



Fleetwood Town Council

Onward to a Better Future

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting on Tuesday 29th October 2019 At The North Euston Hotel, Fleetwood at 7.00 p.m.

- 3032 Opening of the meeting.** Chairman Stirzaker opened the meeting
Present: Stirzaker, Raynor, Beavers, Blair, Campbell, Crawford, Cunningham, George, Shewan,
The Clerk
Tim Blythe (Ranger Marsh Park)
Members of the Public
- 3033 To accept apologies for absence.**
Accepted from Cllrs Armstrong, Smith and Stephenson
- 3034 To record Disclosable Pecuniary Interests from members (including their spouses, civil partners or partners) in any item to be discussed. Councillors MUST NOT make representations or vote on the matter therein.**
None disclosed
- 3035 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 Stirzaker and Raynor - Will refrain from discussions on Planning items.
- 3036 To accept the minutes of the meetings of 17 September and the Extra-ordinary meetings of 23 September and 11 October 2019.**
The minutes were accepted – unanimous and signed by the Chairman.
- 3037 To receive ward reports – each member to restrict their report to 2 minutes and provide a transcript to the clerk by e-mail for inclusion in the minutes by the end of the day on 30 October 2019.**
All Cllrs gave ward updates; written reports sent to clerk are attached at **Appendix A.**

Councillors

M. Stirzaker (Chairman) C. Raynor (Vice-Chairman) C. Armstrong L. Beavers M. Blair N. Campbell
B. Crawford R. Cunningham R. George R. Shewan C. Smith B. Stephenson



3038 To receive a report from the FTC Disability Champion. Cllr George

Cllr George gave update; her main concerns are around drop kerbs, pavements and potholes.

3039 To receive a report from the Armed Forces Champion. Cllr Crawford

Cllr Crawford gave update – see *Appendix B*

3040 Adjournment to allow public participation (2). Chairman

(i) Neighbourhood police team report

No one from Police attended

(ii) Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park (FMNP) – Developments and Community Initiatives

Tim Blythe came to the meeting to update us on the Improvement project, following the successful application for a grant from Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF). He began by telling us about his role and LCCs responsibilities for open spaces; he gave some insight into the history and benefits of the FMNP.

However, he was very clear in that LCC assist in keeping the park safe and clean and any added value will be the responsibility of FTC. Following a public consultation in 2018, an activity plan was produced and part of the grant is aside for the delivery of some of the initiatives on that plan.

He then spoke about the journey so far and the went into some detail as to the developments that are ongoing and those in the pipeline. Essentially, there are 3 improvements strands that make up the project:

1. Quick wins – some implemented such as new notice board, dog waste bins and the presence of a PT Ranger
2. Physical Improvements – new pathways (recently been completed), new seating and the development to habitats.
3. Community Involvement – This the part that FTC will lead on – Tim spoke about some of the ideas put forward to engage our communities in activities in hope of building public enjoyment and involvement at the site; such as, health walks, bird spotting, pebble painting/hide & seek, photography days/competition, bird box painting and litter picking – to name but a few.

Some discussion points from members of the public and councillors were as follows:

- Opening up the re-beds would be good for the bird life
- A joined up path from Stannah through to FMNP
- FT needs further employment opportunities and therefore should we be advocating reserving land for nature parks – why not employment?
- MOP asked is anything planned to improve Jameson Road. Cllr Beavers talked about it being an unadopted road but agreed it is very poor and said she would look into this further.



3041 To reconvene the meeting. *Chairman*

3042 To note the budget monitoring sheet, festive lights summary and In-Bloom summary (enclosed). *Clerk*

All budget monitoring sheets noted

3043 To approve the payment of the following invoice (enclosed):

- **PKF Accountants & Business Advisors – the sum of £720 for the Professional Services for the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for Y/E 31 March 2019. *Clerk***

Payment of £720.00 approved

3044 To consider a Grant Aid application from the Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood Statue Group (enclosed) – *Margaret Daniels* from Civic Society to be present to answer any questions.

