

APPENDIX C – NO TO HEYSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE – 19 JULY 2018

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| 1 | <p>Hi I have had the flyer through for Heysham parish council proposals. I want my view taken into account which I strongly and firmly state that I do NOT want this Heysham parish council created. £15 a year is an absolute rip off and I cannot afford any further increases in the council tax, which has just risen above inflation again. The minimum wage has gone up and I will be worse off! Everything is going up above inflation and I have already had to use food banks in the past, despite working! Please abandon this silly idea ASAP!</p> |
| 2 | <p>Hello. I do not agree with a parish council in Heysham it is just one more layer of unnecessary bureaucracy. It will be people who have a vested interest in protecting their pet projects and the rest of us paying for them.</p> |
| 3 | <p>We received a visit from someone representing Lancaster Council seeking our view on whether we want a parish council for Heysham. She stated that there would be a rise in our council tax accordingly.</p> <p>I wish to record that we are totally against this. Council Tax is already very high, and we have just endured another rise this year. We would struggle to pay any more, so please regard us as voting strongly against this initiative.</p> |
| 4 | <p>I would like to vote against a parish council for Heysham.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Unfortunately we missed the LCC representative and the leaflet posted through our letterbox does not provide enough information to enable us to make a decision to whether or not we would agree for Heysham to become a Parish Council. Before a definite decision is made are you going to provide any more information? Will a meeting be held in the Heysham area for all the residents? Will a detailed proposal be provided so we know where our extra money will be spent? Will ALL residents benefit from the improvements? Will ALL residents incur the extra charge or will some be exempt? If you are not able to answer these questions then please accept that we, living at XXXXXX DO NOT agree for Heysham to become a Parish Council. Please feel free to email me back if required.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Hi I do not think that a parish council would be of any benefit to our area for the reasons below</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Morecambe council is a parish and does not do anything for our roads or our schools etc.2. This proposal will cost us living in Heysham more money on our rates and we have just had an extortionate rate rise again this year, so the benefits do not outweigh the cost.3. From the information given prior to this leaflet there are very little the parish council can do for us without it costing us in the long run.4. The parish Councillors would be voted in by the minority not the majority thus not working for the area but for those that voted, and are in the "click" just like |

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| | <p>Morecambe council. That is no just heresay, it's a proven fact. After writing to every councillor in the region not one of them replied.</p> <p>On a personal note I do not want to pay more in rates to have a council that cannot or will not act on things for us. We have enough of this being controlled by Preston without anyone saying no and acting for the area.</p> |
| 7 | <p>I have received a leaflet through my door explaining about the Heysham Parish Council proposal and I am emailing to share my partner's and my own views on the proposal.</p> <p>We do not think Heysham needs a Parish Council and strongly believe efforts could be placed elsewhere - where they are actually needed, rather than in an area that is already well maintained and respected by the general public.</p> |
| 8 | <p>I wish to register my strong objection to the creation of a Parish Council in the Heysham area.</p> <p>We should be working towards a reduction of council tax rates unless it is for essential services and not for the formation of what is usually run like a private members club spending money on things that don't really matter.</p> <p>A parish council is another layer of bureaucracy which isn't needed especially now when budgets are as tight as they are.</p> |
| 9 | <p>I don't want a parish Council for Heysham.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Thank you for posting a leaflet regarding the proposition of creating a Parish Council for Heysham.</p> <p>Neither myself nor my wife can support this venture as we feel it is creating another tier of actual expenditure with no specific beneficial aims - only aspirations.</p> <p>The proposals reminds us of the eighteenth century speculative days of the "South Sea Bubble" where share holdings in companies were offered to a gullible public under the description "the end purpose of your investment will henceforward be promulgated".</p> <p>The scheme if enacted will carry a direct charge to the Council Tax with no upper ceiling, an unspecified amount of expenses and inaugural expenditure resulting with any potential residual funds being subjected in the words of Labour's esteemed National leader to another "meaningful discussion" resulting in ineffectual actions.</p> <p>Thanking you for giving us the opportunity to express our disapproval.</p> |
