



## Morecambe Town Council

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Proper Officer: Mr Luke Trevaskis

### Members of Morecambe Town Council

*Cllr R Walsh - Chairman*  
*Cllr G Knight - Vice Chairman*

*Cllr C Ainscough, Cllr J Ainscough, Cllr D Blacow, Cllr D Bottoms, Cllr L Bradbury, Cllr P Clarke, Cllr B Cooper, Cllr F Cooper, Cllr C Cozler, Cllr R Dennison, Cllr W Dixon, Cllr K Gee, Cllr P Hart, Cllr J Goodrich, Cllr J Hanson, Cllr C Kent, Cllr D Knight, Cllr J Livermore, Cllr M Pattison, Cllr J Pilling, Cllr J Rogerson, Cllr J Slater, Cllr M Stenneken, Cllr D Whitaker*

## **Minutes of Morecambe Town Council's Full Council Meeting held at 7pm on the 21st November 2024 at Morecambe Town Hall, Marine Road, Morecambe, LA4 5AF.**

### **Record of Attendance:**

**Councillors:** R Walsh (Chairman), C Ainscough, J Ainscough, D Blacow, D Bottoms, L Bradbury, B Cooper, R Dennison, W Dixon, J Goodrich, J Hanson, P Hart, C Kent, D Knight, G Knight, J Livermore, M Pattison, J Rogerson, J Slater, D Whittaker.

**Officers:** Luke Trevaskis, Peter Fisher, Joel Turner, Helen Freeborough

**Press:** Beyond Radio

**Public:** 0

### **Minute 2024/25 - 052- Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance received from Cllrs J Rogerson, R Walsh (Chairperson).

The meeting was chaired by Cllr G Knight (Vice Chairperson).

### **Minute 2024/25 - 053- Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs M Pattinson and D Bottoms declared as a member of Lancaster City Council Planning Committee.

Cllrs R Dennison, P Hart, M Pattison, M Bottoms, J Livermore, J Ainscough declared an interest as a Councillor of Lancaster City Council.

Cllrs C Ainscough and D Whittaker declared they are employees of Lancashire County Council.

Cllr M Pattison declared an interest as a Councillor of Lancashire County Council.

Cllr D Bottoms declared an interest in Item 8 regarding the Post Office.

### **Minute 2024/25 - 054 - Minutes**

The minutes of the last full council meeting were approved.

### **Minute 2024/25 - 055 - Public Participation**

None members of the public attended the meeting.

### **Minute 2024/25 - 056 - Planning Application 24/00943/FUL**

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

The Council resolved the below recommendations for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:

- Establish a framework to control the quality, quantity and type of short term lets in Morecambe
- Conduct impact assessments to understand how short-term lets affect housing, infrastructure, and local cohesion
- Explore designation of specific zones for short-term lets to ensure a balanced distribution across the town
- Explore policies to preserve affordable housing stock and protect long-term residents from being displaced
- Implement a system to regularly review the impact of short-term lets on the local economy, housing market and community well being.

### **Minute 2024/25 - 057 - Community Safety**

Cllr G Knight updated members on Community safety and asked Members to consider as follow

1. *To consider appointing a member to become a Police Liaison to attend monthly meetings at Morecambe Police station.* Cllr Paul Hart reported that he attended a meeting with the local Police in November and reported that the Police are very willing to do things if they can get evidence and reminded members that evidential requirements are very strict. Cllr Brett Cooper suggested that each party should nominate one Councillor who is willing to be a Police Liaison Officer and that they

should work together on representing the council. The Council approved the following members as Police Liaison member for Morecambe Town Council - Cllr Claire Cozler (Labour), Cllr Paul Hart (Liberal Democrat), Cllr Geoff Knight (MBI).

The Council voted not to pass the resolution to join Lancashire Partnership Against Crime (LANPAC).

### **Minute 2024/25 - 058 - Frontierland Project Board**

Members received an update on the Frontierland site from a representative of Lancaster City Council.

He reported that a Project Board has been established for over 12 months with members drawn from a range of organisations.

A recent Property Developers event took place at the Winter Gardens to receive an update and a site visit to the old Frontierland site. It was reported that there is a healthy level of interest in the site.

In response to questions from Members, it was confirmed that the City Council is looking for a single site approach, that interested parties should contain parking considerations in their bid and that all bids need to clearly answer how they will deliver social value through their plans. The question of whether the land is either going to be freehold or leasehold will depend on the final use of the land.

A scoring framework was detailed to the Council, and some questions were raised. The Council was advised the timescale for the project is that scoring will be completed by February 2025, outline plans to be submitted by end July 2025, evaluated by Summer 2025, reported to Cabinet end November 2025 with a contract award January 2026. The Council requested further clarification regarding the scoring matrix that was being used, and the weightings given to responses to each criteria.

### **Minute 2024/25 - 059 - Morecambe Post Office**

Members were asked to consider writing a letter to Post Office Limited to advocate for the retention of the Post Office in Morecambe.

Following a discussion about the potential Post Office closure and the impact this would have on the town.

*Members voted in favour of sending a letter to Post Office Limited.*

Cllr G Knight also updated council members that MP Lizzie Collinge has already written to the post office.

### **Minute 2024/25 - 060 - Remote Meeting Consideration**

Members were asked to consider the draft responses to the remote meeting consultation which is an initiative the Government is now considering restarting to enable remote meeting attendance of elected members (during the Pandemic draft legislation was introduced to allow local governance to be carried out remotely - this legislation has now expired).

Cllr G Knight reminded members that at this stage this is simply a consultation exercise by the Government.

Members considered the draft responses and voted to support the plans. However, there was no support agreed for proxy voting.

### **Minute 2024/25 - 061 - Exclusion of the Press and Public**

- The Council resolved 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](#))

## **Minute 2024/25 - 062 - Events**

Members received an update regarding the Council’s Events Schedule for 2025.

**80th Anniversary of VE Day:** members agreed that this would be facilitated by officers and the Festival and Events Committee.

**Kite Festival:** members considered the proposal and agreed to delegate the progress of the event to officers, and the Festivals and Events Committee, in accordance with the content and recommendations within the report.

## **Minute 2024/25 - 063 - Environment Committee**

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

*Members approved the recommendation and costs as outlined within the report.*

2. Members were asked to consider the report regarding the Council’s fleet vehicles and consider the recommendation of the Environment Committee.

*Members approved the recommendation, noting that it was unable to secure a better price for comparable vehicles based upon current supplies. Members agreed that there should not be a tender process for this expenditure, and instead the chosen supplier identified within the report should be used, and it was agreed that the cost was delivering good value for money.*

3. Part A: Members asked to note the update to the Environment Committee Terms of Reference to include the additional area of responsibility as follows:

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

*Members voted to approve the environment committee recommendations.*

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 project meet their required timescales,

*Members voted to approve the recommendation, removing the cap on expenditure of individual items or projects. With the Environment Committee now delegated to incur expenditure within the limits set by its budget allocations.*