



## Morecambe Town Council

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Proper Officer: Mr Luke Trevaskis

**Minutes of Annual Town Assembly  
held at Morecambe Town Hall, Marine Road East, Morecambe, LA4 5AF  
on Thursday 25 May 2023 at 6 p.m.**

*Held in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, Part III.*

*Advice for members of the Public:*

*Electors of the Morecambe Town Council area may attend and ask questions or raise issues which they would like the Council to consider at an appropriate future meeting.*

*Any matter, as decided by a majority of those present and voting, is not legally binding on the Council, however must be considered by the Council at a future date.*

*Each local government elector present has one vote on any issue which is put to a poll.*

**Meeting commenced at 6:13pm**

Cllr Cary Matthews, Chairman of Morecambe Town Council, presided.

- 1. Apologies for absence received from Cllr John Bates**
- 2. Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on 5 May 2022 were approved.**
- 3. Annual Report was delivered by Cllr Cary Matthews, Chairperson of Morecambe Town Council:**

The Chairperson gave thanks to the previous administration for their support over the time they were in post. They made known their appreciation for the debates and discussions that were had to reach a point where the Council as a whole was able to work together as best they could and achieve what they achieved.

The Chairperson gave thanks to staff past and present, acknowledging that while there had been high turnover, all had made significant contributions in their own ways. Town Rangers Scott Harris and Steven Doran were singled out for particular praise for going above and beyond, particularly providing event support at a difficult time, as well as delivering on the weeding service, which was received with applause from those present.

The Chairperson thanked the Proper Officer, Luke Trevaskis, for his advice, guidance, knowledge and expertise as the Council went on a massive learning curve about what can be done and what can be achieved. He was praised as 'a true officer', in that he 'serves the members of the Council, without bias, and serves it well.' This was received with applause from those present.

The Chairperson briefly recapped some of the achievements of the last year in particular - being awarded Quality Gold status in the Local Council Award Scheme; being only the fourth town council chosen to participate in an LGA Peer Review challenge; for securing (and successfully delivering) the weeding service on behalf of the County Council; for working effectively with the different tiers of local authority; and for delivering events that received national and international recognition and coverage. The Chairperson expressed their belief that this was only possible through collaboration, working together, agreeing big aspirations, and trusting in each other and staff to deliver them.

The Chairperson reiterated what a huge privilege it had been. They acknowledged it had been hard and wasn't particularly nice for a while, but that everyone should be very proud of what had been achieved.

The Chairperson concluded with a plea to the new administration to build on the strong foundation laid down by the outgoing administration. They reiterated that it was important to keep on believing in what can be achieved at this tier of local authority, avoiding the mindset of 'just a little town council'. They highlighted that Morecambe and Heysham had a distinct community, town and place to Lancaster with an equivalent population, and that

while the Town Council needs to continue to work together [with other local authorities], the Town Council also needs to focus on providing a service that fulfils the specific needs of that distinct Morecambe and Heysham community. These remarks were received by applause from those present.

**4. Representations were received from electors and community organisations who wished to address the assembly.**

No representations were received.

Meeting concluded at 6.25pm