



KIRKHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Community Centre
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2026, 7.00 PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, KIRKHAM

ATTENDEES:

Adam Brierley	Councillor (Cllr.)
Neil Byers	Cllr. and Chair
James Cameron	Cllr.
Julia Hesketh	Cllr.
Chris Hopkinson	Cllr.
Diane Ireland	Cllr.
Maggie Ledger	Cllr.
Elizabeth Squires (Minutes)	Town Clerk and RFO

26/03/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Jones and Sutcliffe. Lancashire County Cllr. Josh Roberts has also given apologies. Cllr. Byers chaired the meeting.

26/03/02 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.

26/03/03 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To accept as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10 February 2026.

The 10 February 2026 minutes were proposed and seconded. Members who had attended this meeting voted:

Voting: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

To accept as a correct record the minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 17 February 2026.

The 17 February 2026 minutes were proposed and seconded. Members who had attended this meeting voted:

Voting: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

Cllr. Ledger asked one resident for clarification in respect of if they were recording the meeting. They stated they were not.

26/03/04 LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY UPDATE

Deferred until next meeting.

26/03/05 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.

There were three members of public in attendance. One member of the public left the meeting to make a phone call; the Chair waited for their return before commencing with the meeting. No issues were raised.

26/03/06 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR (FYLDE EAST) AND CABINET MEMBER (RURAL AFFAIRS, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES)

(i) Update

Although this is a standing agenda item the availability of Cllr. Roberts and his work commitments impact on his attendance. Deferred until next meeting.

Cllr. Brierley asked members if they were in agreement to the wording of his letter in respect of the Milbanke petition. This was proposed and seconded. Members voted:

Voting: 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

26/03/07 MATTERS ARISING

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

(i) Boiler at the Community Centre

The Town Clerk updated the members that a meeting is still be arranged with the supplier.

26/03/08 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Events Attended

The Mayor has attended Blackburn Cathedral.

(ii) **UK Town of Culture**

The Town Clerk outlined the Expression of Interest for the UK Town of Culture. The bid is being driven by Fylde Council with input from key stakeholders in Kirkham, such as community groups. Members will be able to comment on the bid prior to submission.

(iii) **Annual Meeting of the Town Council and Mayor Making 15 May 2026**

The Annual Meeting of the Town Council (and Mayor Making) will take place on Friday 15 May 2026. This will be a short agenda. The meeting of 12 May 2026 will proceed as normal. If the Town Council do not go into purdah the 14 April 2026 meeting will proceed as normal, however more will be known after 30 March 2026.

26/03/09 LEISURE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

(i) **LPAOS Issues**

- **2026/27 Contract with Fylde Council**

The grounds maintenance contract with Fylde Council has been agreed at £192,000 without the provision of tree services. This was originally pitched at £205,000, an increase of £26,000. Options for 2027/28 were discussed.

- **Kirkham Juniors Football Club**

Cllr. Brierley provided an update on funding arrangements (crowdfunder) for Kirkham Juniors Football Club for works on the William Segar Hodgson playing fields.

A longer-term (10 year) lease or rental agreement is required as donors want assurance that the project is not short term. The land is owned by the William Segar Hodgson Trust therefore exclusivity cannot be granted.

Members discussed options and how the football club's crowdfunder could be supported. A 10-year rental agreement was proposed and seconded. Members voted:

Voting: 4 for, 2 against, 1 abstention.

- **Bowling Club**

The Bowling Club electricity supply has been re-instated; legionella testing will commence.

- **Peoples' Park**

The lease on Peoples' Park is being addressed.

- **Allotments**

The Town Clerk provided an update.

- **The Close Park, Rename and Wall**

The Close Park will be renamed Brūkenau Park. The signage has been agreed.

Adrian Long has asked if artwork can be painted onto the wall in the park, this will be undertaken in conjunction with Carr Hill Academy. This was proposed and seconded. Members voted:

Voting: 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

A resident who lives near The Close Park has raised concerns about potential vehicular access and has asked if there a way that the area can be cordoned off to stop vehicles using the park.

The Town Clerk to obtain costings for cordoning off the entrance from Turnberry Close.

- Remembrance Sunday – Route and 100 Year Celebration

An attendee has asked if the procession route and the order of the procession can be the same from the memorial after the service as it is going to the service. This was proposed and seconded. Members voted:

Voting: 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

The Town Clerk will liaise with attendees to confirm arrangements.

(ii) **In Bloom Update**

The Town Clerk has asked for additional volunteers on Facebook. Wooden surrounds to be built around the planters at the top of Carr Lane. Other resident asks were reported. Residents on The Spinnings want to do some voluntary work in areas around the estate.

Concerns were raised about the public right of way leading from the Kingfisher to Wesham.

26/03/10 PLANNING

Fylde Council planning details are added to the Kirkham Town Council meeting agenda. These continue to be forwarded to the members when they are received by the Town Clerk.

(i) **Applications**

Agenda reported applications were discussed. The applications were proposed and seconded. Members voted:

Voting: 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

(ii) **Decisions**

An additional decision was presented in respect of 8 Poulton Street Kirkham. The decisions were noted.

26/03/11 FINANCES

(i) **Ratification of the Payment of Invoices**

Cllr. Byers presented the invoices paid during February 2026. The payment of invoices was proposed and seconded. Members voted:

Voting: 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

(ii) **Presentation of Bank Balance(s) 5 March 2026**

Members noted the bank balance(s) as at 5 March 2026. The VAT return for February 2026 has been submitted.

(iii) **Transfer of Funds**

The interest earned on the Corporate Notice account will be withdrawn to support the 2026/27 precept when Cllr. Byers has been added as a signatory.

26/03/12 EVENTS

(i) **Update**

Cllr. Byers presented the events that will occur in 2026.

(ii) **Kirkham Spring Festival**

Cllr. Byers has a meeting arranged with the event organiser.

26/03/13 BOOKINGS

(i) **Update**

The Town Clerk provided an update.

26/03/14 STAFFING

Nothing to report.

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.

26/03/15 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 May 2026 at 7.00pm, Kirkham Community Centre if the Town Council move into purdah. Decision making committees cannot proceed if the Town Council move into purdah. If the Town Council do not move into purdah the 14 April 2026 meeting will go ahead.

Signed

Cllr. Jones, Mayor and Chair

Dated:

Elizabeth Squires, Town Clerk