



Annual Town Meeting

Onward to a Better Future

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TUESDAY 15TH MARCH 2016

AT THE NORTH EUSTON HOTEL, FLEETWOOD 7p.m.

Present: Cllrs. M. Barrowclough (Chair), E. Anderton. N. Stuchfield. M. Stirzaker, B., Glasgow

Also present: 12 members of the public were present.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Cllr M. Barrowclough he welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting 2016.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs T. Rogers, E. Stephenson, B. Stephenson, N. Fearon, R. Hewitt, & T. Taylor apologised all accepted

2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – CLLR. M BARROWCLOUGH ON BEHALF OF CLLR T. ROGERS

Cllr. Barrowclough read out the report from Cllr. Rogers Chairman of Fleetwood Town Council;

Since I last spoke to you in March 2015 FTC have continued to be very busy and pro-active in the community helping Fleetwood prosper and supporting many community led projects. From 1st April 2015 to date FTC has contributed £54,000 to the sea defences at Rossall and local voluntary organisations.

I must convey thanks on behalf of the Council to all the volunteers who have helped deliver the wonderful events such as The Festive Lights, The Firework Extravaganza, Fleetwood In Bloom, Fleetwood Carnival, Tram Sunday and the Folk and Roots Festival to name a few, all of which have been supported financially by FTC. FTC pledges a firm commitment to the long term future of all these and many more events.

Team Fleetwood will be launched on 22 March 2016 with retail provision being the first initiative due the Coastal Communities Funding spending time restraints. Further meetings will follow in April and we look forward to working with stakeholders Regenda, Fire, Police, Rotary and others on Team Fleetwood.

We are continuing with our support for keeping Fleetwood Museum open and I can confirm we have submitted to LCC of our Expression of Interest and we will keep the residents of Fleetwood updated on the progress on this aspiration. As you may know we increased the precept request for 2016/17 by £66,000 to cover the initial potential costs involved in this procurement. This in real terms means an increase of 54p per household per week.

I also wish to thank several Councillors for their hard work since May 2015 and can advise that I will be holding team building meetings for training purposes for all members throughout 2016/17.

Councillors

T. Rogers (Chairman)
R. Hewitt
M. Stirzaker

E. Anderton
C. McLaughlan
N Stuchfield

M. Barrowclough
S.C. Roberts
T. Taylor

N. Fearon
B. Stephenson

B. Glasgow
E. Stephenson



And finally I would like to thank the Clerk and our new Community Development Officer Dawn for their commitment and hard work on behalf of FTC.

Cllr. Terry Rogers

Chairman to Fleetwood Town Council

3 MESSAGE FROM THE RT. HON. CAT SMITH M.P.

Message from Cat Smith was read out by her aide Erica Lewis

I'm very pleased to submit my first report to Fleetwood Town Council's Annual Meeting as your Member of Parliament. Please accept my apologies for being unable to be with you this evening as Parliament is sitting at the same time as this meeting.

Having been your MP for just over 10 months, I am finding my way about Westminster, but still glad to head out of London just as soon as I can to head home to the North.

In the constituency

A big part of what I do in the constituency is to help people with individual's problems they are having such as pensions, or housing. I hold regular advice surgeries in Fleetwood where I meet individually with constituents who want to raise issues with me. I also take on casework through contact with my office whether by phone, email, or post. More than half of the casework undertaken comes from Fleetwood. Another large part of my work in the constituency is to meet with local groups to learn more about their work, and local individuals who are campaigning on particular issues. Some of the groups I have met with include:

