecambe Town Council

Morecambe Town Hall,
Marine Road
Morecambe
Lancashire
LA4 5AF

www.morecambe.gov.uk



15 September 2023

To: Members of Morecambe Town Council - Cllr C Ainscough, Cllr J Ainscough, Cllr D Blacow, Cllr D Bottoms, Cllr L Bradbury, Cllr T Clarke, Cllr B Cooper, Cllr F Cooper, Cllr C Cozler, Cllr R Dennison, Cllr W Dixon, Cllr K Gee, Cllr J Goodrich, Cllr J Hanson, Cllr P Hart, Cllr C Kent, Cllr D Knight, Cllr G Knight, Cllr J Livermore, Cllr M Pattison, Cllr J Pilling, Cllr J Rogerson, Cllr J Slater, Cllr M Stenneken, Cllr R Walsh, Cllr D Whitaker.

Dear Councillor,

Dated this fifteenth day of September 2023, you are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of Morecambe Town Council to be held at 19:00 on the twenty-first day of September 2023.

The meeting will be held in Morecambe Town Hall, Marine Road East, Morecambe, LA4 5AF to transact business on the agenda.

Note to Councillors:

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please notify the Proper Officer of your apologies.

Note to Public:

Electors of the town wishing to address the Council are advised to notify the Proper Officer before 10am on the day of the meeting. Permission to speak at the meeting will be at the discretion of the Chairman. Public participation session at a meeting shall not require response or debate and shall solely consist of matters relating to items on the agenda. If the representation made is considered outside the remit of Morecambe Town Council, electors will be referred to the principal authority or other appropriate body.

Your sincerely,

Mr Luke Trevaskis, CiLCA, PSLCC.
Chief Executive

Agenda

1. **Apologies** - to receive apologies for absence and consider any reasons for acceptance.
(*Local Government Act 1972, Section 85*)
2. **Declarations** - to record any declared interests relating to the business of the meeting and receive any dispensation requests from the Proper Officer.
(*Localism Act 2011, Section 31*)
3. **Minutes** - to approve the minutes of the last meeting.
(*Local Government Act 1972, Section 111*)
4. **Public Participation** - to receive representations from electors that have requested to speak by 10am regarding a matter on the agenda.
(*Morecambe Town Council Standing Orders - Sections 1d-1l*)

Note: any electors addressing the Council must not exceed a three minute time limit.

5. **Morecambe Visitor Information Centre**

Motion: This Council notes that the existence of Morecambe VIC is vital to the tourism economy of Morecambe and its closure should not have taken place without a viable physical alternative solution.

This council asks Lancaster City Council for a detailed explanation/presentation of what their new 'digital screen service' involves and for the anticipated delivery dates.

Council instructs the Proper Officer to write to both the Chief Executive and the Leader of Lancaster City Council to voice our objection.

Proposer: Geoff Knight
Seconder: Lee Bradbury

6. **Promenade Vandalism**

Motion: A motion to condemn the recent homophobic and racist graffiti that has vandalised the Promenade and request to be kept updated by authorities about any progress made to hold the culprit(s) to account.

Proposer: Geoff Knight
Seconder: Russell Walsh

7. **Banking**

To approve 3-5 additional signatories to be added to the bank account, to reduce the burden on the two existing signatories and provide a larger pool of councillors to sign payments off.

8. **Land Parcels**

The Town Council receives regular complaints about the infrequent maintenance of some land parcels within Morecambe.

In September 2022, the Town Council wrote to Lancaster City Council to request that a number of small land assets totalling 0.31 hectares be transferred into community ownership.

The Town Council detailed it was keen to help stimulate improvements to the land parcels to enhance the social and environmental wellbeing of people living in Morecambe.

The Council detailed how it wished to involve residents to help co-design the parcels of land in a bid to kickstart community pride and create 'patches for people'.

The proposal was met with support from officers and members alike from both authorities and, until recently, it was understood the asset transfers were proceeding subject to finalisation of the agreement. However, an email was received from the Chief Officer for Environment this month advising the City Council has reviewed its position and “the transferring of land isn’t guaranteed to add value based on the proposals”.

It is not clear why it has taken twelve months for the City Council to change its position, or why the Town Council was not given the opportunity to have further conversations with officers and/or members prior to this U-turn.

City Councillor J Ainscough, the portfolio holder for Environment, has advised that her decision was based on the fact there was no evidence of need, no evidence of a plan, and no evidence of existing delivery. Cllr Ainscough also indicated that the legal advice received from officers at Lancaster City Council suggested that there was concern that the transfer of land parcels could set a precedent and result in the City Council being left with little of its own assets over a course of time. Additional comments indicated that the Town Council could submit a more detailed proposal for a smaller quantity of land in the first instance for consideration. Cllr Ainscough also reiterated that Lancaster City Council is keen to work with Morecambe Town Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

If the current administration is still keen to pursue transforming small parcels of land for local communities, it is recommended that the Council focuses on one or two areas of land in the first instance, and undertakes additional community consultation to develop a more detailed proposal.

The Council may also wish to get a better understanding of what progress has been made on the Community Asset Transfer Policy, which the City Council indicated in 2022 it would be developing.

9. Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Council is recommended to pass the following recommendation in relation to the following items:

“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.”

Festival Applications

10. Festival Grant Application 2023/4-011 - to consider the grant application and agree actions.

11. Grant Award Review - to consider the confidential report and agree actions.