



# KIRKHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2024, 7.00 PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, MILL STREET, KIRKHAM

### Attendees:

Chris Hopkinson	Councillor (Cllr.) and Chair
Neil Byers	Cllr.
James Cameron	Cllr.
Stewart Jones	Cllr.
Maggie Ledger	Cllr.
Shaun Patchett	Cllr.
Peter Sutcliffe	Cllr.
Michelle Welch	Cllr.
Tony Wellings	Cllr.
Elizabeth Squires - Minutes	Town Clerk

### 24/02/01 Apologies for Absence

*To accept apologies for absence.*

Apologies were received from Cllr. Diane Ireland.

### 24/02/02 Declarations of Interest

*To receive any declarations of interest in an Agenda item. Members are reminded that in accordance with Section 94 of the Local Government Act, 1972, and the Council's Standing Orders, any direct or pecuniary or other interest should be declared.*

No declarations were made.

### 24/02/03 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

*To accept as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 January 2024.*

Minutes were accepted as a true record. These were proposed and seconded.

### 24/02/04 Public Participation

*Matters brought to the Town Council by residents. The Chair may limit a member of the public to 3 minutes of speaking in order to ensure the smooth running of*

*the meeting. Overall, this section will typically be limited to 20 minutes, although the Chair may, at their discretion, extend this.*

No members of the public were in attendance.

**24/02/05 Policing**

The police were unable to attend the meeting due to operational commitments.

**24/02/06 Matters Arising**

Matters arising from the January 2024 meeting were addressed as part of the agenda, except for:

(i) Willows Church – Waste Bin

The Town Clerk reported that Father Andrew at the Willows does not require a further bin.

(ii) Bowling Green

Estates at Fylde Council are still in communication with the lease holders of the bowling green. The Chair outlined that he has been in communication with Fylde Council and a response is pending.

(iii) Signage

Not actioned. The Town Clerk asked attendees to raise any issues with signing, particularly in respect of promoting the free parking within the town.

**24/02/07 Mayors Announcements**

(i) Events Attended

The Mayor has not attended any events since the last Town Council meeting. The Deputy Mayor (Cllr. Jones) had attended the Holocaust remembrance.

(ii) Lancashire Devolution

Cllr. Jones outlined the aim of the proposed Lancashire Devolution and the importance of this. The consultation process has closed and the results are being reviewed.

(iii) Mayor's Christmas Luncheon

The Chair asked the Cllrs. if they would be happy for the Town Council to provide a Christmas luncheon for the elderly residents. Options were discussed. Cllr. Sutcliffe offered to provide staff to cook the food.

(iv) D Day 80 Beacons

Cllr. Byers raised the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day and asked if the Town Council had an intention of commemorating this event with a beacon. Cllrs. agreed in principle, Cllr. Byers to liaise with Fylde Council contractors about a beacon.

**ACTION: Cllr. Byers to review options and feed back to the March Town Council meeting.**

(v) Lancashire Highways Update

Cllr. Jones informed the meeting about the pending works required on the highways such as repair of pot holes. He confirmed that he can monitor what has been recorded on Love Clean Streets and also at what stage each piece of work is.

Cllr. Sutcliffe raised concern about the blocked drains on Preston Street. Cllr. Hopkinson stated that Eric Wright will be responsible for cleaning these areas when the Market Square has been renovated.

Cllr. Sutcliffe raised concern about the width of Poulton Street, near the pedestrian crossing.

(vi) Civility and Respect Pledge

Cllr. Jones outlined the NALC Civility and Respect Pledge and how good governance impacts on local authorities, councils and parishes. Cllrs. agreed that behaviours are key. Cllrs. voted to accept and abide by the Civility and Respect Pledge.

**ACTION: Cllr. Jones to provide a copy of the document for formal authorisation.**

(vii) Capital Schemes 2024/25

Included in item 24/02/07 (viii) below.

(viii) Precept 2024/25

Cllr. Byers presented the precept working document to the Cllrs. This included ongoing work that has yet to be invoiced (for example South View drainage work) and larger schemes for 2024/25 (such as The Close Park, replacement of CCTV, lamp refurbishment of Mill Street car park).

Cllrs. discussed the sensitivity around increases in the value paid per household. Cllr. Byers explained that if grant funding is secured the bank balance will be more favourable. The Chair stated that that money was being spent in 2024/25 for the betterment of residents and not to increase bank balances.