- Fylde Guide Dogs
- Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre CVS
- Fleetwood Welfare Rights
- Fleetwood Civic Society
- Trinity Hospice
- Cardinal Allen High School
- Brian House Hospice
- Friends of Fleetwood Museum
- Lancashire Sport
- Mustard Seed
- Local under 10s fishermen
- Federation of Small Businesses' Fleetwood members meeting
- Rossall Point National Coast Watch Institute
- Cub Scouts' Centenary event at Blackpool Pleasure Beach
- Fylde Coast Christian Advocacy
- Rossall School
- Emmanuel Church, Fleetwood
- Wyre Federation of Small Business
- Fleetwood Shop Local Campaign
- United Utilities Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Regenda
- Shakespeare Primary School
- Environment Agency about flood defences Over-Wyre and in Fleetwood
- Fleetwood and Wyre Councillors
- Harbour Mental Health
- Blackpool Transport
- Rossall Flood Defences
- Fleetwood Police
- Fleetwood High School
- Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group
- Fleetwood Town Football Club
- Dementia Friends' training run by Alzheimer's Association



- Hosted a forum on the future of fishing in Fleetwood
- Fleetwood Museum

I have also had the opportunity to share in community celebrations and observances such as the Christmas Lights Switch On, Tram Sunday, and the services for Remembrance Day, and Sea Sunday. I welcome the opportunity to meet with local organisations or campaign groups. To invite me to one of your events please send me an invitation via Cat.Smith.MP@parliament.uk or to the office at 50 Lord St, Fleetwood FY7 6DT.

In Westminster

One of the biggest issues for local communities has been the government's cuts to local government funding. Lancashire County Council have received unfair and disproportionate funding cuts from the Westminster Government. At a time when some southern councils have received increases in funding, northern councils have been hit hard. The demand for, and cost of, services is growing, but the funding the Council receives from the Government to deliver these has been reduced by 39% since 2010. Over the past few years the Council has already made cuts in backroom functions, and cut all possible red tape. Lancashire County Council has a statutory requirement to provide adult social care and child protection services, and with a high proportion of elderly residents it may be that in due course these essential services make up the entirety of the Council's expenditure.

There are no two ways about this; the Council has had to make some very difficult decisions. They legally have to set a budget incorporating the Government's cuts – or else face being run from Whitehall. I continue to oppose these vicious cuts on behalf of our area, but given the legal requirement to make them, would rather the decisions were taken by democratically elected local people who know our area, than civil servants in Whitehall.

It is inspiring to see the Town Council working to save the Fleetwood Museum, which plays such a vital role in preserving Fleetwood's proud heritage as a fishing port. There are not many areas where town or parish councils have acted so boldly to take on services the county have had to withdraw from. I look forward to continuing to work with both the Town Council and the Friends of Fleetwood Museum to save our museum. In such difficult financial times, it is equally impressive to see that our local Labour County Councillors have won the campaign to see NOW cards reinstated on the Trams. This was a big issue during the election campaign, and I'm pleased to see it resolved in Fleetwood's favour.

We must never forget that austerity is a choice the Government has made:

- to balance its books on the back of ordinary people, through cutting the services our communities need, and making it harder for those who need to access social security;
- rather than the banks and bankers who caused the financial crash by asking corporations to pay their fair share of taxation, and to pay each worker a decent living wage.

Each week in parliament I fight for a better deal for you – whether that be through better funding for the NHS, more investment in local communities, or policies that increase the number of secure jobs, paying decent wages.

I look forward to continuing to serve and represent you over the coming years, and I hope you will feel welcome to invite me to your events, and to raise issues with me as issues arise.

4 CLLR PETE MURPHY – PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER WYRE COUNCIL

Cllr. Murphy advised he would recap on the last 12 months regarding the work of Wyre Council in Fleetwood flood defences are half way along and on track for completion in 2017. The Mount restoration is moving on and the railings are now in situ. He noted there had been opposition to the new beach huts however, he confirmed 8 out of 10 of the huts had been let. The huts will generate income between £15,000-£20,000 which would be reinvested in Wyre.

He advised he had personally been working on Lord St to utilise the Coastal Communities Funding of £10,000 which will be spent by 31st March 2016. This funding is to make the shops on Lord Street more attractive and encourage more investment and businesses. Three shops to date had been completed with a view that further shops to be completed by Easter. A mini mall was planned with a view to having 12 pop up mini markets which means 12 new jobs.

