



# KIRKHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 8 APRIL 2025, 7.00 PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, MILL STREET, KIRKHAM

### ATTENDEES:

Chris Hopkinson	Chair and Mayor
Neil Byers	Cllr.
James Cameron	Cllr.
Maggie Ledger	Cllr.
Peter Sutcliffe	Cllr.
Michelle Welch	Cllr.
Elizabeth Squires (Minutes)	Town Clerk and RFO

25/04/01

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*To accept apologies for absence.*

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Diane Ireland, Stewart Jones, Shaun Patchett and Tony Wellings.

25/04/02

### 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 interests were declared.

25/04/03

### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

*To accept as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 11 March 2025.*

The minutes at 25/04/07(ii) were inaccurately reported and should read:

'Cllr. Byers expressed his interest in being the Deputy Mayor for 2025/26.'

The minutes were proposed and seconded by Cllrs. who had attended and they voted to accept as a true record pending the change at 25/04/07(ii).

Voting: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

Cllr. Welch joined the meeting.

65

**25/04/04 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.*

There were three members of public in attendance. They did not have any issues to raise.

**25/04/05 LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY – POLICING MATTERS**

PCSO Giddins presented a verbal report on policing issues for the past month.

**25/04/06 MATTERS ARISING**

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

**(i) Market Square Lighting**

The lighting at Market Square has been changed to random multi-coloured.

**(ii) Use of William Segar Hodgson Field**

Cllr. Welch has had a request to use William Segar Hodgson playing field. This is not feasible, given the condition of the alternative pitch area.

**25/04/07 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**(i) Events Attended**

The Mayor attended an event at Fylde Council where two Kirkham businesses were recognised for their long standing commitment to the town.

The Deputy Mayor has attended Founders Day at St. Michael's church.

**(ii) Town Centre Watch Scheme**

The Chair briefed the meeting about the Town Centre Watch Scheme with a view to resurrecting the scheme.

This was proposed and seconded. Cllrs. voted on the proposal.

Voting: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

**(iii) Mayor Making**

Invites have been sent for Mayor Making, this will take place on Friday 25 April 2025 at 7pm.

**(iv) IT Assets and IT Support**

Cllrs. reminded to return assets that are not being used.

The Town Clerk updated the meeting about the move to the new IT support supplier. The broadband provision have been identified as being slow. A quotation has been requested.

**(v) Lighting Memorial Park**

The lighting on Memorial Park has been replaced to LED.

(vi) **Memorial Park Leak**

The leak in Memorial Park is being repaired.

(vii) **Parking – Church Street**

Cllr. Hopkinson informed the Cllrs. about progress to improve parking outside of Ash Tree House. A space for GP parking will be created on Eagle's Court and the space outside Ash Tree House will be allocated as a disabled bay.

The proposal to allow changes to Eagle's Court for on-street disabled parking was proposed and seconded. Cllrs. voted on the proposal:

Voting: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

(viii) **Banking Hub**

Cllr. Hopkinson informed the Cllrs. that the banking hub will open at William Segar Hodgson on 25 April 2025.

(ix) **Memorial Bench**

The Town Clerk informed the Cllrs. that a request has been made for a memorial bench for Gwynn Bradley the Lancashire County Council school crossing warden. Poundland and Lily Bs are collecting donations from residents, however there may be a shortfall. Cllrs. discussed subsidising donations collected to purchase a bench.

The agreement to subsidise the purchase of a bench was proposed and seconded. Cllrs. voted on the proposal:

Voting: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

(x) **Accusation – Fylde Councillor**

A Fylde Councillor has made an accusation that Kirkham Town Council has not done enough to stop vandalism at Kirkham Baths. Cllrs. disagreed with the accusation.

**ACTION: Cllr. Hopkinson to write to the Fylde Councillor in response to their accusation.**

(xi) **Vacancy - Update**

The interviews have been scheduled for the vacancy of the Admin Support Officer. Detail to be covered in Part 2.

(xii) **Twinning**

The Town Clerk presented ideas for the Twinning gift.

**25/04/08 LPAOS**

Cllr. Welch reported that Kirkham Juniors FC have requested a 4 year hire of William Segar Hodgson. Cllrs. discussed the charge for the 4 year period. This was proposed and seconded. Cllrs. voted on the proposal for 4 year hire including the hire charge:

Voting: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

**ACTION: The Town Clerk to write to Kirkham Juniors FC in respect of the Town Council's decision.**

Cllr. Welch talked through issues appertaining to In Bloom. Cllr. Welch and the Town Clerk to work with Fylde Council in respect of the planting scheme.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the allotment holders have asked that the In Bloom plot be renamed to reflect the purpose of the plot. This was agreed.

Cllr. Hopkinson raised the sponsorship of the flower beds. This is being addressed.

#### **25/04/09 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**

The applications were approved.

##### **(ii) Decisions**

The decisions were noted.

#### **25/04/10 FINANCES**

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

Cllr. Byers presented the invoices paid during March 2025. The payment of invoices was ratified, proposed, and seconded. Cllrs. voted:

Voting: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

##### **(ii) Presentation of Bank Balance(s) 3 April 2025**

Cllrs. noted the bank balance(s) as at 3 April 2025. The first of two precept payments has been received.

The quarter 4 VAT return for 2024/25 is in progress.

The Town Clerk is meeting with the Lancashire Environment Fund representative in respect of the grant application for the playground on Barnfield.

#### **25/04/11 BOOKINGS**

##### **General Update**

No issues to report other than the occupancy of William Segar Hodgson for the banking hub.

#### **25/04/12 STAFFING**

Part 2.

#### **25/04/13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 May 2025 @ 7.00 pm, venue Wesham Community Centre.

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**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. Jones, Mayor and Chair**

**Elizabeth Squires, Town Clerk**



**13 MAY 2025**

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