



# Fleetwood Town Council

Onward to a Better Future

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday 30th January 2018 at the North Euston Hotel, Fleetwood at 7 p.m.

**Present:** Cllrs Rogers, Barrowclough, George, McLaughlan, Anderton, Stirzaker, Raynor and Stuchfield. Clerk (D Thornton) CDO (Dawn Spooner).

13 Members of the public.

**2546** Cllr Rogers opened the meeting and welcomed members of the public and wished everyone a happy new year. On behalf of Fleetwood Town Council condolences were offered to the Lofthouse family on the loss of Mr Tony Lofthouse.

**2547 Apologies for absence**

Were accepted from Cllrs Hewitt, Tilling, Glasgow, E Stephenson and B Stephenson.

**2548 To accept the Minutes of the Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017.**

The minutes were accepted with no amendments

**2549 To record Disclosable Pecuniary Interests from members**

None declared.

**2550 To record Other (Personal or Prejudicial) Interests from members**

Cllr Raynor declared an interest in panning matters due to her position on Wyre Planning committee.

**2551 To receive the Chairman's report**

See appendix A

**2552 To receive the Clerk's report**

See appendix A

**2553 To receive the CDO's report**

See appendix A

**2554 To receive Ward reports**

See appendix A

### Councillors

T Rogers (Chairman) E. Anderton B. Glasgow M. Barrowclough (Vice Chairman) N.Stuchfield M. Stirzaker  
P. Tilling C. McLaughlan B. Stephenson E.Stephenson R. Hewitt C. Raynor R. George



**2555 Adjournment to allow public participation (1).**

**a) Neighbourhood Policing Team report.**

No one from the team was available to give a report

**b) Public participation**

MOP commented on the CANTAXX brine discharge plans, stating planning permission was granted in 2009 and asking if this had expired. A councillor responded that the development consent was granted in 2015 but this would be investigated.

MOP stated it would be worth checking the situation with the sea defences as these were being built to accommodate the pipes.

MOP stated they had fears the brine discharge would cause massive problems re ecological damage and doesn't think Halite have consulted properly.

MOP added that since the original public enquiry there have been repeated requests for thorough seabed surveys to assess the potential damage.

MOP commented re the Marines event and stated that in the 50s a helicopter from HMS Eagle landed on the golf club car park.

Mr Alan Bell spoke to provide supporting information for the Folkus grant aid application. He gave the background on Folkus objectives, funding and upcoming events, and the new initiative for Fleetwood: "Sailortown". There was already lots of community engagement and involvement from schools, the council were asked to look favourably on the application.

**2556 To reconvene the meeting.**

**2557 To note and approve the Quarter 3 financial return.**

Noted and approved - Unanimous

**2558 To note and approve the bank reconciliation document to 31/12/17.**

Noted and approved - Unanimous

**2559 To note the budget monitoring document completed up to Q3.**

Noted



- 2560 To approve payment of the invoice from the Rabbit Patch for design of the new council website.**  
Payment approved – Unanimous.  
Cllr Anderton on behalf of the media working group thanked the Rabbit Patch for a much-improved website, which will go live as soon as updates have been added.
- 2561 To approve payment of invoice from British Gas for emergency call out and replacement part to faulty boiler – as notified to council members by e-mail.**  
Payment approved – Unanimous.
- 2562 To approve a quote from K. Blundell (handyman) for work required to split allotment plots 1 and 2 as approved by council on 31/10/17.**  
Quote approved – Unanimous.
- 2563 To note payment for Christmas Trees made to Barton Grange to meet payment due date. Quote and purchase approved 26/9/17.**  
Noted and approved – unanimous.
- 2564 To discuss and approve the In-Bloom 2018 budget proposals and deliverables as recommended by the In-Bloom working group (enclosed). To include resolutions on the following specific proposals:**
- i. To decide on one quote for 2 permanent planters at Ash St. To be purchased from the main budget as a permanent asset.***  
Wybone quote approved – Unanimous.
  - ii. To approve the purchase of 8 x wall mounted baskets for bowling club prom facing wall. To be purchased from the main budget as a permanent asset.***  
Purchase approved up to £175.00 in total – to be obtained from a local supplier when in stock.
  - iii. To approve the recommendation of the working group to continue with the contract with Plantscape for 40 x hanging baskets.***  
Contract continuation approved: 5 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions.
  - iv. To approve the proposal to purchase compost from West Coast builder's supplies following on from last year's arrangements.***  
Compost supplier approved as West Coast Builders supplies – unanimous.
  - v. To approve the updated costings for plants from previously approved suppliers.***  
Approved – unanimous.