He noted Regenda and Fleetwood Town Council have pledged to be part of this initiative.



Further to this Blackpool & Fylde College will offer 12 unemployed people an opportunity to undertake a 3 week accredited course in Painting & Decorating which could lead to opportunities to pursue this training further. The people involved will be working for this initiative within the town including Fleetwood Market.

Wyre Marketing Team will push this forward with the message Fleetwood is open for business.

109 Shop Local businesses have joined Fleetwood Together to move this initiative forward.

Cllr. Murphy also advised he was enthusiastic about the proposed Barrage, Hill House and Fish Park initiatives and noted if these schemes are successful they could generate 500/600 jobs.

He advised if the Barrage comes into fruition it will be great for the town and was aware that environmental studies have to take place and confirmed funding for this project was in place.

Regarding the closure of Fleetwood Museum he confirmed that a Dilapidation Order would be served which states that £500,000-£600,000 work required before Wyre Council will accept the building back.

Interest had been shown also from Biocorp who turn fish waste into organic fertilizers and are looking at the Enterprise Zone to invest locally.

With regard to shop fronts a 2 and a half day course is being offered to demonstrate to shopkeepers how to dress their windows successfully.

5 STEVE NEWSHAM & CHRIS STANDISH - REGENDA

Steve Newsham introduced himself and advised he had been Director of Regenda Merseyside & Lancashire since 1996 he thanked Fleetwood Town Council for the invitation to the meeting.

He advised they owned 12,000 properties in the North West 3,000 of which were in Wyre. Regenda has a turnover of 10 million and Wyre properties generate 20% of their total income. Rents ensure that Regenda can continue to do work within communities.

Fleetwood/Wyre are very important to Regenda and they will continue to re-invest in local communities as they are here to stay. Rents collected mean repairs and so much more can be achieved however national cuts impact on rent reductions and this means there is less money available and thus less capability to fulfil initiatives. There has even been staff redundancies due to the cuts.

However, Regenda want to make a difference locally and want to achieve their goals by working with local agencies.

He also advised the reason for attending tonight was to encourage support from local agencies so that they could focus on Fleetwood with a view to keeping people in work and in good health.

Chris Standish; Advised the main focus of Regenda was to generate money which concentrated on employment. He advised they had a draft vision for Fleetwood which was provided for viewing. The booklet was created in partnership with Blackpool Landscapes.

He advised they were looking for an endorsement for their vision from Fleetwood Town Council.

He went on to advise, their vision was a 10 year plan with 5 themes on a golden thread running through it, in which they anticipated unlocking people and places by utilising derelict sites and making the most of open green spaces.

Health & Wellbeing would include art and creativity improving the environment which included shop fronts and indeed neighbourhoods within West View.

They hope to link in with LCC and private landowners and have consultations with local people to encourage cross generational engagement.

They have invested in the post of Community Regeneration Officer which Tracey McPhee holds. Her work in the community will make a difference.

Job creation, training, with a view to have 25 business start-ups an increase in the volunteer base ,a reduction in anti-social behaviour and 12 million of other investment is part of the whole vision.

He noted they could not do this alone and hoped FTC and other key partners will endorse their vision and contribute financially which will help them deliver their ambitions.