| 11 | <p>Having a Parish Council would be ridiculous if it performed along the lines that the local council does. It's a disgrace that 40 pound charges have been added for green bins and scandalous that hard plastics have been excluded from the Salt Ayre recycling plant. Food waste is no longer recycled. The council have brought shame on this area in terms of cleaning up on recycling, and now you ask if residents would be willing to pay even more?</p> <p>It is also ironic that the pictures on the sheet asking if we want a Parish Council show the most concentrated area possible. Heysham extends a bit further than the village centre in case you didn't know. They need to get on with providing services that we already pay too much for.</p> |
| 12 | <p>I would like to give my view on the proposal to create a Parish Council in Heysham area.</p> |

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| | <p>We live in XXXX Avenue and I don't mind to create a parish council as long as people who want to be involved pay extra for tax. I don't want to be part of a parish council and I don't want to pay any more for tax as I think the cost for council tax bill is really high. We are family with 2 children and we pay a lot for mortgage, council tax and bills like electricity and gas. This year you even increased the bill for about £10 which is a lot. I don't have any pay rise or if is a government one it doesn't cover the increase in tax and other bills. We already paying a lot for green bins since last year as you find a way to charge people. Please could you let me know how possible is that Heysham area will be a parish council as I will consider to sell the property before you increase the tax bill.</p> |
| 13 | <p>I am writing you today because of the consultation regarding Heysham becoming a Parish Council. I have heard that this is taking place but, at least from my perspective, there has been little public notice (I have seen an article in the paper a few months back and I do recognise it has been in some of the minutes of the HNC and Lancaster Council if you know how to access them but overall the residents I have spoken to only know it through word of mouth). I also understand that there is an intent to canvas the residents regarding their position on this that has been advertised as being taken place through April and May. I'm not sure of the intended percentage target or even if has begun because myself, nor my neighbours I have spoken to have been approached. Seeing it is now mid-May and I will be heading off on holidays shortly I wanted to try and provide my position and I was given your name by a HNC member.</p> <p>I would like to register my opposition to Heysham becoming a Parish Council. My position would be a no vote.</p> <p>Thank you for consideration in this matter and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns</p> |
| 14 | <p>Hi I don't think an additional charge for something that should all ready by happening in the Heysham area. We have representation but you don't see things being done. Cost is the reason why things are so bad around here. It's about getting the money from central government and knowing how to go about it. People would show an interest if they could see things happening like roads eg potholes. Grass cutting eg putting out to cheaper contractor start at the simple things. The idea is ok but in principle you're just adding to the overall costing for the area. Thanks for the time that the people coming around handing out the leaflets. Change doesn't have to cost anything just do your jobs that we are paying you for. I don't want an extra parish council for Heysham, we have a council that isn't doing what they said they would do</p> |
| 15 | <p>I would like to totally object to the proposal to create a parish council for Heysham in the strongest manner possible totally against it. Terrible idea</p> |
| 16 | <p>I sadly have to be against the parish council as I don't want my council tax to go up even more</p> |
| 17 | <p>I have received a leaflet asking me if I wanted a Parish Council for Heysham.....my answer is NO. It appears that this would be an unelected body, based on a random poll of 10% or more!!! This doesn't seem a very democratic system that I would have to pay for, even if 90% of the area didn't want it, or were indifferent.</p> |

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| | My council tax bill is high enough without having to fund an unelected committee which would not be representative of the whole community. |
