



# KIRKHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2025, 7.00 PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, MILL STREET, KIRKHAM

### ATTENDEES:

Chris Hopkinson	Chair and Mayor
Neil Byers	Cllr.
James Cameron	Cllr.
Diane Ireland	Cllr.
Stewart Jones	Cllr.
Maggie Ledger	Cllr.
Shaun Patchett	Cllr.
Michelle Welch	Cllr.
Tony Wellings	Cllr.
Elizabeth Squires (Minutes)	Town Clerk and RFO

### 25/02/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*To accept apologies for absence.*

Apologies were received from Cllr. Peter Sutcliffe. Cllr. Wellings informed the meeting that he had to leave at 8.30 pm.

### 25/02/02 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.*

The Chair declared an interest in Christmas Lights and the reimbursement for a payment made for a fridge freezer.

### 25/02/03 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

*To accept as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 14 January 2025.*

The minutes were proposed and seconded by Cllrs. who had attended and they voted to accept as a true record.

Voting: 9 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

**25/02/04 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.*

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**25/02/05 LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY – POLICING MATTERS**

PCSO Giddings provided the Cllrs. with an update of recent incidents within Kirkham. He also discussed the benefits generated by the Town Council's boxing grant and how this incentive will continue in future periods.

**25/02/06 MATTERS ARISING**

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

(i) **Wrangway Wood**

The issue raised by the police has been escalated to Fylde Council for action.

(ii) **Mill Street Car Park Lighting**

The Town Council's contractor has been contacted and a response is imminent.

(iii) **Eagles Court Car Park**

A sign has been installed at Eagles Court car park to remind users that it is short stay (2 hours) only.

(iv) **Market Square Lighting**

The lighting at Market Square to be changed from the Christmas theme.

**ACTION: Cllr. Byers to re-set the lighting scheme at Market Square.**

(v) **Leak in Memorial Park**

The leak in the Memorial Park is scheduled for investigation.

(vi) **The Loom**

A local supplier has been contacted for a quote to repair the Loom on Station Road.

**25/02/07 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(i) **Events Attended**

The Mayor attended Burns Night, this was well received by the residents. Cllr. Jones, the Deputy Mayor attended the Holocaust Memorial Day and the Indian Independence Day.

(ii) **Boiler, Community Centre**

A meeting has taken place with the supplier who installed the boiler, they have been provided with information to assist them in respect of further action.

(iii) **Christmas Lights**

The Chair declared an interest in this subject and abstained from decision making. Cllr. Byers briefed the meeting about the Christmas Lights proposal. The proposal was made and this was seconded. Cllr. Hopkinson did not vote.

Voting: 7 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions.

(iv) **Property World**

The proposal for Property World to further develop both the website and Facebook was discussed. Cllrs. agreed to initially trial the proposal for six months.

A proposal was made to trial for six months and this was seconded.

Voting: 9 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

(v) **Highways Reporting Update (Cllr. Jones)**

Cllr. Jones provided an update on the Love Clean Streets application for reporting Lancashire County Council (LCC) issues. Alternatively, residents can call 0300 123 6780 to report issues or contact Cllr. Jones on his LCC email address [stewart.jones@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.jones@lancashire.gov.uk) or mobile 07890 025726. The Town Councillors raised issues that were clarified.

(vi) **Bowling Green**

The Chair informed the meeting that discussions were ongoing with Fylde Council and Jones Homes (Emmerson) about the transfer of the lease to Kirkham Town Council when the lease with Fylde Council expires later in the year.

(vii) **Kirkham Baths**

Fylde Council now own Kirkham Baths. A longer-term plan for the baths is to be confirmed in due course, by Fylde Council.

(viii) **People's Park**

Discussion with LCC is ongoing.

(ix) **Kirkham Juniors FC**

Cllrs. discussed the requests for additional footballing teams for the use of existing areas. This to be raised through the LPAOS Committee.

**ACTION: Cllr. Welch to discuss options with those requesting use.**

Kirkham Juniors FC have met with the Chair and the Town Clerk about future footballing needs. Options were noted. Kirkham Juniors FC to liaise directly with third party providers.

The Town Clerk informed the Cllrs. about a request from Kirkham Juniors FC for the storage of goal posts and nets. This item to be discussed at LPAOS Committee.

(x) **William Segar Hodgson, Banking Hub**

The Chair informed the meeting that a 6-8 month hire of William Segar Hodgson had been agreed in principle. The contract will be signed pending approval by the Town Council. The hire was proposed and seconded. Cllrs. voted:

Voting: 9 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

(xi) **Precept 2025/26**

Cllr. Wellings requested a recorded vote with names. Cllrs. agreed with of one Cllr. Cllr. Byers walked the other Cllrs. through the precept workings and assumptions and schemes that may or may not progress depending on the increase. Cllr. Wellings queried if the Town Council was receiving value for money in respect of the grounds maintenance contract and that this should be tested. Cllr. Hopkinson summarised the impact on reserves. Cllr. Ledger asked what the 12% increase would equate to for residents. Cllr. Byers informed her that this would equate to 80 pence per month based on a Band D property.

Cllr. Hopkinson proposed a 12% increase and to undertake the schemes identified for 2025/26, Cllr. Ireland seconded this proposal. Cllrs. voted on the proposed increase of 12%.

Voting

7 Cllrs. voted for the increase:

Cllr. Chris Hopkinson;

Cllr. Neil Byers;

Cllr. Diane Ireland;

Cllr. Stewart Jones;

Cllr. Maggie Ledger;

Cllr. Shaun Patchett; and

Cllr. Michelle Welch.

1 Cllr. voted against the increase:

Cllr. Tony Wellings.

1 abstention.

Cllr. Wellings left the meeting.

**25/02/08 LPAOS**

Deferred to the 11 March 2025 Town Council meeting.

**25/02/09 PLANNING**

Fylde Council planning details are 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**

None.

**(ii) Decisions**

An additional decision was presented by the Town Clerk. Decisions were noted.

**25/02/10 FINANCES**

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

Cllr. Byers presented the invoices paid during January 2025. The payment of invoices was ratified, proposed, and seconded. Cllrs. voted with the exception of Cllr. Hopkinson who had declared an interest:

Voting: 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

**(ii) Presentation of Bank Balance(s) 6 February 2025**

Cllrs. noted the bank balance(s) as at 6 February 2025.

**25/02/11 BOOKINGS**

**General Update**

No update, covered above at 25/02/07 (xi).

**25/02/12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 March 2025 @ 7.00 pm, note pre-meet arranged for 6.00 pm.

**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.

No issues discussed. A Staffing Committee meeting is scheduled.

**Signed**

**Cllr. Hopkinson, Mayor and Chair**

**Elizabeth Squires, Town Clerk**