



Morecambe Town Council
Morecambe Town Hall,
Marine Road
Morecambe
Lancashire
LA4 5AF

www.morecambe.gov.uk



Members of Morecambe Town Council:

Cllr C Cozler - Chairman

Cllr P Hart - Vice Chairman

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 R Dennison, Cllr W Dixon, Cllr K Gee, Cllr J Goodrich, Cllr J Hanson, 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.

MINUTES - 20 JULY 2023

Minutes of Morecambe Town Council's Full Council Meeting held at 7pm on the twentieth day of July 2023 at Morecambe Town Hall, Marine Road, Morecambe, LA4 5AF.

Record of Attendance:

Councillors: Cllr P Hart (Chairman of the meeting), Cllr D Blacow, Cllr D Bottoms, Cllr L Bradbury, Cllr B Cooper, Cllr F Cooper, Cllr R Dennison, Cllr W Dixon, Cllr J Hanson, 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 R Walsh, Cllr D Whitaker.

Officers: Luke Trevaskis (Chief Officer).

Press: Beyond Radio.

Public: Six members of the public.

Mr Luke Trevaskis, CiLCA, PSLCC.
Chief Executive

Minute 2023/24-033 - Apologies

Apologies for non attendance received from Cllrs C Cozler, J Ainscough, C Ainscough, J Goodrich, M Stenneken.

Minute 2023/24-034 - Declarations of Interest

Cllr M Pattison declared membership of Lancashire County Council.

Cllrs M Pattison, R Dennison, P Hart, J Hanson, J Livermore, D Whitaker, B Cooper, and M Bottoms declared membership of Lancaster City Council.

Minute 2023/24-035 - Minutes

The minutes of the full council meeting held on 11 July 2023 were approved (subject to removal of Cllr Clarke from attendance record).

Minute 2023/24-036 - Public Participation

Four requests to speak.

One resident wished the new administration well and encouraged the Council to work with partners. They spoke in favour of the Frontierland EOI submitted by the Council and advised the Council was currently pushing at an open door. The resident was keen to see the Town Council be in charge of leading the area forward and encouraged additional consultations with the community.

A second resident provided an oversight of the wide ranging power that the City Council and County Council have over Morecambe, with only a limited resource to provide modest delivery for the Town. The resident spoke about the powers conferred to Town Councils through the Localism Act and encouraged the Council to think outside the box at all times. The resident spoke of the weeding service recently undertaken by the Council, highlighting its success across the Town and emphasising how much more can be initiated by the Town Council to bring about improvements for local people. The resident wished members well and was keen to see the Council retain its recent influence at both the City Council and County Council.

A third resident advised the EOI submitted by the Council was tangible and demonstrated what could be achieved when there is vision and ambition. The resident advised it was a unanimous decision of the Council to form a Frontierland Working Group, and the Council did not raise the money to purchase the site, but rather to achieve an aspiration for the community through matched grant funding. The resident spoke of how successful the community consultation event was and advised they hope to see more of the same in future.

The fourth resident spoke of the increase required in the precept to finance the 'Community Action Fund' for Frontierland. The resident advised the land is currently an eyesore and something must be done to change this. It was suggested that if nothing is done, then the money should be paid back and not put into other projects other than Frontierland.

Minute 2023/24-037 - Morecambe Ticket Office

The Council resolved to write to the Railway Delivery Group and advise of its resistance to the proposals to close ticket offices at railway stations throughout the country, advising the challenges that would be faced by residents of Morecambe.

Minute 2023/24-038 - Morecambe Skatepark

The Council heard how the surface of the skate park on Central Drive required repair, noting the number of complaints that had been received regarding its condition. It was understood that Lancaster City Council would not be allocating any funding to the scheme. The Council resolved

to fund the cost of the repair work to Morecambe Skatepark, estimated to be approximately £8,000.00.

Following reports of obscene graffiti, the Council also resolved to fund and resource the repainting of the nearby youth hut, subject to receiving permission from Lancaster City Council.

Minute 2023/24-039 - Frontierland

A motion was moved without notice.

MOTION (WITHOUT NOTICE):

- (1) THAT MORECAMBE TOWN COUNCIL WITHDRAW ITS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE FORMER FRONTIERLAND SITE AND THAT THE PROPER OFFICER OF MORECAMBE TOWN COUNCIL WRITE TO THE LEADER OF LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL TO CONFIRM THIS DECISION.**
- (2) AS A SIGNIFICANT STAKEHOLDER, MORECAMBE TOWN COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO BE KEPT INFORMED BY LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL ON ALL ASPECTS OF REDEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER FRONTIERLAND SITE AND WISH TO REITERATE OUR OBJECTION TO ANY HOUSING ON THIS SITE.**
- (3) THAT MORECAMBE TOWN COUNCIL OBTAIN LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING THE REALLOCATION OF FUNDS WHICH WERE RAISED FOR THE COMMUNITY FUND.**
- (4) THAT THE FRONTIERLAND COMMITTEE BE RENAMED THE PLANNING AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE.**

Proposer: Cllr Geoff Knight
Seconder: Cllr Russell Walsh

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OFFICER NOTE: The Proper Officer advised the Council that Items 1 and 3 of the tabled motions would have the effect of reversing prior council decisions made within the past six months. In such circumstances a notice of recession should be submitted by members, and the items should be on the agenda of a future meeting, with all members having the opportunity to consider them for at least three clear days.
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Cllr Margaret Pattison and Cllr Faye Cooper withdrew prior to the motions being taken to a vote.

Officer advice was noted, and the Council resolved to withdraw its Expression of Interest in the former Frontierland site, with the PO to write to the Leader of Lancaster City Council to confirm this decision. As a significant stakeholder the Council resolved it would like to be kept informed by Lancaster City Council on all aspects of redevelopment of the former Frontierland site and wished to reiterate its objection to any housing on the site.

The Council resolved to obtain legal advice regarding the reallocation of funds which were raised for the community fund.

The Council resolved to form a Planning and Regeneration Committee, its Terms of Reference were agreed, and Cllr Geoff Knight was appointed its Chairman.

The Committee's membership will consist of Cllrs D Whitaker, M Pattison, T Clarke, R Walsh, C Kent, G Knight, L Bradbury, M Bottoms, and J Livermore).

The Committee's key areas of responsibility as listed below.

- i) The primary responsibility of this Committee will be to play a significant role in place leadership, working with other agencies to oversee the Council's input into matters concerning the planning and regeneration of Morecambe, including projects earmarked for key sites such as Frontierland;
- ii) To explore the key challenges that Morecambe faces and propose solutions to full council on how these could be improved, playing a significant role in any rebrand of Morecambe that will provide a clearer tourism offer;
- iii) To hold regular meetings and consultations with the community, and engage with local stakeholders and authorities, to establish a vision for Morecambe's future;
- iv) To explore opportunities for community uses on sites in Morecambe (such as Frontierland) and establish how to work with other agencies such as Lancaster City Council to bring these forward;
- v) To undertake research into other funding streams and grant opportunities (such as UKSPF) to secure a fairer share of investment into Morecambe;
- vi) To meet as frequently as required to consider items of business;
- vii) This Committee is not delegated to approve any community regeneration projects that the Council may wish to undertake, and such authority is reserved for full council decision.

Minute 2023/24-040 - Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Council resolved to exclude the press and public on the grounds that the items of business could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information.

Minute 2023/24-041 - Festival Grant Application - Morecambe Promenade Orchestra

The Council resolved to award a grant of £2,000.00 to the Promenade Concert Orchestra for its programme of upcoming events.