| 18 | AGAINST the parish council as she feels 'it is just another level of bureaucracy |
| 19 | I am sorry but I do not agree with having a Parish Council. Any problems have been brought to the attention of our local councilors, therefore my answer is a NO. Thank you. |
| 20 | In regards to voting for a parish council in the Heysham area I am proposing a no vote for this I am struggling to pay the council tax as it is and this is my only reason for the no vote. |
| 21 | I am opposed to the proposal. We already have surfeit of government . It appears to be an excuse for offloading responsibilities which have previously been undertaken by the City Council while increasing the Community Charge in the guise of providing the service via another tier of Government. |
| 22 | I am writing in regards to the proposal of having a parish council. We are not happy to pay extra council tax for a parish council which I feel will not benefit the area. The money is to benefit the church and the parish which we do not attend. I believe this will be the view of most people in the area that don't attend the church. |
| 23 | I oppose the proposal on the following grounds. No indication of who made the proposal. No specification of why it is needed in Heysham. No effective way of ensuring the majority of potential parish voters approve. Disproportionate percentage of revenue will be spent on administration. |
| 24 | I don't think a Parish council will improve Heysham. Therefore I say no. |
| 25 | My view is that we should definitely not have a parish council put in place. I've remained indifferent until seeing it would increase our council tax bill. Council tax is already astronomical and has only increased year on year, the last thing I'll do is agree to something that will add to that. |
| 26 | Re the recent leaflet about the proposed Parish Council for Heysham - I do not want this to go ahead - it seems that we will be paying twice for services that should already be under the control of the City and County Councils - why pay twice? The system seems flawed - it will go through if no-one objects? The leaflet does not make it clear that members of the community are expected to be pro-active regarding this issue. Don't really see the need for a Parish Council - sorry. |
| 27 | I have recently received notification of the proposal to create a Parish Council for Heysham. I would like to state my objections to this proposal for the following reasons: |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It does not appear that the proper electoral process is being used to establish the views of the community • There is no indication of what percentage of the community are required to vote in favour of this proposal before it can be implemented or how the percentage will be recorded and reported back to the community • This appears to be an additional level of bureaucracy being implemented and run by a minority, paid for by the rest of the community • Additionally, the areas of control such as public conveniences and roads etc. should already be covered by the City and County Councils - are we therefore expected to pay twice for the same level of service? • The way the process is being conducted suggests that a large proportion of the community might not realise that they have to take positive action to disagree with the proposal otherwise it could be imposed on them anyway <p>The only way I would consider supporting the implementation of a Parish Council would be if it was decided, via the equivalent of a legal referendum with all community members having the opportunity to vote on this issue. Such a vote should also be subject to the scrutiny by the Electoral Commission.</p> |
| 28 | <p>I contact you in relation to the proposal for a Parish Council for Heysham. I am not in favour because:</p> <p>I do not think we need another tier of bureaucracy. Likely to be another "talking shop"...with little in the way of action. Are Parish Councillors paid? or can claim expenses? When this question was put to a representative who called she was unable to answer! The precept. Is this the thin end of a wedge when ongoing yearly increases will be seen as the norm? In line with inflation? Not enough information on the possible benefits for the area. Surely this should be at the top of the list. I have gained the impression that the main aim is to create a Heysham Parish Council when surely it must be focused on what the area requires and how it might be achieved. Party political involvement? No thank you.</p> |
| 29 | Please can you put me down as a No. |
| 30 | <p>I follow the activities of Heysham Neighbourhood council with some interest.</p> <p>The HNC constitution describes it covering a wide area, but it seems to concern itself almost solely with the centre of Heysham village.</p> <p>It appears from the accounts that approximately £3000 per year, almost all of the council grant, is paid to the chairman of the Neighbourhood Council for carrying out cleaning duties in the village toilets. This is at best a conflict of interests.</p> <p>What is the purpose of events on the village field? The main beneficiaries seem to be local traders.</p> <p>HNC accounts also record cheque 1336, 2411/2017 for £288 and cheque 1337, 7/12/2018 for £155 both paid to "unknown". The HNC constitution requires accurate accounts to be kept.</p> |