- vi. **To approve a general budget for sundry purchases based on 2017 costs. The working group and CDO to request purchases be made by the clerk under this approval.**

Approved – unanimous.

- 2565 To consider and approve a proposal to engage with school and community groups to organise plan and deliver poppy making workshops from re-cycled plastic bottles. To be used for all relevant Fleetwood events during the centenary year.**

Approved – unanimous.

£322 allocated to schools and £120 to community groups.

**Total budget approved: £442**

- 2566 To consider and approve setting up a contract with the Community Payback team to deliver infrastructure requirements for In Bloom and associated improvements to community assets. Quote identical to last years.**

The CDO and chairman updated the meeting on the valuable services provided by the payback team in 2017. The contract is not just about in-bloom but also benefits the general maintenance of Fleetwood's assets and street furniture.

The new contract for 2018 was approved unanimously.

- 2567 To consider an application for £750.00 grant aid from St Marys school to purchase Green screen technology and training.**

Members supported the benefits of the technology for supporting the learning aspirations of Fleetwood's children, but expressed concerns about setting a precedent by providing additional funding when LCC should be allocating sufficient funds. In addition, as there were no financial statements provided and evidence of where the schools match funding would come from, the **matter was deferred** to the next meeting.

- 2568 To consider an application for £500.00 grant aid from Folkus to fund performances for "Sailortown".**

Approved – unanimous

- 2569 To consider and *approve in principle* an approach to be made to Mawdesley Parish Council to discuss purchase of a second hand, battery powered SPID unit (enclosed) The clerk for Mawdesley has advised the unit is approximately 10 years old and they will be asking £700 for it. If approved and the unit is available members are asked to indicate a maximum amount FTC can offer to purchase.**

Item withdrawn – the SPID has been sold.



- 2570 To approve the appointment of the council's regular internal auditor, Mr Bob Grimshaw, and instruct the clerk to make arrangements for the audit to be carried out.**

Approved – unanimous

- 2571 To approve a claim for mileage allowance for the clerk**

Approved – unanimous

- 2572 To discuss and agree a proposal to remove the three "In Bloom" award signs on the approaches to the town. If agreed, permission is sought to obtain a quote from a sign writer for replacement signs to reflect 2017 and 2018 (when known) awards.**

Approval was given for removal of the signs and quotes obtained for replacements. Design and wording to be discussed by the In-Bloom working group.

- 2573 To consider and agree a proposal to establish a working group for the proposed skate park. If agreed to nominate and approve members.**

Discussions took place about moving this issue forward, and what children and youth representatives in Fleetwood wanted in terms of community/leisure facilities for their age group. The chairman advised that consultations, by Wyre and FTC in partnership had taken place with 11-14-year olds in Fleetwood last year and the results were being collated. The consultations had the main aim to address ASB issues through providing positive activities. Strong concerns were expressed regarding the consultation, and the discussion was deferred.

It was agreed to **defer the agenda item** until the results of the consultation were available.

**The CDO asked to leave the meeting at this point and was excused.**

- 2574 To discuss the options for the 2018 meeting schedule and agree dates as appropriate.**

Option 2 was agreed, on a pilot basis for 2018 to be reviewed in November, and with the addition of an-extraordinary meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February, to authorise staff salaries and other imminent payments that could not wait until March. The clerk to update all stakeholders, social media, press and

- 2575 Adjournment to allow public participation (2).**

MOP Asked for everyone to be updated with the new meeting schedule. The clerk confirmed this would be done.

MOP asked what happened off the back of the historic meeting involving children re the skate park and speakers.



MOP asked councillor's views on the news that the former Cumberland Hotel (Marine View) building is at risk. Councillors were disappointed, but to date had not been approached by any residents regarding the issue. It was stated that Regenda have advised there were safety issues and there were too few residents to provide the revenue to maintain it. Some members agreed to attend a meeting the next day on the issue.

**2576 To reconvene the meeting.**

**2577 To note planning applications received in December and January and agree any action to be taken or a response to the planning authority.**

It was noted that applications 17/01063/FUL, 17/01067/FUL and 17/01068/FUL refer to cladding Regenda properties. It is expected that the cladding materials will meet current fire standards – Wyre will be contacted for clarification.

