



KIRKHAM

TOWN COUNCIL

The Community Centre
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2024, 7.00 PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, MILL STREET, KIRKHAM

Attendees:

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

24/04/01 **Apologies for Absence**

To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Maggie Ledger.

24/04/02 **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.

24/04/03 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To accept as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 March 2024.

Minutes were accepted as a true record. These were proposed by Cllr. Byers and seconded by Cllr. Cameron.

24/04/04 **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.

Two members of the public were in attendance. They could not locate agenda or minutes on the Town Council website. Cllr. Byers stated that the documents were

on the current website. The Town Clerk informed them that the website is being updated however documents were being posted in the usual manner.

They raised their concerns about potholes in Kirkham (the Chair reiterated that this is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council). Cllr. Jones informed them of work scheduled for Kirkham and requested their email addresses for him to update them.

They also enquired about the closure of the fracking site on Blackpool Road. Cllr. Jones provided a response and will chase this from a Lancashire County Council perspective.

They raised concerns about Poulton Street and the recent road closures and the Thursday market. The Chair provided an update.

The residents also queried the percentage rise in the precept. The Chair explained the rationale for this and described the projects being undertaken by the council in 2024/25.

24/04/05 Policing

The police provided an update to the Cllrs. at the pre-meeting.

24/04/06 Matters Arising

Matters arising from the 19 March 2024 meeting were addressed as part of the agenda, except for:

(i) Signage

The Town Clerk presented the quote provided for improved signage. The specification has yet to be agreed. Cllrs. discussed other areas that will require signage, for example Mill Street car park is not clearly signed as being free of charge. Cllr. Sutcliffe asked if entry points into Kirkham highlighted the free parking in the town. Cllr. Ireland described other methods of promoting the town. These issues to be discussed at the LPAOS Committee in the first instance with recommendations being brought to the Town Council.

ACTION: Town Clerk to obtain quotations for additional signage and present them for approval.

(ii) D Day 80 Beacons

Cllr. Byers informed the meeting that a skip has been obtained to build a beacon in commemoration of D Day 80 Beacons. Publicity material is due from the Ministry of Defence, Cllr. Tony Wellings will attend the lighting of the beacon.

(iii) Civility and Respect Pledge

Cllr. Jones will send the information for the Civility and Respect Pledge to all Cllrs.

(iv) Information Board

No update was available. The Town Clerk stated that there was a notice board in the park on Barnfield and she would try to get the key for this so it can be utilised.

24/04/07 Mayors Announcements

(i) Events Attended

The Mayor has not attended any events since the last Town Council meeting.

(ii) Twinning

Cllr. Wellings discussed the Twinning event in Ancenis. He will represent the Town Council.

(iii) The Close Park

The Close Park refurbishment is underway. The fencing, that has been removed and was being disposed of by the contractor, has been reused on the In Bloom allotment plot. The project will be completed by end April 2024. The Town Clerk has received two thank you letters from residents.

(iv) St. George's Park Pond

The water level on the pond has risen again. The Town Council are seeking a longer-term solution to this problem. This will be addressed when the weather is more favourable.

(v) Skip Hire

The Town Clerk asked if a skip could be purchased for the removal of all the rubbish that has accrued in the bin area. The Cllrs. agreed the purchase.

(vi) Disabled Facility Community Centre

The Town Clerk informed the Cllrs. that work on the disabled facility is due to commence, the contractors are working around the room hire by the Pre School.

(vii) Grant – William Segar Hodgson

A grant has been obtained for the refurbishment William Segar Hodgson/pavilion. When this has been received the Town Clerk will liaise with the Cllrs. about how this income will be put to good use.

(viii) CCTV

The grant from the Police Commissioner is due to be paid.

24/04/08 Leisure Parks and Open Spaces (LPAOS)

(i) Feedback LPAOS Issues

There has been no meeting since the 19 March 2024 Town Council meeting, therefore no update.

(ii) Flooding

Cllr. Wellings and the Town Clerk have attended a meeting with the Brookwood Park Action Group. An update was provided by Cllr. Wellings.

(iii) In Bloom

Cllr. Welch updated the meeting about work undertaken by the In Bloom volunteers. Planting up of the Station Road plot is due to be undertaken by the volunteers. Carr Lane will also be cleared and planted up in due course. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that a separate bank account was to be used for In Bloom income and expenditure.

24/04/09 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

There was only one application to note, no objections were made.

(ii) Decisions: Fylde Council

Decisions were noted.

24/04/10 Finances

(i) Payment of Invoices

Cllr. Byers presented the invoices pending approval, two additional invoices were also noted. Cllr. Welch declared an interest for In Bloom payments. All invoices were approved for payment. The Town Clerk also informed the Cllrs. of larger invoices that will be due for authorisation at the next Town Council meeting.

(ii) Presentation of Bank Balances as at 4 April 2024

The Cllrs. noted the bank balances as at 4 April 2024. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the VAT return will be made after the transactions have been reviewed, and the first precept payment from Fylde Council has been made for 2024/25.

24/04/11 Bookings

General Update

The Town Clerk informed the Town Council that facilities continue to be hired and there are potential new hire opportunities at William Segar Hodgson Pavillion.

Regular users of the Community Centre have been contacted to inform them of the forthcoming work on the disabled facility.

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 (no attendees), and no press were present.

There were two items discussed In Committee.

24/04/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 May 2024 @ 7.00 pm.

Signed: 14 May 2024

Cllr. Hopkinson, Mayor and Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Cllr. Hopkinson', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Squires, Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Elizabeth Squires', written in a cursive style.