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| | <p>In my view the Heysham Neighbourhood Council is not in its present guise an organisation that should be turned into a Parish Council and funded by a precept. It needs a period of strong leadership, proper accounting and separation of management from paid roles.</p> <p>I am strongly against the proposal to form a Parish council.</p> |
| 31 | <p>You have asked me to express my opinion of having a Heysham Parish Council. I would like it made very clear that I am opposed to the creation of such an authority. I am, and have always been opposed to the creation of unnecessary tiers of Government. I believe that Lancaster City Council has a responsibility to deliver quality leadership throughout the council area, including Heysham. I also feel the Parish Council, given literature put through my door by interested parties, would concentrate its efforts very much in the centre of the old village, to the detriment of the wider, and widening Heysham community.</p> <p>I hope you take my opinions into account.</p> |
| 32 | <p>I have received a leaflet regarding the proposal for a parish council in my local area of Heysham and I would like my vote to be included in the results. I disagree with the need to have a Parish council and would like to vote against it.</p> |
| 33 | <p>I wish to register my disagreement to the creation of a Heysham parish council.</p> |
| 34 | <p>We are NOT in agreement to the creation of a Parish Council for Heysham.</p> |
| 35 | <p>I received a leaflet through the letter box regarding a proposal to create a new parish council in the Heysham area.</p> <p>I have not had a visit from a Lancaster city council representative, or did I miss the visit when the leaflet was posted?</p> <p>On the grounds of not knowing what benefit a new parish council will offer that is not already provided by the local council I object to the creation of the parish council, and also object to an increase in council tax for an amount that is unspecified after the first year provisional tax.</p> |
| 36 | <p>I do not agree for a parish council to be created within Heysham, as I don't want to pay a precept for something I don't believe in.</p> |
| 37 | <p>I have received a leaflet through the door to seek views on establishing a parish council. It also says that "representatives" will call. Both methods are flawed and will not produce a representative result. You have used a postal service that repeatedly demonstrates by non delivery that it is flawed. I will be at work when the representative calls. If my wife is in; does she represent me?</p> <p>This non consultation should be shelved until an election takes place.</p> <p>Should you proceed I will refer this to the ombudsman, and then to a magistrate as an aggrieved person, who has been affected by a flawed process.</p> <p>Who requested a parish council?</p> <p>I am opposed to any parish council.</p> |
| 38 | <p>I do not feel that it would be a good idea to create a parish council for Heysham.</p> |

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| 39 | Both my wife and I disagree on introducing a parish council. |
| 40 | <p>Not in favour of this.</p> <p>Coming approximately 6 months after a begging leaflet was circulated by St Peter's Church, I suspect this is really about allowing some local churchgoers / Rotary Club types to have access to public money, so that under some of the powers of a Parish precept they can spend funds on the churchyard and maintaining graves at a time when the dwindling congregation cannot sustain it.</p> <p>I don't believe a Parish council would lead to more spending in Heysham on the things we actually need. Having lived here 55 years I'd struggle to name a single new thing LCC has in fact spent money on in Heysham since it took over, so it perhaps couldn't be any worse, but in these austere times people should not have to pay extra for some localised quango to determine what the money is spent on.</p> <p>What is needed is to separate Morecambe & Heysham from Lancaster City Council, so the endless cuckoo drain of jobs and commerce to 'historic' Lancaster ends, the true engine of local traffic problems. The demise of both Morecambe and Heysham can be traced to the day LCC took over. I don't believe having a Parish council will break that stranglehold, only introduce a new set of issues and at extra cost.</p> |
| 41 | Re. Parish council for Heysham. As I see it , it will be just another way of milking more money out of us, which will no doubt rise significantly hear by year, as seen with the green refuse collections. I do not believe we would gain anything from it. |