**2578 To approve Accounts for Payment, including clerks and CDO salaries on enclosed information sheet.**

All accounts for payment were approved - Unanimous

**2579 To receive items for information and items for inclusion in the next agenda subject to full information being available.**

Deferred items 2567 – Grant aid application from St Marys school and item 2573, Working group for skate park to be deferred to 13<sup>th</sup> March.

On the request of Cllr Barrowclough, the new Wyre Council portfolio holder for Health and Community engagement, Michael Vincent to be invited to give a presentation during the public participation section of the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> march.

**2580 To consider and resolve to exclude the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 and the Data Protection Act 1999, to hear an item related to officers pay scales, as confidential between members of staff and the council.**

Approved - Unanimous



**2581 Date of the next meeting will be: 27<sup>th</sup> February (an extraordinary meeting to authorise urgent payments only, at 122 Poulton Rd, Fleetwood) and 13<sup>th</sup> March at the North Euston Hotel – Full meeting and annual Town Meeting**

**Press and Public Excluded**

**2582 IN CONFIDENCE: To consider a proposal regarding officers pay scales.**

It was resolved unanimously to approve the annual increase to officers pay scales from 1/4/18, in accordance with employment contracts and the NALC/SLCC National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay scales (attached) which are valid up to 1 April 2018. The Proposed pay scales for April 2018 onwards are still being negotiated between the main unions and the government. The pay point increase is to be awarded based on current scales, and when the new scales are agreed any back pay will be brought to council again for consideration and approval.

**Clerk**

Current pay scale: SCP 24 (April 2016 – April 2017) £11.302 per hour.

New scale: SCP 25 (April 2017 – April 2018) £11.777 per hour.

**CDO**

Current pay scale: SCP 23 (April 2017 – April 2018) £11.054 per hour.

New scale: SCP 24 (April 2017 – April 2018) £11.415 per hour.

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Clerk to the Council

Tel: 01253 872444



## APPENDIX A

### **Chairman's report**

Attended trustee meetings at the museum and the Fleetwood Marsh Working Group. Also gave a presentation on volunteering to a meeting in Blackpool.

### **Clerk's report**

- Agenda and packs prepared for Full Council and Festive Lights meetings
- Dealt with several customer enquiries by phone, e-mail and in person at the office.
- Completed the quarter 3 accounts, budget monitoring sheet, cashbook and bank reconciliation. Oct – Dec is a very busy month for transactions – in the pack for approval.
- I attended the last evening CiLCA workshop on Thursday 30th Nov, completed the full 30 CiLCA assessment submissions before the end of December and submitted them via the online portal on 16th January. I have had the first unit of 5 assignments marked and passed.
- Met with the Nature reserve working group on 24 Jan and finalized the draft memorandum of understanding which will come to full council for further deliberation/approval at the next meeting.
- The development of the basic template and content for the new FTC website has now been completed and the link to it has been forwarded to the Media Working Group and other members for comments – thanks to all who responded. I now have the task of learning the Content Management system (Wordpress) and enhancing the site for go-live. The current webpage is still in the public domain at the moment. I would like to say a big thank you to the service providers the Rabbit Patch who have worked hard to deliver a first version suited to our requirements. The invoice is in the pack for approval.
- Asked the handyman who did work at the back of the office to give a quote for the splitting of plots 1 and 2. The quote has come in under £300 after some revisions to the work needed and is in the pack for consideration. Once approved and carried out the plots can be formally split, and the surveyor brought in to formally measure and map the site.



- Have been researching the introduction of GDPR – (General Data Protection Regulation) in May this year – and have forwarded some information from SLCC to councillors last week. The position of small local councils and guidance is very hazy. I will be looking into how the legislation impacts FTC (mainly relating to the electronic communication of personal data and the risk of identity fraud) and what we need to do to ensure we are covered by a data protection officer. I have approached the
- Wyre Council DPO to ask if any training for their Parish/Town Clerks is a possibility. I will update members with any developments.
- Spoken with Mark Helsby at his pet shop following the loan of the pet microchip scanner in July 2017. He has reported 72 uses for cats and dogs – from visitors to the shop and even going out to people’s homes. Several animals have been re-united with their owners as a result, with an assumed reduction in strays on the street and use of police time.
- 2 Reminders please – one cheque for signatures at the end of the meeting and could all councillors who have not returned the signed front sheet of the agreed media policy document please do so asap. I have additional copies here if you have put yours in a “safe place”!
- Facebook activity

