



KIRKHAM

TOWN COUNCIL

The Community Centre
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2025, 7.00 PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, WESHAM

ATTENDEES:

Stewart Jones	Councillor (Cllr.) and Chair
James Cameron	Cllr.
Chris Hopkinson	Cllr.
Diane Ireland	Cllr.
Maggie Ledger	Cllr.
Tony Wellings	Cllr.
Elizabeth Squires (Minutes)	Town Clerk and RFO

25/10/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Neil Byers and Peter Sutcliffe.

25/10/02 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.

25/10/03 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- (i) *To accept as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10 June 2025.*

The 10 June 2025 minutes were proposed and seconded. Members who had attended this meeting voted:

Voting: 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

- (ii) *To accept as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting on 9 September 2025.*

The 9 September 2025 minutes were proposed and seconded. Members who had attended this meeting voted:

Voting: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

25/10/04 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 members of public in attendance who were employed by Milbanke, Kirkham. An update was provided by the Day Care Centre Manager. The Communications Officer, Office of Andrew Snowden MP, Member of Parliament for Fylde was also in attendance.

Concerns were raised about the consultation (commencing 15 October 2025) and attendees asked that the Town Council support a petition to keep Milbanke open. Cllr. Wellings asked that a copy of the building condition report be obtained from Lancashire County Council. Options for supporting the petition against the closure of Milbanke were discussed. The outcome of the consultation will be made known in February 2026.

ACTIONS:

- (i) **The Town Clerk to request the building condition report.**
- (ii) **The Communications Officer to send information to the Town Clerk so that the petition can be communicated; as an impartial body, the Council operates on an apolitical basis.**
- (iii) **The Town Clerk to arrange for the QR code for the petition to be advertised in the Kirkham and Wesham Advertiser.**

25/10/05 LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY

(i) Update

The Chair requested that as Lancashire County Councillor Roberts was not in attendance, the original agenda item be used for a Lancashire Constabulary update.

An update in respect of ongoing investigations was provided by the police.

25/10/06 MATTERS ARISING

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

(i) Flags

The flagpoles have been delivered.

(ii) Community Centre Door

The replacement door for the Community Centre has been ordered.

25/10/07 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Events Attended

The Chair has attended the Scouts Annual General Meeting and has also visited Home Start and Kirkham Grammar School. The Chair will be attending a conference, this will be grant funded.

(ii) Annual Governance Return External Audit Final Report and Certificate

The Town Clerk presented the External Audit report for the Annual Governance Return, the report has been published on the Town Council website.

(iii) Enhanced Active Security

The council's IT support have contacted the Town Clerk about enhancements to security. Members discussed the enhancements. A proposal to accept the enhancement was proposed and seconded. Members voted:

Voting: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

(iv) Options, Issues, Vision and Scope for the New Fylde Local Plan to 2042

Deferred to the next meeting.

(v) Milbanke

Discussed at 25/10/04. The members agreed to support the petition to keep Milbanke open. As noted at minute 25/10/04, as an impartial body, the Council operates on an apolitical basis. A proposal to support the petition to keep Milbanke open was proposed and seconded. Members voted:

Voting: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

The Town Council support the petition by:

- working with Andrew Snowden MP, Member of Parliament for Fylde;
- place an advertisement in the Kirkham and Wesham Advertiser; and
- request a copy of the building condition report from Lancashire County Council.

ACTION: Town Clerk to place an order in the Kirkham and Wesham Advertiser and obtain the copy of the building condition report.

(vi) Twinning

The Twinning Association have asked for a grant for the Twinning event in 2026. Cllr. Wellings will liaise with the Twinning Association.

Members discussed re-naming The Close Park to Brückenau Park, this to be opened during Twinning in May 2026. A proposal to re-name The Close Park to Brückenau Park was proposed and seconded. Members voted:

Voting: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

(vii) Kirkham Cultural Connections

Cllr. Hopkinson spoke about the work of Kirkham Cultural Consortium at the Kirkham Christmas event in 2024, he asked if they could have the same value of grant for 2025. A proposal to provide a grant Kirkham Cultural Connections (change of name) was proposed and seconded. Members voted:

Voting: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

(viii) **Break in at the Community Centre Update**

Discussed at 25/10/05.

25/10/08 LPAOS

(i) **Bowling Club**

The roof at the Bowling Club is being repaired, funded by Fylde Council. Legionella testing will be undertaken by the Town Council supplier.

Previously agreed winter work on the bowling green has now been done.

(ii) **Grant from Lancashire County Council**

A grant for trees has been agreed.

(iii) **Memorial Park**

The top of the memorial, damaged by youths, has been repaired. The new railings are scheduled to be installed before the Remembrance Sunday service.

(iv) **Town End**

The damaged planting area at Town End has been repaired and a new Union flag has been ordered.

(v) **Tree Survey**

The tree survey has been received, red and amber rated findings will be addressed.

(vi) **Trees St. George's Park**

Fylde Council are undertaking some work in the St. George's Park wooded area. The cycle pathway (Lancashire County Council) is still due to go ahead.

ACTION: The Town Clerk to contact Lancashire County Council about progress on the cycle pathway.

A resident has cut down a tree on Town Council land, the tree team at Fylde Council are checking the tree for safety concerns.

(vii) **Trees Wrangway Wood**

The Town Clerk reported that the work to fell trees as part of the work being undertaken by United Utilities has been done. Cllr. Ledger has worked with Network Rail, the ash trees along the fence do not now require removing.

(viii) **In Bloom**

The Town Clerk provided an update for In Bloom.

25/10/09 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, concern was raised in respect of one application and Cllr. Wellings declared an interest in this. The remaining applications were proposed and seconded. Members voted:

Voting: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

ACTION: The Town Clerk to comment on member concerns in respect of 25/0522.

(ii) Decisions

The decisions were noted.

25/10/10 FINANCES

(i) Ratification of the Payment of Invoices

The Town Clerk presented the invoices paid during September 2025.

Cllr. Hopkinson reported the problems encountered as a result Santander system changes. He also enquired about the quarter 2 VAT return.

The payment of invoices were proposed, and seconded. Members voted:

Voting: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

(ii) Presentation of Bank Balance(s) 9 October 2025

Members noted the bank balance(s) as at 9 October 2025.

(iii) Member Expenses Policy

Deferred until the next meeting.

25/10/11 EVENTS

(i) Update

The Town Clerk provided an update. Members were asked if a Burns Night event would be held in January 2026. Members agreed that the event be held on Sunday 25 January 2026, commencing at 3pm.

The Burns Night was proposed, and seconded. Members voted:

Voting: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

Remembrance Sunday arrangements were also discussed. Members will attend the Cenotaph on Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 11am.

25/10/12 BOOKINGS

(i) Update

The Town Clerk provided an update. Cllr. Hopkinson asked about room hire at William Segar Hodgson post departure of the banking hub.

25/10/13 STAFFING

(i) Update

No items to report.

25/10/14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

There will not be a meeting in November due to the By Election. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 11 December 2025 @ 7.00 pm, venue Kirkham Community Centre.

Note: There will not be a Public Participation agenda item.

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.

Members are asked to agree this action and this will be minuted.

Members agreed exclusion of the members of the public (no attendees), and no press were present.

Signed

Cllr. Jones, Mayor and Chair

Elizabeth Squires, Town Clerk