It was noted that this is the second year we have been asked to fund this event and comments were made with regard to match funding. Also, the question was asked - have they also approached Wyre Council – Margaret replied that they had but the events manager had rejected, as there is no funding available.

An observation was put forward with regard to last year - the stalls being too far back – Margaret was aware and will be changing that this year.

A unanimous motion was passed in favour of the grant, on an exceptional basis, owing to it marking the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

3045 To consider restoration work to the Armed Forces Memorial Bench and possible move to a lesser exposed location – (see supporting documentation enclosed). *Cllr Crawford*

It was agreed to get someone to look at the bench to assess what needs to be done
8 Cllrs approved

1 Cllr abstained

Action Point – To look up supplier and also speak to Payback team re assessment and re-painting - Clerk

3046 To approve, in principle, for FTC to co-fund 3 CCTV cameras at a cost of £6,000 for the Memorial Park. This is for the purpose of preventing anti-social behaviour".

Cllr George

There was a lot of discussion with regard to this item, particularly around prevention of anti-social behaviours and how community groups can and should be working together in supportive ways – other councillors mentioned group meetings they have also attended; Cllr Stirzaker commented that she had just been to a meeting earlier that day with the Police and other Youth leaders and CCTV was debated, along with other preventative initiatives and, for many reasons, including the manning of CCTV, it was concluded that CCTV alone, is not the answer.



Motion was not approved by 8 Cllrs
1 Cllr abstained

3047 To re-consider and approve the purchase of 5000 bespoke Mini Bins.

Following a long delay since original initiative, we have unfortunately been unable to secure some of the original proposed sponsorship (confirmed amount is now £906.42). However, we have been able to source a cheaper quote from a new supplier 'Smartstreets Ltd', at a cost of £3650.00 + VAT; with the reduced sponsorship, the final cost is £2,743.58 + VAT. *Chairman*

A discussion took place with regard to the cost and also if mini bins are in the best interest of tax-payers and whether FTC should appear to be supportive of smoking – a short debate took place and it was concluded that the Cleaner Fleetwood initiative is worth investing in and therefore the motion was passed.

Approved - Unanimous

3048 To approve the amount of £1,500 for reducing the Leylandii trees in height and to trim back the sides; all within the allotment area; remove tree debris and leave the site clean and tidy (quote enclosed).

Following 3 complaints from residents who live behind the Allotments on Laurel and Hazel Avenues, I have tried to source 3 quotes to urgently trim down the trees that are causing them problems. Despite my efforts in ringing & chasing, I have only been able to secure one quote, I believe this to be a competitive quote, given some conversations I have had with the specialists and what we paid previously. I am looking to council to approve this quote so that I can commission the work to be done immediately. *Clerk*

Approved - Unanimous

3049 To approve the creation of a Committee for FMNP and to nominate and vote accordingly. *Chairman*

Approved – Unanimous

Nominations received from: Cllrs Crawford, Blair and George. Also, Clerk put forward a nomination for the CEDO, as soon as one is appointed.

Action Point – To invite nominations to those absent - Clerk

3050 To approve the creation of a Committee for FIB and to nominate and vote accordingly. *Chairman*

Approved – Unanimous

Nominations from Chairman Stirzaker, Cllrs' Cunningham, Crawford, Blair, Beavers and Shewan.

Action Point – To invite nominations to those absent - Clerk

3051 To propose and approve a change to Ward updates by councillors (see supporting documentation enclosed). *Clerk*



Clerk talked through the idea of replacing the 2-minute ward updates with a formal written update, that will be included with the Agenda (and within the meeting Pack). This will give councillors at least the 3 working days to read up on what each other have done/attended since last meeting, any new initiatives/projects and perhaps, more importantly, any burning issues, ahead of the meeting. This will allow all cllrs time to formulate constructed questions for the meeting, if necessary, but hopefully a well-written update would negate the need, resulting in a more meaningful session – a sort of ‘Question Time’.

To support this initiative the Clerk has put together a template that Cllrs can complete throughout the time between meetings, on a day-by-day basis, making it less onerous on them to complete on the last minute, as they do now. It would also give a consistent record of what Cllrs are involved in and be transparent for the public/community groups of Fleetwood to see.

