



Fleetwood Town Council

Onward to a Better Future

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 29th January 2019 North Euston Hotel, Fleetwood at 7.00 p.m.

DRAFT

Present: Cllrs Hewitt, Conn, Rogers, George, Stirzaker, Stuchfield, Raynor. The clerk D Thornton, PC McClaren from the Neighbourhood policing team. 16 Members of the Public.

2847 Opening of the meeting.

The meeting was duly opened by the chairman Cllr Rogers.

2848 To accept Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Tilling, Anderton and Barrowclough.

Cllrs Glasgow, B Stephenson and E Stephenson were not present and no apologies were received.

2849 To record Disclosable Pecuniary Interests from members (including their spouses, civil partners or partners) in any item to be discussed.

None declared.

2850 To record Other (Personal or Prejudicial) Interests from members in any item to be discussed. Councillors should state if they need to bar themselves from discussion and voting on any related matters.

Cllrs Raynor, George and Hewitt declared an interest in the beach wheelchairs (item 2852) however as no decision making is involved there is no need to abstain from discussion.

2851 To accept the minutes of the meetings of 13 November and 12th December 2018 (enclosed).

A typo was identified at item 2829. The minutes were otherwise accepted unanimously.

Councillors

T Rogers (Chairman)
P. Tilling .

E. Anderton
B. Stephenson

B. Glasgow
E. Stephenson

M. Barrowclough (Vice Chairman)
R. Hewitt

N. Stuchfield
C. Raynor

M. Stirzaker
R. George
M. Conn



2852 To advise members and attendees that the deferred item regarding the Beach Wheelchair Grant aid application from the last meeting is still outstanding due to the applicants ongoing preparation of a business case. *Chairman.*

Duly noted. Cllr George added that the delay is not due to a lack of effort on the applicant's part, but the requirement to wait for information being provided by other groups to ensure a thorough document can be presented.

2853 Adjournment to allow public participation (1).

Neighbourhood police team report. PC McClaren attended and reported on the following:

- Crime and ASBV are down (33%) – the reduction is in a large part down to Shelly Birch from Wyre working with various partners in the town to develop a series of programmes to engage with young people. Plans are already in place to address the expected increase in ASB around Easter when the weather improves.
- Shoplifting has reduced by 17.5% mainly due to the ongoing success of the re-introduced Shop watch scheme, which now has 23 members in the town and at Affinity. A prolific offender has now been caught and sentenced to 23 weeks custody which should see figures reduce even more.
- On 25th January a warrant was executed to search a premises on Preston Rd and a cannabis factory of over 700 plants was discovered. 3 males were arrested and are being dealt with under Human Trafficking regulations – investigations are still ongoing. It was emphasised that the discovery and arrests were down to community provided intelligence. Some weeks earlier a larger factory with plants valued over £3 million in street value was raided at Store 21 so a lot of potential drugs have been taken off the streets. The police ask that the public remain vigilant and report any suspicions. A MOP asked if Fleetwood was especially vulnerable to this kind of activity, and it was confirmed that old, vacant, substantial buildings *with cellars* were particularly attractive, however it was a nationwide problem.

Questions from Cllrs and MOPs were as follows:

- Kids on Quad bikes and mopeds are causing a disturbance around the Chatsworth Rd area. A Cllr reported there were 3 on one moped, none wearing a helmet. Police are aware however they are limited in powers to follow and apprehend, and when visiting known offenders there is no sign of the mopeds or bikes
- A Cllr asked about bikes on the pavements, PC McClaren confirmed this is illegal and can be reported however warnings are more common and prosecutions are rare. He will raise the issue with fellow officers.
- A MOP raised the issue of Camper Vans on the pavements on parts of the Esplanade. The police confirmed that if reported they would attend and if deemed to be an obstruction would instruct them to move on to a proper parking place.
- An MOP asked if another councillor would be taking up the issues around placement of SPIDs after Cllr Barrowclough. Cllr Rogers advised he would discuss the matter with Cllr Barrowclough.



- An MOP commented on the Cleaner Fleetwood Agenda item and advised that Wyre Council had been asked to look at Town Centre “Grot Spots” for cleaning and possible development into community spaces. Cllrs confirmed that they were interested in working together on any clean-up initiative for the benefit of the town.
- A Cllr advised that an online consultation had recently been opened by LCC on a proposed reduction in opening hours for the Counties tips. MOPs were encouraged to register their views for the Jamieson Rd site.