Cllr. Byers proposed a rise in precept, this was seconded and voted upon. Five Cllrs. agreed the rise in precept and three did not. The precept to be increased.

(ix) Mayoralty 2024/25

A discussion was undertaken about the process for electing both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that NALC had advised that each year the Cllrs. should vote for these positions as things change.

Each Cllr. was given the opportunity to voice their view. Cllrs. agreed that this had been a difficult year for Kirkham and there was a need for continuity. One Cllr. proposed Cllr. Jones and this was seconded. A further proposal was to keep Cllr. Hopkinson as Mayor, this was also seconded. Cllrs. voted that Cllr. Hopkinson remain as Mayor in 2024/25.

Cllr. Hopkinson proposed that Cllr. Jones remain as Deputy Mayor, this was seconded. Cllrs. voted to keep Cllr. Jones as Deputy Mayor for 2024/25.

**24/02/08 Leisure Parks and Open Spaces (LPAOS)**

(i) South View – Update

Cllr. Wellings provided an update on the work at South View. A second drain is due to be repaired. Other works will be completed when the land has dried.

The Chair asked that the Cllrs. ratify the decision to commence with additional work on South View. This was proposed and seconded.

(ii) Memorial Park

The waterlogged area in Memorial Park will be repaired when the contractor has completed the work at South View.

(iii) St. George's Park Pond

The Town Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for ongoing maintenance of the pond on St. George's Park.

(iv) Gullies on Mill Street Car Park

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the gullies on Mill Street car park have been cleaned.

(v) Tarmac Repairs, Mill Street Car Park

Cllr. Wellings informed the meeting that an order had been raised for the tarmac work to repair Mill Street car park.

(vi) Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms

Cllr. Wellings informed the meeting that Fylde MP Mark Menzies is taking the petition to the Houses of Parliament (2 March 2024), four local Cllrs. have been invited to attend 10 Downing Street to support this.

(vii) Twinning Update

Cllr. Wellings attended the Epiphany event at St. Michael's Church.

Cllr. Wellings stated that he would be happy to represent the Town Council at the Twinning Association celebrations in Ancenis in the summer to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

(viii) Water Supply to the Building in the Park on Barnfield

Cllr. Wellings informed the meeting that United Utilities have quoted in excess of £2,000 to re install water to the building in the play park. Cllr. Wellings has requested a breakdown of costs.

(ix) Lighting Survey Mill Street Car Park

The Town Council's contractor has undertaken a survey of the lighting columns on Mill Street car park, most required replacement. A quote has been requested. Cllr. Patchett left the meeting.

**24/02/09 Planning**

Planning details were added to the Kirkham Town Council meeting agenda. These continue to be forwarded to the Cllrs. when they are received by the Town Clerk.

(i) Applications: Fylde Council

Applications were noted, not objections were made.

(ii) Decisions: Fylde Council

Decisions were noted.

**24/02/10 Finances**

(i) Payment of Invoices

Cllr. Byers presented the invoices pending approval. The Council approved payment of all invoices noted at Appendix B (i) except the payment for fire doors as the work is not complete. A payment to the Town Clerk was made to reimburse for the payment of keys for William Segar Hodgson Pavillion and also refreshments for Town Council meetings. Cllrs. approved the invoices for payment.

(ii) Presentation of Bank Balances as at 8 February2024

The Cllrs. noted the bank balances as at 8 February2024. The movement of finances into a higher interest account was not feasible at present due to larger purchases. VAT for the first 6 months has been claimed and is reflected in the current account balance and the remaining 6 months of the financial year will be claimed in April 2024.

**24/02/11 Bookings**

General Update

The Town Clerk informed the Town Council that facilities continue to be hired. There are a couple of new hirers at William Segar Hodgson Pavillion.

**Part 2 Exclusion of Press and Public – Confidential Items Discussion (In Committee)**

*The proposal is for:*

*Exclusion of Press and Public Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and defined in Paragraph 1, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. It is proposed that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the press and public are excluded from the forthcoming items of business.*

***Councillors are asked to agree this action and this will be minuted.***

Councillors agreed exclusion of the members of the public, and no press were present.

**No update and no discussion.**



**24/02/15 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 March 2024 @ 7.00 pm, Fylde Cllrs. be invited to a pre meet.

Signed



Cllr. Hopkinson, Mayor and Chair



Elizabeth Squires, Town Clerk