| 42 | We do not agree with the creation of a Parish Council for Heysham, because of the additional charge it would incur on the council tax. |
| 43 | We live in Heysham and say no to a parish. |
| 44 | I live in Heysham and myself and partner say no to a parish in Heysham. |
| 45 | I received a leaflet through my door today asking my opinion on the proposed Heysham Parish council. I would strongly oppose any increase of my bills as someone who lives off the national "living" wage I can barely afford to live in the band A house that I rent for £550 a month. As a single man in my 30s living alone I am not eligible for any benefits and refuse to demean myself by living in some grotty house share. Residents of Lancaster district already pay above the odds council tax. What benefit would a parish council bring? Unless it gets the dozens of pot holes on Kingsway and Oxcliffe road fixed everything seems to be functioning as well as can be expected. |
| 46 | I did originally agree that this would be a good idea and told your canvasser but I have since changed my mind, I now do NOT agree with this. |
| 47 | <p>Apologies for the lateness in this letter, but I have only just returned from a short camping break.</p> <p>I represent XXXX on Morecambe Town Council and quite a few local people have shown concern about the creation of Heysham Parish Council in the area where I live which is XXXX. I am also an active member of XXXXX, where quite a few of the</p> |

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| | <p>contingent have also shown concerns - all with the same view that all the money would be spent in Heysham Village.</p> <p>What I am worried about is that when we were packing up our car for our short break a posse of Labour councillors and representatives armed with Labour clipboards descended into XXXXX where I live distributing Labour themed leaflets and were campaigning for the creation of Heysham Parish Council. I know: Labour hold the majority on Morecambe Town Council but surely playing the political card, shouldn't be allowed.</p> <p>No literature was left at my home address, of which I'm not surprised, after the intimidation I received after the XXXX by election, of which I was told by the election office to withdraw my leaflet after a complaint of its content.</p> <p>Literature was left at my mother's home which consisted of a Labour Heysham Matters newsletter, a leaflet from XXXX stating their intent to stand in 2019 for XXXXX, along with a LCC Do you want a parish council for Heysham leaflet.</p> <p>I am slightly worried that the decision to create a Parish Council for Heysham is being created not for the benefits of the local Heysham people but for the benefit of a few influential people who seem to be able to get away with manipulating the system to their gain, both politically and financial.</p> |
| 48 | <p>Regarding the above matter. We regret that that we do not support the creation of a Parish Council for Heysham.</p> <p>This is chiefly on two grounds 1, Cost and 2.The probability that such a Parish Council would most likely need to rely on existing County and City Council services to carry out its most important intended functions.</p> <p>Many of these functions are statutory (like policing, highways maintenance and enforcement of byelaws for example) and we feel we pay enough at present (considering we are paying an extra £40 a year for garden refuse collection).</p> <p>A specific example might be enforcement of the dog fouling byelaws by fixed penalty notices (something which is a particular cause of concern in Heysham).Surely such a Parish Council could only rely on your Environmental Health Department for such enforcement. It would probably not have the capability to attempt to serve fixed penalty notices on offenders itself.</p> <p>On cost and value for money of the services we receive (or should receive), we are both concerned about things like the state of highways (dangerous pot holes in School Road-which we have made representations about to our ward County Councillor) and policing.</p> <p>We appreciate that this is part of your Governance Review, which we congratulate you for instituting, but we cannot support the creation of another tier of local government which we feel will make little difference locally and add to our Council Tax liability.</p> |
| 49 | <p>With reference to organisations perception of the formation Heysham Parish Council.</p> |

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| | <p>Now tell me Lisa Vines why should Heysham residents have they're rights and form of control removed from them, to be controlled by a set of doddering old fuddy duddies.</p> <p>The creation of Heysham Parish Council is an act of political imbecility. Please photocopy this and return you pathetic piece of work Lisa Vines.</p> |