2854 The meeting was reconvened

2855 To note and approve the Quarter 3 accounts.

The accounts were approved - unanimous

2856 To note and accept the Bank Reconciliation for Quarter 3.

The Bank reconciliation was accepted – unanimous.

2857 To note the budget monitoring documents (main expenditure, In-Bloom and Festive Lights) for the end of quarter 3.

Duly noted

2858 To approve a proposal to re-introduce verbal ward reports from the 5th March meeting. For the purposes of keeping meetings manageable, each report to be restricted to 2 minutes.

Cllr Conn proposed an alternative – that the re-introduction of reports be delayed until after the new council is in place (25th June) Council voted on both options as follows:

- Reports to re-commence 5th March: 2 for, 5 against
- Reports to re-commence 25th June: 5 for, 2 against.

Accordingly, verbal ward reports, limited to 2 minutes each will re-start on the 25th June.

2859 To approve the payment of the following invoices by Bank Transfer, Cheque OR Debit Card: JW Fish. In Bloom budget miscellaneous sundries (re-cycled planter building) £17.42.

Approved – Unanimous

2860 To approve the appointment of Bob Grimshaw, independent internal auditor, to complete the councils end of year financial audit as per previous years.

Approved – Unanimous

2861 To consider and approve a request from Cllr Conn to join the In-Bloom working group.

Approved – Unanimous



2862 To approve a quote of £167.58 (inc. VAT) from Andrews Signs to supply and fix 3 replacement “In Bloom” award signs. To be paid from the In-Bloom budget.

Approved – Unanimous

2863 To approve payment of £30.28 to re-imburse Clerk for travel as itemised – all trips confirmed and authorised by Chairman.

Approved – Unanimous

2864 To consider a proposal from the Media Working Group on a “Cleaner Fleetwood” Initiative, and if agreed approve in principle a year 1 expenditure of £3144.20 with the caveat that match funding of £2000 is sourced from local businesses and stakeholders. If approved, full site survey results and an update on match funding will be presented to council at the March meeting with a view to seeking a final decision.

Council approved the proposal in principle with the caveats detailed – unanimous. The clerk was asked to publish the report on the website.

2865 To consider a report on the Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park and approve the following proposals:

- **To pay the outstanding balance of £1769.59 (invoice at end of the report) as FTCs contribution to LCC for the maintenance of the site in 2018.**
- **To approve an extension of the pilot period for a further 12 months as detailed in part 4 of the report.**

Council resolved to pay the balance due to LCC of £1769.59, 5 for, 2 abstentions.

Members debated the principle of extending the pilot period at some length. From the discussion the following proposals were made:

- To defer the decision to March 5th pending the outcome of the LEF grant application: 3 for, 4 against.
- To approve the proposal as it stands (extend for 12 months): 4 for, 3 against.

Accordingly, the pilot period will be extended for another 12 months.

2866 To consider a grant aid application from HM Coastguard Fleetwood.

An award of £700.00 was approved - Unanimous



2867 To consider a grant aid application from Fleetwood Carnival Committee.

Members discussed concerns regarding payments already made to Marine Hall as a deposit for 2019, clarified the accounting period for income and outgoings, and debated the amount applied for. A proposal was made and seconded to award the amount of £1000 to cover first aid and road closure costs.

Members voted: 4 For, 1 Against and 2 abstentions. Accordingly, a grant award of £1000 will be made to the Fleetwood Carnival Committee

2868 To consider a proposal to fund £125.00 for an application to LCC to carry out a site survey on Fleetwood Rd North to assess the location for "Welcome to Fleetwood" signage. If approved to agree the exact wording to go on the sign. Once the assessment is received the report will be presented to council to consider costings - potential amounts are detailed in the e-mail to LCC.

Approved – unanimous.

2869 To consider a proposal to host a "Fleetwood In-Bloom thank you and Networking coffee afternoon". This will be to for the working group and council staff to thank stakeholders and volunteers, discuss 2019 ideas and actively recruit volunteers. Costs would be £35.00 for room hire at the North Euston and £106.25, TOTAL: £141.25 for refreshments (Tea, coffee, cakes, biscuits). If approved costs will be covered by the In-Bloom budget and the event arranged for late February/early March.

Approved – unanimous.

2870 To consider a proposal to clear historic rubble from Plot 11 and communal areas of the allotments. Payback have agreed to remove the rubble and waste to the outside carpark (a full day's work). A quote from a recommended local grab-hire supplier is £216 inc. VAT for full removal (enclosed). A skip big enough to cope with the waste would cost approximately £280 + VAT.

