Fleetwood Town Council

Onward to a Better Future

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday 28 June 2022 at 7.00pm**

**at North Euston Hotel**

**Irene Tonge – Signature:**



**Minutes**

**Note by the Clerk**

The Chairman addressed the members and the public to ask if everyone was happy to delay the start of the meeting as 2 Cllrs are on route, returning from a committee meeting at Wyre. She explained that the meeting will otherwise not be able to go ahead as it will be inquorate – all accepted.

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| **3621** | **Opening of the meeting. Chairman**  The Vice-Chairman stepped up as Chairman and opened the meeting at 7:15 pm ; she gave apologies for Cllr Raynor (Chairman) who is on leave.  **Present:** Irene Tonge (Clerk), Cllrs Stirzaker, Beavers, Blair, O’Neill, Shewan and Smith, MOP.  Chairman announced that the meeting will be recorded for the minutes.  **Note: There was some disruption at this point in the proceedings from the public gallery by a Wyre councillor who wanted to make a point and also wanted to inform the meeting that she is recording it.**  **The Chairman told her that she does not have permission to record the meeting and she responded she doesn’t need it. After some dialogue, the Chairman said she will put it to the Cllrs who will vote on the matter. The vote was 1 for and 5 against; the member was asked not to record and proceeded to put away her phone.**  **The member tried again to make her point, however the chairman told her that she has no authority to speak, which she protested – the Chairman insisted she would need to wait until the Public Participation (PP) slot at item 3629; Chairman moved on.** |
| **3622** | **To receive apologies for absence. Chairman**  Apologies received from Cllrs Armstrong, Craig, Crawford, Pilkington, Raynor and Stephenson. |
| **3623** | **To record Disclosable Pecuniary Interests from members (including their spouses, civil partners, or partners) in any item to be discussed. Committee members MUST NOT make representations or vote on the matter therein. Chairman**  None declared. |
| **3624** | **To record Other (Personal or Prejudicial) Interests from members in any item to be discussed. Committee members should state if they need to bar themselves from discussion and voting on any related matters. Chairman.**  None declared. |
| **3625** | **To Consider and approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting of 24 May 2022 and the EOM of 31 May 2022 (enclosed).**  Both sets of minutes approved. |
| **3626** | **To ratify the decision to appoint Cllr Smith to the Precept working group, in place of Cllr Craig (Item 3589d refers).**  Approved. |
| **3627** | **To ratify the decision to appoint Cllr Smith to the Grievance Panel, in place of Cllr Craig (Item 3589e refers).**  Approved. |
| **3628** | **To consider and approve if FTC wishes to appoint a second Armed Forces Champion.**  No-one proposed themselves or another Cllr.  The Chairman acknowledged and announced to the meeting that Cllr Crawford had requested she let the meeting know that he does not wish to put himself forward.  As no one else had come forward Chairman said there is not much point in continuing with this motion and put it to the vote. Agreed - unanimous.    **At this point the member in the public gallery disrupted the meeting, again, trying to put her point forward. Chairman insisted she waits for the PP slot on the agenda and moved the meeting on.** |
| **3629** | **To adjourn the meeting for a period of (1) of public participation. Please note the Council cannot make any decision on any matter raised which has not already been included on the formal agenda; such items may be considered for future meetings.**   * **Fleetwood Area Police** * **Sean Turner – Climate Change Presentation** * **MOP**   The Chairman pointed out that the Police have not been able to make the meeting and that Cllr Turner is believed to be on route; she asked the meeting to consider moving the Climate Change item to the next PP slot at item 3633 – Agreed.  