| 50 | <p>We are strongly against a parish council for Heysham. The costs mentioned to us are ridiculous and with the added costs ie Council Tax and grass cutting recycling etc etc which is on the increase year after year, it is out of the question.</p> |
| 51 | <p>Hi, I have been waiting for weeks now to asked whether or not Heysham should become a Parish council. Being retired I am home most of every day and neither I nor my neighbours have been approached. Do you have a schedule of dates and areas to be canvassed? If so may I have a copy?</p> <p>To obtain a yes" what is the percentage requirement of the electorate?</p> <p>By adding a precept Parish tax, I believe we should have a postal vote as this will be more exact.</p> <p>The precept parish tax is to be in the region of £18.96 from 6000 households is £110,000 approx. how did you arrive at this figure? Or was it decided by HNC?</p> <p>Very little information has been circulated, especially when, without a further referendum Parish tax may be increased year after year. Obviously it could go down, but I very much doubt it.</p> <p>So many questions, but I won't go on and on.</p> |
| 52 | <p>Much as I would would like to hold an opinion and be able to offer a view regarding the proposed Heysham Parish Council, I can't, because I have no idea what is being proposed, or what might be its purpose. But I have concerns.</p> <p>From where will the, presumably, shortlist of representatives be drawn, and how will I know whether or not they will represent me? Are they intended to represent me, or local businesses? Will their purpose be to promote car-boot sales, Viking festivals and rock concerts at the Royal and the cricket club, and will their purpose be to improve those venues chances of obtaining late music licenses, and to promote the existing businesses in the village? Will they be in a better position than hitherto to get potholes mended, improve toilet facilities for visitors to the village, and to curtail antisocial behaviour? If so, then how?</p> <p>And why is this an improvement over the present Council structure? What will be their jurisdiction, and what powers will they hold?</p> <p>I might or might not be in favour of all or none of these things, but my point is that I, and I suspect most Heysham residents, don't have nearly enough information on which to base a decision. And to be cynically blunt, how much has already been decided?</p> |
| 53 | <p>Hi, I was very interested in seeing a leaflet in relation to 'Do you want a parish council for Heysham?</p> <p>I am however a little concerned as to the ACTUAL costings of the precept?</p> <p>My leaflet/flyer states..... 'If the majority of residents agree that a parish council should be created, the precept for 2019/2020 would be around £15 for a Council Tax Band D equivalent property.'</p> <p>HOWEVER the information from the website states a figure almost double!</p> |

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| | <p>What would the parish precept be for 2019?</p> <p>1, Heysham Parish Council Once the parish is established and a plan for the future is agreed, the parish council will decide what level of funding is needed and will request a precept to be levied which reflects those plans. That precept (or income requirement) is then raised by charging a parish council tax rate to households within the parished area. As an indication of the tax rate that could be levied against each household in the area of the new parish, in the current year Band D parish tax rates range from £0 to £77.80 across the Lancaster district. The average parish tax rate is £27.58 per annum,</p> <p>I think it's very misleading and would like clarification before I make my INFORMED decision.</p> |
| 54 | <p>I wish to register my objections to the proposal to create a parish council for Heysham because -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As I live in Heysham North ward, according to my Council tax bill, I am already paying for Morecambe Town Council and I refuse to pay for both. 2. Morecambe Town Council has proved to be a total waste of time and money as I knew it would be. This would be too. 3. The services they are proposing could be provided by the City Council. It is up to the ward councillors to make the case for the resources to do so. Why haven't they done so before now? 4. It will be just another talking shop with all talk and little action and if the MBIs get involved as they will seek to do they will again end up squabbling among each other bringing councils into disrepute as they did in Morecambe. 5. If there must be a parish council it would be more cost effective to extend the present Town Council area, saving administration etc costs. Indeed some of their proposals would work better that way eg the asbo officials. Alternatively, the City Council could allocate a sum to each ward without a parish council and allow the City ward councillors to decide how to spend it each year after consulting residents |
| 55 | <p>Thank you for your leaflet. I thought Dalton Road is now in Heysham North, Morecambe Town Council.</p> |