Approved – unanimous

2871 To reconsider of a request from the Festive Lights Committee (deferred from 13/11/18) to continue to illuminate the Pocket Park (after the festive season) all year round. The cost is estimated at around £124-150 for the year based on the costs for the festive period and advice from a trustee.

Withdrawn on request of Cllr Stirzaker. The Pocket Park will be lit for the Christmas Period only– Agreed by members.



2872 To consider a proposal to suspend the pest control contract with Enviroguard for the allotments for a pilot period of 6 months. Evidence from the RSPCA is that 54 feral cats on the site have been captured and neutered in the last 18 months and the population is now stable, with no kittens produced this year. According to RSPCA advice they are a proven natural predator for vermin and render the traps obsolete. In addition, chemical traps have been shown to poison other wildlife including hedgehogs, which are also a pest controller. Monies saved will remain in the allotment budget for site maintenance.

Approved – unanimous.

2873 Adjournment to allow public participation (2).

Questions from members of the public were as follows:

- Where would the location of the new “Welcome to Fleetwood” sign be? This would be determined by the LCC site survey.
- An allotment plot holder asked if any additional rubble could be removed from their plot (item 2870 refs). As the quote given was based on an actual survey any increase in bulk would probably result in a price increase which has not been approved by council so likely not, however the question would be looked into.
- A MOP noted that the Burn Hall Industrial Estate site (old ICI entrance) had an FY7 postcode so the boundary might be there.
- An MOP commented that licenced premises had it in their lease conditions to keep public areas in front of their premises clean and they should be approached for assistance – member confirmed this was already in the Cleaner Fleetwood proposal.
- An MOP asked if Heads of Terms had been produced by LCC for the Marsh site – the Clerk confirmed this had not happened yet.
- A MOP expressed concern that the mini-bin solution in the Cleaner Fleetwood proposal would just add more plastic waste to the environment. Members clarified that the mini-bins were intended for long term use (one had been used for 6 years) and were definitely not disposable.
- A MOP queries the concentration of Festive Lights expenditure in Q3of the accounts. The clerk clarified that the majority of contractor’s invoices for Town Centre, The Mount and Pocket Park lighting became due in that quarter, hence the figures.

2874 The meeting was reconvened

2875 To note planning applications considered by members and agree any action to be taken or response to the planning authority.

Duly noted.

2876 To receive items for information and items for inclusion in the next agenda subject to full information being available. Members are reminded that no discussion or decision may be taken.

Duly noted – no items were put forward



2877 To agree Accounts for Payment (including January and February salaries). See information sheet on page 1 of the meeting pack.

Approved - Unanimous

2878 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 as confidential regarding staff salaries.

Approved - Unanimous

The next meeting, including the Annual Town meeting will be on Tuesday 5th March 2019 at the North Euston Hotel at 7pm. The 2019 meeting schedule can be found on the Website and council noticeboards. All members of the public and press are welcome to attend.

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Debra Thornton

Clerk to Fleetwood Town Council

2879 **CONFIDENTIAL – PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

To consider a proposal regarding the annual review of staff salaries.

A proposal was put forward to consider the review of salaries for each officer separately. Members voted for: 3, against 4. Accordingly, both salaries were considered as one item.

Members approved the annual increase for the clerk to SCP 20 (was 27 on old scale) from 1st April 2019, and for the CDO to SCP 16 (no old scale equivalent) from 1st April 2019. 6 for, 1 abstention.



CLERK'S REPORT - 29th Jan 2019

- Agenda and packs prepared for Full Council and 2x Festive Lights meetings
- Dealt with several customer enquiries by phone, e-mail and in person at the office.
- Paid invoices and banked receipts - multiple festive lights transactions and receipts.
- Routine Facebook and Website updates and responses carried out.
- Completed third quarter (2018-2019) financial report, bank reconciliation and budget monitoring reports for main budget, FIB and Festive Lights.
- Issued formal precept request to Wyre Council – acknowledgement received
- Completed report on the Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park deliverables and next steps (Agenda item 29/1/19)
- Completed report on Cleaner Fleetwood Initiative on behalf of the Media Working Group (Agenda item 29/1/19)
- Arranged cheque presentation for the Fleetwood Day grant award
- Attended: Festive Lights switch on event to manage bucket collection security,