Chairman asked if anyone would like to speak – Cllr Colette Fairbanks (CF) said ***“Obviously, I would like to speak… the reason Brian sent that email is he doesn’t need someone to guide him, or somebody to champion around him while he is the Armed Forces champion; he was doing perfectly well when he was on his own, there was no reason why you should have taken him off that role to give it to somebody who hasn’t been in the forces”***, at this point the Chair said ***“well I think you need to check your information a little better”*** CF responded ***“she has nothing to do with the forces, she’s a forces wife”*** after this point followed a heated discussion between the chair and CF and voices were raised by both, during which, Cllr Smith came in, to try and diffuse the situation by sharing the rationale of the process leading to the decision; she said ***…..” When we vote for positions on FTC, they are voted for every 12 months and anybody can put themselves forward for any position and it is then voted, democratically, by the members”*** CF then challenged this and referred to how the previous years have been voted. She went onto to say that ***“he was previously asked if he would like to continue in the role, so why has this changed?”*** Cllr Smith went onto to explain***….”yes, that is what happened but in previous years no one put themselves forward but this year someone did, so it had to go to the vote.”*** CF then asked Cllr Beavers the Question, ***“why did you put yourself forward.”*** Cllr Beavers answered the question, this started off in a calm and orderly manner, as it involved sharing with the meeting that she had been approached by some Veterans and asked to stand as they had some concerns with how Cllr Crawford had handled a certain situation; CF listened, without interruption at first, but then things became fraught and animated by the two Cllrs, at this point I nudged the chair and said for her bring it in; the chair tried to bring it to order but there were raised voices. During this exchange Cllr Beavers made a comment that she feels that on social media she has been targeted and she said that she is distressed that there appears to be a hate campaign against her. CF continued to argue back; the chair asked for order – at this point the clerk intervened and said to CF ***“you are now contravening the Code of Conduct”*** her response was ***“I don’t Care”*** to which Clerk replied ***“but we do”*** to which she responded, ***“I don’t care about the code of conduct”*** and continued to raise her voice; the Chair then requested she leave, as she was impacting the whole group, she made her way to the exit, heckling all the way, she then held up her phone up and said ***“I recorded it anyway”!***  Once CF had left Cllr Beavers addressed the meeting with an apology for raising her voice whilst defending herself; the Chairman restored order and continued with the meeting.  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  MOP (WH) wanted us to pass on a big thankyou to whoever has put back the benches around the lake, all 17 are now back; he spoke about the state of the areas around the seating with sand and litter and said something needs to be done.  WH then went on to talk about the aftermath of a recent weeding exercise - he said the weeds are treated (sprayed ) but not removed. He suggested speaking to the Payback team - MOP (MD) said she thinks differently as she saw for herself that the payback team use a strimmer and a blower, which just disperses everything and goes to seed.  Clerk said she would speak to the manager of the PB team when he comes to the office. |
| **3630** | **To consider if there should be a Climate Change Working Group/Champion and if so to ask for proposals and to approve.**  Chairman suggested to postpone this item until after the second PP slot, as Climate Change is the topic Cllr Turner is presenting. Agreed.  Chairman came back to this item following Cllr Turners presentation. As there were numerous Cllrs not in attendance she Chairman proposed we defer this item until July meeting.  Agreed **-** unanimous |
| **3631** | **To note the Clerk has performed the annual review of the Risk Management Register and Plan for approval (amendments are shown in bold font).**  Noted and Chairman thanked the Clerk for her efforts. |
| **3632** | **To note planning applications to be considered by member and agree any actions to be taken or responses to the planning authority.**  Noted – no actions or responses required. |
