



Morecambe Town Council

Agenda Morecambe Town Council Full Meeting

Date	21/11/2024
Time	19:00 - 21:00
Location	Morecambe Town Hall, Marine Road Morecambe Lancashire LA4 5AF
Chair	Russell Walsh
Explanation	Dear Councillor,

Dated this fifteenth day of November 2024, you are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Morecambe Town Council to be held at 19:00 on the twenty-first day of November 2024.

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 L Trevaskis, CiLCA, PSLCC.
Chief Executive

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 Planning Application 24/00943/FUL

To discuss the Planning Application for change of use of residential flats (C3) to three short term lets (sui generis) at 36 Sandylands Promenade, Heysham, Lancashire, LA3 1DW.

This application requires the Council to consider the potential benefits of the proposal, as well as legitimate concerns raised by residents, aiming to provide a balanced perspective that aligns with the strategic priorities of the Council and the economic needs of the Town.

Short-term holiday lets can significantly boost the local economy by addressing the increased accommodation needs anticipated with the Eden Project Morecambe, supporting tourism growth, and driving spending in local businesses such as restaurants and shops. They often lead to property improvements, enhancing the area's aesthetic and overall value. Additionally, a well-regulated number of short-term lets can invigorate the community, attract further investment, and help foster a dynamic, vibrant atmosphere. As Morecambe transitions into a prime tourist destination, these flexible housing options have been identified as essential to meeting demand and solidifying the town's reputation as a welcoming and thriving seaside resort.

Whilst some residents have spoken positively of such proposals, especially during consultations held by the Council. Some residents have also raised concerns that the rise of short-term lets in Morecambe could lead to inflated property prices, reducing housing affordability and availability, particularly for younger generations and lower-income families. This could exclude local residents from the property market and

prioritise investor interests, which could lead to displacement. Additionally, an over-concentration of holiday lets may erode community cohesion, as transient guests limit opportunities for neighbourhood interaction and relationship building. Infrastructure strain is another issue, with increased noise, parking challenges, and refuse management problems potentially diminishing the quality of life for permanent residents (although it is noted that these issues may not be as compounded by this application as this proposal does not seek to increase the number of accommodations, but simply change their use).

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Morecambe Town Council resolves that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:

1. Strategic Regulation

Establish a framework to control the quality, quantity and type of short-term lets in Morecambe. This could include setting caps in certain areas.

2. Impact Assessments

Conduct impact assessments to understand how short-term lets affect housing, infrastructure, and local cohesion.

3. Location Prioritisation

Explore designation of specific zones for short-term lets to ensure a balanced distribution across the town.

4. Supportive Policies for Residents

Explore policies to preserve affordable housing stock and protect long-term residents from being displaced.

5. Monitoring and Review

Implement a system to regularly review the impact of short-term lets on the local economy, housing market, and community wellbeing.

6 Community Safety

1. Police Liaison

To consider appointing a member to become a Police Liaison to attend monthly meetings (first Thursday of every month) at Morecambe Police Station, to highlight concerns and discuss challenges faced by stakeholders.

2. LANPAC

To consider an ongoing membership to the Lancashire Partnership Against Crime at a cost of £100pa.

7 Frontierland Project Board

To receive an update from the Chairman in his capacity as the Council's elected member of the project board.

8 Morecambe Post Office

1. To consider writing a letter to Post Office Limited to advocate for the retention of the post office in Morecambe.

Motion: That Morecambe Town Council writes a letter to Post Office Limited, advocating for the retention of Morecambe Post Office and urging them to withdraw any proposals to close the facility. The Post Office is an essential and well-used community service, especially in light of recent closures of local banks.

Rationale: Morecambe Post Office is a vital community service, providing essential postal and banking services to residents, many of whom rely on the Post Office for regular financial transactions, bill payments, and access to postal services. The closure of the Post Office would disproportionately impact vulnerable groups such as the elderly, those with limited digital access, and individuals unable to travel far for banking services.

Given the recent wave of bank closures in Morecambe, the Post Office has become an even more important resource for local residents. Its loss would cause significant hardship, reduce the availability of vital services, and contribute to the further erosion of community cohesion. Furthermore, Morecambe is in the midst of regeneration efforts, and maintaining such essential services will ensure the town remains resilient, especially with the anticipated increase in visitors due to projects like the Eden Project.

The Post Office serves around 3,500 users each week, underscoring its importance to the local economy and community well-being. It is therefore essential that the Council advocate for the retention of Morecambe Post Office to ensure that local residents continue to have access to the services they rely on.

Proposer: Cllr P Hart

Seconder: Cllr J Pilling

2. To consider writing a letter to Lizzi Collinge MP to advocate for the retention of the post office in Morecambe.

Proposer: Cllr R Walsh

Seconder: Cllr B Cooper

9 Remote Meeting Consideration

To consider the drafted responses to the consultation below.

2. Do you agree with the broad principle of granting local authorities powers to allow remote attendance at formal meetings?