6 OPEN SESSION FOR THE PUBLIC

- a) MOP Pavements are a disgrace and I had an accident on them which has left me disabled. They need repairing.
- b) Cllr. Murphy advised that LCC are responsible for highways
- c) Steve Newsham responded and confirmed that LCC were responsible for highways and footpaths and country wide the cuts mean the money is being re-directed to social services the core business.
- d) MOP asked Cllr. Murphy if he was supporting the local railway initiatives.
- e) Cllr. Murphy confirmed he is supporting the railway he noted that the Enterprise Zone and, Hill House would benefit from a rail link.
- f) MOP Asked Regenda if they were a partner of FTC with Team Fleetwood
- g) Regenda replied that they supported Team Fleetwood and would lead any project as and when required.
- h) MOP asked Wyre if they could apply for further Coast Communities Funding (CCF)
- i) Cllr. Murphy advised that CCF had a further 150 million available and Wyre will be making a bid for part of this funding. The Chinese are looking at gas power on the Enterprise Zone. He noted that LCC want to mothball Global Renewables but Wyre want to work with them to ensure the jobs are not lost. He advised he they are also working with Regenda to regenerate the town centre and noted there is a 10 year vision to move Fleetwood forward. He said if all the aspirations are achieved Fleetwood will be a thriving place again.
- j) Cllr. Stuchfield introduced herself as FT Councillor for Warren Ward and noted that she couldn't see any future work focused for Warren Farm area in Fleetwood on the plans shown.
- k) Regenda responded saying they will aspire to encourage residents to engage in training to improve future job prospects, if investment comes into Fleetwood people with required skills will be needed.
- l) Erica Lewis noted that Cat Smith M.P. was recently on the Sunday Politics Show and whilst on the show confirmed that connecting Fleetwood to the rail network was one of her priorities.
- m) MOP advised that he could not understand why the plans for the Fish Park could not be amended to accommodate a Station.
- n) Cllr. Murphy said there is nothing set in stone as yet and plans can be changed , he advised the public could object to any plans when public consultations are published.
- o) MOP asked if the Associated British Ports land was ring fenced for the development of the Barrage.
- p) Cllr. Murphy advised that if the Barrage went ahead the APB land would be utilised. Fleetwood Together Shop Local and Coastal Communities Development Funding would be the business arm for Team Fleetwood.
- q) MOP advised that many private landlords do not keep their properties in good repairs would Regenda be in apposition to purchase such properties if they come onto the market.
- r) Steve Newsham of Regenda advised that they occasionally purchase properties usually in the areas were they already have stock houses.
- s) Cllr. Murphy suggested we invite Mark Broadhurst to a meeting of the Council to provide information on local housing issues.
- t) MOP asked if if local people are given the opportunity to learn new skills for renovating and repairing social housing.
- u) Regenda advised they had done this in other areas.
- v) MOP asked where the figure of £500,000-£600,000 comes from in respect of the dilapidation report for Fleetwood Museum.
- w) Cllr. Murphy advised Wyre own the museum building and LCC rent it. He noted their Estates Dept had identified issues with the building that will require attention before handing it back to Wyre.
- x) MOP raised her concerns about the town centre saying it was a disgrace and noted there were beggars operating on the streets.
- y) Cllr Murphy advised Garstang once had similar issues and without a change in attitudes from the public as a whole, things cannot change. He noted that dog fouling can be reported online via Wyres webpage
- z) Regenda advised that the challenge to rejuvenate the town centre was a big one and to achieve this it will require public engagement.



- aa) Cllr Stuchfield addressed Regenda and asked if the training for new skills decorating etc would result in a job at the end of it.
- bb) Steve Newsham respond on behalf of Regenda and advised that MY was a partner company for Regenda and they undertook the repairs etc. to the properties owned by Regenda. He went on to say that MY employ apprentices and offered work experience. He noted that Regenda also own MacDonald's Lettings and with the new legislation expected in 2017 states that all UK employers with a wage bill of 3 million will be required to pay towards a national apprenticeship scheme. He advised some building projects are currently on hold at the moment but once the project begins the 8 million pounds received will guarantee jobs for local people.
- bb)Cllr. Murphy advised also that FT Community Trust will be offering 16-25 year olds a 12 week training/work experience programme.
- cc) MOP advised that Lord St is now prone to flooding.
- dd) Cllr. Barrowclough advised flooding can be reported via the LCC website.

Cllr. Barrowclough Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed

Date