| **3633** | **To adjourn the meeting for a period of (2) of public participation. Please note the Council cannot make any decision on any matter raised which has not already been included on the formal agenda; such items may be considered for future meetings.**  MOP (WH) asked if any Cllr knows what is happening to the land on Warren Street as the auction signs have been removed and therefore assumes it has been sold.  Cllr Blair said she has tried to find out herself, but to no avail. Cllr Stirzaker said she will make some enquiries and if she finds anything she will drop WH an email; Cllr Blair said the auction was with ‘Auction House.’  WH congratulated everyone on the success of the QPJ day, however he was disgusted with whoever arranged for the parking enforcers to be out ticketing vehicles. The clerk said she was one of them who received a fine, and Cllr Blair shared that one of the artists was also ticketed.  Cllr Beavers told the meeting that she and the Rotary organiser, Margaret Lund, had been in touch with Wyre to complain. Cllr Beavers actually rang the CEO and he confirmed that a total of 33 tickets had been issued on the day (16 on the sunken car park and 17 on the Marine Hall car park); he also confirmed that it was Wyre enforcers. He said that he has seen for himself the photographic evidence and confirmed and that all 33 warranted their tickets. Cllr Beavers went onto to say to him that it was therefore a planned money-making move which Wyre Council should be ashamed, particularly as they had not given a single penny to the event; she reminded him that FTC funded the whole event.  The MOP at the meeting were all disgusted at what they had heard and one suggestion was for Cllr Beavers to write back to the CEO to protest. WH asked if the clerk had challenged the ticket, she replied that she had but it was rejected; he called for her to be re-imbursed and the Cllrs said she should be and to place it on the agenda for the next meeting.  This lead onto concerns for the next event ‘Tram Sunday.’ Cllr Blair, who is one of the directors for the Festival of Transport, said the main street is exempt but the side streets will have restrictions . She confirmed that Pandora (APB) have given the site on Dock Street up for the event and some volunteers will be manning the site on the day.  Cllr Sean Turner arrived - The Chairman welcomed and introduced him to talk about the portfolio for Climate Change.  Cllr Turner spoke about LCCs motion to reach Net Zero Carbonisation by 2030. This motion gave the officers assigned to the project a chance to go away and consider what needs to be done.  Initially they commissioned a number of deep dive studies:   1. Carbon Pathway 2. State of environment 3. Renewables   He spoke about some emerging initiatives:  Nature-base solutions  Natural Environment Fund  Electric Vehicle Charging – LEVI fund  Local cycling/walking plans - stakeholder engagement  Biological sites  Parish and town council fund – Grant (£300) – think about partnering with businesses  Solar  Cllr Beavers spoke about the Wyre Barrage and asked Cllr Turner what were his thoughts – he likes it, and he has been in touch with Paul Long, as has his colleague Katie. He said there is a lot of positives with it, and his opinion is that it is doable – he talked about being able to use the natural sea power – Cllr Beavers was pleased with his response.  There were also some talks about the restoration of the trains to Fleetwood.  The Chair asked Cllr Turner if he would forward us a copy of the presentation.  MOP (WH) spoke about the Barrage – the generation of electricity and also how it will stop the flooding. Cllr Turner agreed with him and assured the meeting that he will be supporting this going forward.  WH then spoke about aeroplanes and the enormous damage they do to our climate; Cllr Turner appreciated what he was saying.  There was some talk about Hydrogen as a power source.  David (from Fylde TV) spoke about electric charging points and grants. Cllr Turner said this will be part of the scoping exercise.  Cllr O’Neill mentioned the street lighting for the visually-impaired – Cllr Turner said LEDs have already improved since introduced and they will continue to explore future enhancements.  Chairman thanked Cllr Turner for his time and the Cllrs joined her with a round of applause. |
| **3634** | **To reconvene the meeting.**  The meeting was reconvened. |
| **3635** | **To approve the accounts for regular payments, automated payments, pre-approved payments using delegated powers and Junes Salaries, Tax/NI, Pension Contributions – see information sheet on page 2.**  Approved – unanimous |
| **3636** | **To receive items for information and items for inclusion in next agenda, subject to full information being available. Members to be reminded that no discussion or decisions may be taken.**   * Barring of CF to future meetings - clerk said she would look into this * Adoption of the Code of Conduct * Adoption of New Standing Orders |
| **3637** | **To note the date and time of next meeting is 26 July 2022.**  Chairman noted a typo here – date changed from 23rd to 26th – Clerk apologised. |