Recommended Response: Yes

3. If you answered 'Yes' to question 2, do you think that there should be specific limitations on remote attendance?

Recommended Response: There should be no limitations placed upon councils with regard to setting arrangements for remote attendance of council meetings, up to and including full remote attendance.

Rationale: Councils should have the autonomy to determine their own arrangements for remote attendance, including full remote participation, to enhance flexibility, inclusivity, and adaptability. This approach supports local decision-making, accommodating diverse needs and contexts, such as rural councils with connectivity challenges or councillors with caregiving responsibilities, or work commitments. It fosters greater engagement by reducing travel costs and barriers to participation while ensuring continuity during emergencies like public health crises. Additionally, it aligns with broader goals of inclusivity and sustainability, enabling councils to embrace technological advancements without being hindered by restrictive limitations.

5. If you are responding to this consultation on behalf of a council as a whole, what proportion of the council's current elected members are likely to seek to attend council meetings remotely over the course of a year?

Recommended Response (TBC): Less than 10% / More than 10%, but less than 50% / More than 50% but less than 90% / Most of them 90% to 100%

6. The government recognises that there may be cases in which it is necessary for councils to hold meetings fully remotely. Do you think there should be limitations placed on the number of fully remote meetings councils should be able to hold?

Recommended Response: Councils should be able to allow full remote attendance at up to half of council meetings within a 12-month calendar period.

Rationale: Councils should have the flexibility to allow full remote attendance for up to half of their meetings within a 12-month calendar period. This approach strikes a balance between maintaining in-person engagement and harnessing the cost-saving and accessibility benefits of remote meetings. Holding some meetings remotely can significantly reduce expenses for councils that rent or hire meeting spaces, generating savings for taxpayers. It also provides a practical alternative for routine agenda items or situations where maintaining a quorum might otherwise be challenging. By adopting this hybrid model, councils can ensure operational efficiency and inclusivity while preserving opportunities for meaningful in-person dialogue when necessary.

7. Do you think there are there any necessary procedural measures that would help to ensure a remote or hybrid attendance policy is workable and efficient?

Recommended Response: Councils should be required to ensure that standard constitutional arrangements are followed for hybrid and fully remote meetings. Councils should be required to make arrangements to ensure restricted items (where a council decision is taken in private to protect confidentiality) are managed appropriately and to require remotely attending members to join from a private location.

Rationale: Ensuring that standard constitutional arrangements are adhered to during hybrid and remote meetings helps maintain transparency, accountability, and consistency in council decision-making processes. Managing restricted items appropriately safeguards confidential information, preserving the integrity of discussions involving sensitive topics. Requiring members attending remotely to participate from a private location minimises the risk of breaches of confidentiality and distractions that may compromise the efficiency of the meeting. These measures collectively enhance the workability and credibility of remote or hybrid attendance policies, fostering trust among stakeholders while supporting effective governance.

8. Do you think legislative change to allow councillors to attend local authority meetings remotely should or should not be considered for the following reasons?

Recommended Response: Should be considered because:

- It is a positive modernising measure.
- It would likely increase the diversity of people willing and able to stand for election in their local area, making councils more representative of the communities they serve.
- Councils would be more resilient in the event of local or national emergencies which prevent in-person attendance.
- It would reduce travel for meetings aligns with sustainability goals by decreasing the carbon footprint associated with commuting.

9. In your view, would allowing councillors to attend formal local authority meetings remotely according to their needs particularly benefit or disadvantage individuals with protected characteristics? For example, those with disabilities or caring responsibilities.

Recommended Response: It would benefit members

10. In addition to provisions allowing for remote attendance, do you consider that it would be helpful to introduce proxy voting?

Recommended Response: Yes, if due to: Physical or medical conditions, Caring responsibilities, Parental leave or other responsibilities such as work or prior travel commitments.

Rationale: It is possible some members may find that, due to their personal circumstances, they are temporarily unable to participate in meetings even if remote attendance provisions are in place. Provisions for proxy voting could provide additional flexibility to those who really need it on a time-limited basis, allowing affected members to indirectly exercise their democratic duty, participate in their local authority's governance, and ensure that their views are taken into consideration. In the context of local authorities, the representative would have to be another elected member of the local authority.

10 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 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following business, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons arising from the nature of that

business or of the proceedings."

[\(Public Bodies \(Admission to Meetings\) Act 1960 - Section 1\)](#)

11 Events

To receive an update regarding the Council's Events Schedule for 2025, agreeing the recommendations within the report.

12 Environment Committee

1. To consider the quotes for new noticeboards across the town, and the recommendation of the Environment Committee to accept the proposed budget and preferred supplier.

2. To consider the update regarding the Council's fleet, and consider the recommendation of the Environment Committee.

3. **Part A:** to note the update to the Committee's Terms of Reference to include the below additional area of responsibility (as agreed by the Council at its last meeting):

- ix - delegated to facilitate and deliver a phased Spring Planting Scheme in Morecambe within pre-agreed annual budgets.

Part B: that the Council agrees to review and adjust the current expenditure limits and delegation processes, enabling more effective decision-making within the Environment Committee to avoid delays and ensure projects meet their required timelines.