Activity	July 2107	Aug/ Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2018	Feb
Likes (rolling figure)	477	519	539	564	-		
Following (Rolling figure)	478	522	546	572	-		
Views	169,578	207,643	13,347	16,137	8486	701 (to 22/1/18)	



- FTC Website stats

Month	Total Visitors	Visitors per Day	Unique Visitors	Hits
January 2017	5,051	162.9	1,722	100,861
February 2017	4,466	159.5	1,774	58,441
March 2017	3,352	108.1	1,420	45,579
April 2017	3,540	118.0	1,570	63,271
May 2017	5,118	165.1	1,918	66,182
June 2017	5,409	180.3	1,844	85,087
July 2017	5,757	185.7	1,972	91,156
August 2017	5,732	184.9	1,860	99,085
September 2017	5,534	184.5	1,937	109,336
October 2017	5,330	171.9	2,005	82,497
November 2017	5,812	193.7	1,814	109,717
December 2017	5,155	166.3	1,678	96,333
January 2018	3,570	171.6	1,371	73,152

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## **CDO's report**

### Allotments

I have organised Lancashire Tree Services to carry out the additional tree pruning as agreed by full council - item 2535 on the November agenda.

### Healthier Fleetwood

I attended the Spice 'Time Credit' meeting at Fleetwood Health and Wellbeing Centre which was presented by Harriet Pugh who is the project manager for mobilising communities. In a nutshell time credits recognise the valuable work that volunteers do, offering rewards for time spent volunteering. This is a scheme that I was keen to sign up to as a reward for Festive Lights and In Bloom volunteers, but also as an incentive to recruit new volunteers for community projects. Unfortunately, I learned during this meeting that the funding from LCC was being withdrawn and that other funding options were being explored. Until sustainability is guaranteed I am unwilling to actively promote the scheme.

### Certificate presentation

As a thank you to all the children from Flakefleet and St Mary's primary school who helped with Fleetwood in Bloom, I designed certificates which Councillor Rogers and I presented during assemblies. Both schools have expressed an interest in taking part again this year.

### Willow Garden Project

I met with Pam and Karen to discuss another partnership arrangement for Fleetwood in Bloom this year. They have agreed to create a display from recycled materials in The Euston Gardens. The theme will be in keeping with chosen WW1 theme.

### Fleetwood in Bloom

At the meeting of the 'In Bloom' working group on 15th December I informed the members that our entry was only 1 point off GOLD, with the judge's report stating our entry is 'not far off outstanding'. We discussed the few suggestions for areas for improvement and I have been working on a number of action points which are included in the January pack for council approval.

### Festive Lights

I attended the first meeting of the year – the debrief from the new lights from Blachare and the Switch on event. A full and positive meeting with lots of positive feedback and lots of enthusiasm for this year. A number of ideas were presented for fundraising to include repeating the Christmas Ball which was a huge success this year.



## **Ward reports**

### **Cllr Raynor**

Meetings attended: Back on track, festive lights, the recycled food project, homecoming meeting, the no-gas storage forum and the Blackpool and Fylde college adult training initiative for Fleetwood.

Fly tipping is still a big issue on the ward – reported that Wyre Council are assisting and removing rubbish within 24 hours of it being reported. LCC are not so great at assisting with the numerous potholes.

### **Cllr Stirzaker**

Meetings attended: Back on track, festive lights, Fleetwood Marsh Working Group. Dealing with ward issues including an ongoing nuisance neighbour problem. Asked members and MOPs to support the back on track petition on Facebook.

### **Cllr Anderton**

Meetings attended: Meeting with residents who were speaking at the planning committee in opposition to the 80 bedroom care home planned for Laidleys Walk. Application was deferred and has been resubmitted to be heard at February's Planning committee meeting. Festive Lights (16/01/18), Warren Farm Community Association (29/01/18)

Events Attended: None in period.

Ward Work: Dealing with issues & queries from a resident who leases a kiosk from Wyre Borough.

Other: On behalf of Media Working Group submitted a thorough review of the new website and submitted comments to clerk for consideration.

As part of the Marsh Park Working Group reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding and submitted comments & queries to be raised at the meeting in my absence.

### **Cllr Barrowclough**

Keeping an eye on the Regenda activity re-locating residents of Crake Ave. The sea wall project is nearing completion – reminded attendees that FTC had funded the work with £100,000.