There was some discussion, as some cllrs felt it would be best to take the updates off the Agenda, owing to the time they take, however, it was decided to give this idea a trial, report back the pros/cons and bring back to the table if required.

Approved - unanimous

Action Point – To forward template to Cllrs - Clerk

3052 To consider a proposal for the purchase of a Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday at a cost of up to £20.00. *Chairman*

Approved - Unanimous

3053 To approve the purchase of 200 new business cards for Cllr Raynor owing to her changing Wards, at a cost of £26.00 + VAT from our usual supplier Panther Press. *Cllr Raynor*

Approved - Unanimous

3054 To consider and approve the office new energy suppliers – current contracts end in December – Various quotes enclosed. Preferred option is with Utility Aid. *Clerk*

Discussions took place re the providers - Cllr Raynor commented that EDF are supporters of Fracking and therefore she will not approve that one, other councillors gave their support to Cllr Raynor and a short debate took place. Clerk had to point out that EDF are the current supplier of Electricity and also, owing to time constraints, if a decision is deferred, the current contracts will roll over, as by the next meeting it will be too late (30 days' notice is required to be given when ending the contract), therefore the savings need be factored into the decision making.

Although not all approved – the motion to switch suppliers was carried by a majority.

5 Cllrs approved

2 voted No

2 abstained

Action Point – To contact Utility Aid as the preferred broker for the approved suppliers and ask them to go ahead and arrange the switch - Clerk



3055 Adjournment to allow public participation (2).

- MOP mentioned house waste on Fairway where he lives being a health hazard; if it is within the boundaries of the house not a lot can be done. He was asked if he has approached the householder as perhaps they will respond to that approach in the first instance.
- MOP asked if we have got the dates for the 2020 FC meetings – Clerk responded, it will be at December’s FCM and will also post on Website.
- Cllr Raynor asked the MOP if they have any thoughts on the proposal by Wyre to change residents parking permits to 2 years. MOP asked about the cost, Cllr Raynor confirmed £30; one discussion point was around the overheads of this change in respect of the administration costs. Cllr George had concerns for disabled residents as the proposal for Disabled Bays could mean a double charge.
- MOP asked a question regarding the purchase of the Minibins - she wanted to know if we will be engaging with shops and other businesses and also licenced premises . Cllr Stirzaker said no there are no plans for this, distribution will be via ward cllrs to residents.

3056 To Reconvene the meeting.

3057 To note planning applications considered by members and agree any action to be taken or responses to the planning authority (enclosed).

Cllr Shewan walked through the planning applications rec’d since the last FCM - *see Appendix C*

3058 To receive items for information only 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.

For Information only

- The Ofcom Licence has now come through and a copy sent to Fleetwood Police. **Clerk**
- The CEDO recruitment is ongoing with 12 applications received at time of this Agenda going to print. **Clerk**
- Audit “notice of conclusion of audit” published. **Clerk**
- The 10th Northern Festival of Remembrance (Marine Hall 09/11/19). **Cllr Crawford**
- Remembrance Sunday, as FTC Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Crawford will lay a wreath. **Cllr Crawford**
- On behalf of Fleetwood and Fylde Veterans, Cllr Crawford will be selling poppies in Asda on Monday 2 November 2019. **Cllr Crawford**

For inclusion in the next Agenda

- Clerk to source some quotes for new Vacuum Cleaner for the FTC Office as the one we have is inefficient, dated, heavy and extremely noisy.



3059 To agree Accounts for Payment including October salary for Clerk – see enclosed information sheet.

Approved – Unanimous

3060 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 items of a confidential matter regarding an officers' expenses.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th December 2019 at the North Euston Hotel at 7.00pm

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Irene Tonge

Clerk to Fleetwood Town Council



GREEN PAPER - In Confidence – Public and Press Excluded

3061 To approve expenses for Clerk
Approved - Unanimous

Signed

Chairman, Fleetwood Town Council