KIRKHAM
TOWN COUNCIL

The Community Centre
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2026, 7.00 PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, KIRKHAM

ATTENDEES:

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

ITEM DESCRIPTION

26/10/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive and accept apologies where valid reasons for absence have been provided to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Peter Sutcliffe.

26/10/02 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.

Cllr. Brierley declared an interest in a planning application.

Cllr. Ireland declared an interest in respect of a grant application.

26/10/03 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To accept as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2026.

The 8 September 2026 minutes were proposed and seconded. Members who had attended the meeting voted on the proposal:

Voting: 4 for, 0 against, 3 abstentions.

Cllrs. Brierley, Ireland, Jones and Ledger were not in attendance at the 8 September 2026 meeting.

26/10/04 MEETING WITH LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY

The police attend when circumstances allow. No report at this meeting.

26/10/05 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – KIRKHAM RESIDENTS

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.

One resident attended to discuss a fence that had been erected on or near Kirkham Town Council land. A discussion about the fence pursued, concerns being raised by the resident about covenants applicable to the estate.

The Town Clerk had previously passed the detail appertaining to this to Fylde Council. Fylde Council will not be taking any action. The Town Clerk has also visited the site and does not consider that this encroaches onto the town council's land, supported by evidence of a GPS survey provided by the resident who has erected the fence. Covenants have been requested from the housing developer, and the thought process is that the covenant may now be expired.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that someone has written to the fire service about the removal of a fire hydrant marker post, in the resident's name and that this has been reported to the police (by the resident). The fire hydrant marker is in situ and more easily identifiable.

Members discussed this and informed the attendee that this would be a civil matter as the person who had erected the fence has not encroached onto the town council's land.

26/10/06 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR (FYLDE EAST) AND CABINET MEMBER (RURAL AFFAIRS, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES)

(i) Update (this will depend upon the availability of the LCC Cllr.)

No attendance.

26/10/07 FYLDE COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr. Brierley updated the members of potential changes attributable to decisions in respect of Local Government Reorganisation.

26/10/08 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

None to note.

26/10/09 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) **Events Attended**

No events have been attended.

(ii) **Digital Sign**

Fylde Council are looking at locations for the digital sign. Members discussed potential sites.

(iii) **Grants Morecambe and Morgan**

The members have written to Grant Scape with concerns and comments in respect of the grants being offered should the Morecambe and Morgan Windfarm project go ahead.

(iv) **Declarations of Interest Forms**

All declaration forms have been updated.

(v) **Relocation of Food Bank**

The Town Council have been asked if the Food Bank, should it relocate to the United Reform Church (URC), could have access to the URC from Mill Street opposite the Morrison's delivery area. Members discussed this and considered that this would be unsafe. This is more likely a Lancashire County Council decision.

(vi) **Grant for Fresh Food 4 Working Families**

Cllr. Ireland had declared an interest and left the meeting.

Members discussed the request for a grant for Fresh Food 4 Working Families. The decision not to provide a grant to Fresh Food 4 Working Families was proposed and seconded. Members voted on the proposal:

Voting: 5 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions.

Cllr. Ireland returned to the meeting. Members confirmed their decision to refuse the request for a grant on this occasion.

26/10/10 LEISURE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

(i) **LPAOS Issues**

- **Fylde Council Grounds Maintenance**

  Members have queried work undertaken in Wesham and if this impacts on the contract between this town council and Fylde Council.

  ACTION: Cllr. Brierley will raise this in his capacity as a Fylde Councillor for Kirkham.

- **MUGA Option**

  Cllr. Hopkinson presented an option to develop the MUGA within Memorial Park and this was discussed. The supplier will be invited to the 10 November 2026 town council meeting so that the members can be briefed, should the project be deemed viable.

- **Bowling Club**

  The Bowling Club have approached the town council with a revised proposal for support. The revisions to the current arrangements were discussed. The revised proposal to take effect from 1 April 2027, whereby the Bowling Club will undertake their own grounds maintenance if the town council can purchase a mower (a one off £2,800 net of VAT), provide an annual grant of £4,000 and pay the lessor. The Bowling Club are aiming to re-introduce facilitating usage from the schools in Kirkham.
  In the longer term the revised proposal will reduce future costs.

  The revised cost was proposed and seconded. Members voted on the proposal:

  Voting: 4 for, 0 against, 4 abstentions.

  Members discussed asking Emerson if the lease on the bowling green can be extended from 10 to 20 years. The decision to approach Emerson was proposed and seconded. Members voted on the proposal:

  Voting: 8 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

- **Projects, including trees**

  The Town Clerk presented an update on the tree works. All the red rated trees have been addressed.
  A resident on Southlands has queried the removal of two trees. This was a decision agreed by members at the September 2026 meeting.

- **Allotments**

  An allotment inspection will be undertaken in quarter 3.

- **Remembrance Sunday (inc. War Memorial poppies)**

  Arrangements to mark the Centenary of the Unvieling of the War Memorial in 1926 were discussed.

- **In Bloom Update**

  Nothing to report other than the presentation ceremony has been arranged for Thursday 29 October 2026.

- **St. George's**

  Discussed under Public Participation 26/10/05.

- **Southlands**

  A resident has requested that an area of land on Southlands is maintained within the Fylde Council contract. This was approved.

- **Winter Gritting**

  The Town Clerk informed the members of the 2026/27 charges for winter gritting. The decision to continue with the current supplier and acceptance of costs was proposed and seconded. Members voted on the proposal:

  Voting: 8 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

(ii) **In Bloom Update**

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the date for the Britain in Bloom presentation has been set for 29 October 2026.

26/10/11 FYLDE COUNCIL 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 on the proposal:

Voting: 7 for, 0 against, 1 abstention.

(ii) **Decisions**

None noted.

26/10/12 FINANCES

(i) **To ratify the payment of invoices made from the Corporate Current Account during September 2026**

The Chair presented the invoices paid during September 2026. The payment of invoices was proposed and seconded. Members voted on the proposal:

Voting: 0 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

(ii) **Presentation of bank balances as at 8 October 2026**

Members noted the bank balances as at 8 October 2026.

26/10/13 EVENTS

(i) **General Update: Forthcoming Events**

The Chair updated the members of forthcoming events:

- Remembrance Sunday;
- Kirkham Christmas Lights;
- Blessing of the Crib; and
- Artisan Christmas Market (organised by the Bierhaus).

26/10/14 BOOKINGS

(i) **Update**

Capacity within the William Segar Hodgson building is improving.

26/10/15 STAFFING

Nothing to raise.

26/10/16 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on 18 December 2026 at the Community Centre, Kirkham at 7.00 pm.

Dated:

Neil Byers
Chair and Mayor

Dated:

Elizabeth Squires
Town Clerk