Announced that Wyre Councillor Marge Anderton will be Wyre mayor in May and has asked him to be her deputy mayor, which he has accepted. Members offered their congratulations and best wishes.

### **Cllr McLaughlan**

No report

### **Cllr George**

Met with local children at the Chatsworth shops to discuss clean up projects they are interested in. Holding ward surgery at the Westview community centre every Monday afternoon. Attended the Spice Time credits meeting where it was reported that funding would cease from LCC and alternative funding streams were being investigated. Along with the CDO Cllr George confirmed involvement would be put on hold until the project was on a firm footing re funding again.



Dealt with 2 fly tipping reports on the ward – liaising with Wyre re hotspots. Presented a cheque on behalf of the council to the Westview Community Association Princes trust team – in respect of the mural grant aid award.

### **Cllr Stuchfield**

Meetings attended: Back on track x2, Avon green project, Fleetwood Marsh Working Group. Dealt with issues re reckless parking on junctions. Expressed concerns regarding the cuts in LCC funding announced in their financial forecast for frontline social care staff, and the underspend on road maintenance being re-directed.

As part of Fleetwood In Bloom would like to propose a best community garden prize, funded by FTC to encourage more private residents to support the in-bloom effort (to be listed for approval on 27<sup>th</sup> February).

### **Gas storage/Brine outflow:**

Has received further responses from Halite on questions put forward as follows:

#### **Cavern Stability:**

The Chief Exec led the Councillors to believe that there are some seriously unstable caverns that are possibly imminent for implosion/explosion. I would like to know where these are and what impact this will have on the marsh and surrounding area as to where they are situated?

Response: Mr Budinger was referring to the legacy brinefield which Halite inherited as part of its landholding at Preesall. The brinefield was created by Fleetwood Salt Company in the 1800s and ultimately extended by ICI includes 104 historic wells, some of which have already collapsed. Halite has made a long-term commitment to being a good steward of the land in its ownership and takes this responsibility very seriously. Since 2015 we have invested over £250,000 to safeguard the integrity of the existing wells. This work includes monitoring pressures and levels of high risk brinewells, repairing wellheads as required and maintaining gauges, taps and gaskets on the wellheads. Our maintenance plan is overseen by the Health & Safety Executive.

The cavern that is currently most at risk in the old brinefield is brinewell 64. This is located Off Corcass Lane and local tenant farmers are aware of the issues with this well. ICI had fenced off this well and it is no longer farmed. Halite continues to closely monitor movement of the cavern and implement any remedial measures required. It is important to note that gas will NOT be stored in any of these old caverns and the new, purpose-built gas storage caverns are located well away from the legacy brinefield.

#### **Brine Disposal:**

Additionally could revenue not be found to reinstate the rail link as it would make significant sense and a route for brine dispersal? Also I am extremely concerned about the brine disposal and the drift as it will affect not only our water on the estuary but that of Blackpool also.

Response: Different options for brine disposal were considered extensively during the application period. Halite's Development Consent Order and is based on brine discharge into the sea and this is therefore the option we are now compelled to pursue. Further, the Abstraction Licence states that all abstracted water must be disposed of in the Irish Sea. The impact of discharging of brine into the sea has been scrutinised by regulatory bodies such as the Environment Agency, Marine Maritime Organisation and Natural England who have accepted our plans. The discharging of brine into the sea, 2.3 kilometres off Rossall will be



closely monitored by the Environment Agency to ensure that salinity levels do not exceed those within our Discharge Consent. This will minimise impact on marine life. Should we exceed these levels we will be compelled to cease the brine discharge until the issue is resolved. The modelling which underpins the Consent, which has recently been verified by the Environment Agency, demonstrates that there will be no significant change in salinity beyond 250 metres of the outfall pipe, so it will not impact on Blackpool or the estuary.

Cavern Management: I understand that from the discussion tonight there was no response/answer given as to when Halite have done the proposed exploration and cavern making who will house keep the new ones made? I understood from Colin Harding that the Legacy caverns will go back to LCC and Halite would tend the ones they have done? Is this incorrect?

Response: As part of the Development Consent Order there are stringent requirements for decommissioning the gas storage caverns at the end of the operation. We anticipate that the commercial life of the development will be in the region of 40 years. At the end of this period, following compliance with decommissioning, it will be incumbent on the owner of the site at that time to monitor and manage both the former ICI legacy brinefield and the gas storage caverns. They will not revert to Lancashire County Council.