



Minutes of Environment Committee Meeting of Morecambe Town Council held at Morecambe Town Hall at 18.00 on the twentieth November 2024

Members present: Councillors Clark Kent (Chair), Joanne Ainscough, Claire Cozler, Paul Hart, Geoff Knight, John Livermore.

In attendance: Luke Trevaskis, Helen Freeborough, Peter Fisher, Joel Turner

Minute EC2425 - 014 - Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs J Rogerson, D Blacow, J Slater.

Minute EC2425 - 015 - Declarations of Interest

None.

Minute EC2425 - 016 - Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Minute EC2425 - 017 - Public Participation

None.

Minute EC2425 - 018 - Noticeboards

Discussions with Lancaster City Council have provided an opportunity to install an additional noticeboard in Happy Mount Park, Morecambe. Members agreed that they would approve an additional noticeboard at a cost of £3500.00. Members noted the full budget for this project would be approved by full council.

Minute EC2425 - 019 - Allotments

Committee was provided with an update on the West End and Heysham Allotment Association and Members were asked to note the positive outcomes of recent discussions with the association following the Committee's recommendation that regular ongoing conversations should continue with the association.

Members were asked to note as follows:

- the Council is engaged in an ongoing regular dialogue with the Allotment Association
- the Finance Officer has met with the Treasurer of the Allotment Association to discuss digitisation of their records
- The Council has produced a welfare document for allotment holders to address some of the concerns raised with regard to chickens and welfare standards at the site. This has been well received.

Minute EC2425 - 020 - Spring Flower Beds

Members were asked to note the Spring Planting update.

Officers have successfully secured an order for 8000 mixed ranunculus which are expected to arrived in March 2025. The plants will be used to enhance public spaces across the town.

Members were asked to note that a new Town Ranger has been offered employment at the Council and will commence work in mid-late December. The Town Ranger has been recruited to provide additional support to the team during the busy planting season, as previously agreed.

Officers advised that an operational strategy document is currently being created and will be shared with Members in early 2025. The document will outline key milestones and also identify opportunities to involve the community in the planting process.

Cllr Clark Kent updated committee on a meeting that took place (19/11) with Lancaster City Council (Will Griffiths) regarding Spring Planting. Lancaster City Council have asked for details of how Morecambe Town Council will operationally carry out the Spring Planting. Morecambe Town Council will send an outline proposal to Lancaster City Council for review.

Members voted to approve Chief Officer to write to Lancaster City Council with Morecambe Town Council Spring Planting plan.

Minute EC2425 - 021 - Land Parcels

Committee to receive an update from Members who visited Alexandra Park and to consider any actions.

Cllr Ainscough update that the UKSPF has granted £100k for improvement works to be carried out in Alexandra Park and the surrounding area. This work would be carried out by Lancaster City Council.

Cllr Ainscough suggested that a discussion about the ongoing management of Alexandra Park could be had in the new financial year (April 2025).

Members agreed to continue with the land parcel surveys that are currently being planned for early December in Marylands Square and Mardale Avenue, Morecambe.

Minute EC2425 - 022 - 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\)](#)

Minute EC2425 - 023 - Fleet

Members were asked review adjustments to prior vehicle purchase plans, considering current availability and constraints, particularly around adaptations needed for six seater cabs (and the fact that this can no longer be undertaken on the new model).

Officers recommended that the Council consider purchasing three vehicles (1x Renault Master E-Tech Tipper, and 2 x Renault Master E-Tech Van), at a cost to the the Council of £139,267.00 (supplemented by a £30k contribution for Lancashire County Council through the delivery of the weed control service - providing an actual cost of £109,267.00)

The total cost would draw from the FY2425 fleet budget (£80,000), contingency funds (£15,000) and the proposed FY2526 fleet budget (£45,000).

The Council could then pursue the sale of its current vehicle when the new fleet arrives, to reduce net costs further.

Members approved the recommendation. To be brought to Full Council November 2024.

Minute EC2425 - 024 - Budget Bid FY2526

Members considered the proposed budget bid for FY2025-26.

The Committee agreed to the proposed budget bid FY2526 of £482,500.00.