

## PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 27 April 2022, when the following Members were present:-

Mike Greenall (Mayor)	Tony Anderson
Paul Anderton	Fabiha Askari
Mandy Bannon	Phillip Black
Gerry Blaikie	Victoria Boyd-Power
Dave Brookes	Abbott Bryning
Keith Budden	Roger Cleet
Roger Dennison	Gina Dowding
Adrian De La Mare	Kevin Frea
Andrew Gardiner	June Greenwell
Mel Guilding	Tim Hamilton-Cox
Janice Hanson	Colin Hartley
Tricia Heath	Ross Hunter
Caroline Jackson	Joan Jackson
Mandy King	Jack Lenox
Erica Lewis	Cary Matthews
Abi Mills	Stuart Morris
Jean Parr	Faye Penny
Joyce Pritchard	Robert Redfern
Oliver Robinson	Alistair Sinclair
Paul Stubbins	Luke Taylor
Sandra Thornberry	Katie Whearty
David Whitaker	Anne Whitehead
John Wild	Jason Wood
Peter Yates	Joanna Young

**146 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Austen-Baker, Darren Clifford, Tim Dant, Merv Evans, Jake Goodwin, Debbie Jenkins, Geoff Knight, Sarah Knight and Malcolm Thomas.

**147 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2022 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**148 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Morris declared an interest in relation to his question on notice regarding parking for the Fire Service on Cable Street, as he served on the Fire Authority. (Minute No. 160 refers.)

**149 ANNOUNCEMENTS – HONORARY ALDERMAN GEOFFREY BRYAN AND FORMER COUNCILLOR SANDRA GREAVES**

The Mayor reported the sad death of Honorary Alderman Geoffrey Bryan who had represented Heysham North ward and been elected Mayor of the City Council in 1982/83.

The Mayor also reported the unexpected passing of former Councillor Sandra Greaves, who was elected to represent Castle (now Marsh) ward in 1999. Sandra was a City Councillor until 2003.

*Members stood in a minute's silence in their memory.*

**150 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11**

The Mayor advised that no questions had been received from members of the public in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11.

**151 PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES**

The Mayor informed Members that no petitions or requests to address Council had been received from members of the public.

**152 LEADER'S REPORT**

The Leader presented her report updating Members on various issues since her last report to Council. She apologised for omitting Plan 2030 from the list of Councillor Lewis's portfolio responsibilities last time that these were reported to Council and asked that this be minuted.

The Leader and the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services then responded to a number of questions from Councillors.

***Resolved:***

That the report be noted.

**153 MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT**

In accordance with the Constitution, the Mayor presented his Annual Report for 2021/22. He thanked the Civic and Ceremonial Democratic Support Officer, Jenny Kay, who had supported him and the Mayoress during his Mayoral year.

The Mayor wished the Mayor Elect, Councillor Pritchard, a very successful and happy Mayoral year to come.

***Resolved:***

That the report be received.

**154 CABINET ANNUAL REPORT**

In accordance with the Constitution, the Leader and each Member of Cabinet had produced a written progress report for 2021-22.

The Leader presented her annual report first.

Councillors Brookes, Dowding, Frea, Hamilton-Cox, Heath, Lewis, Matthews, Thornberry and Whitehead then presented their annual reports, responded to Members' questions and thanked Council officers who had assisted them throughout the year.

Councillor Dowding agreed to provide a written response to Councillor Budden regarding his question about the possibility of changing from 'pay and display' to pay on exit car parking and whether that could be phased in to spread the cost of the new equipment that would be needed.

Councillor Cleet asked about 1, Lodge Street and Councillor Hamilton-Cox agreed to brief him on the matter after the Capital Assurance Group meeting on Thursday 28 April. Councillor Hamilton-Cox also agreed to supply a written answer to Councillor Gardiner about fire safety in the units on Gateway, White Lund following a fire which had caused significant damage in January 2022.

Councillor Matthews agreed to provide a written answer to Councillor Gardiner about pods, such as the ones purchased by South Lakeland District Council, for housing the homeless.

***Resolved:***

That the annual reports of the Leader and Councillors Brookes, Dowding, Frea, Hamilton-Cox, Heath, Lewis, Matthews, Thornberry and Whitehead, be received.

***The Mayor called for a ten minute comfort break at 8pm, in accordance with Council Procedure Rules. The meeting reconvened at 8.10pm.***

**155 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Austen-Baker had given apologies for the meeting, In view of this, the Vice-Chair, Councillor Dennison, presented the Committee's section of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2021-22.

The Chair of the Budget and Performance Panel, Councillor De La Mare, presented the

Panel's section of the report and thanked the Chief Financial Officer, Paul Thompson, for his assistance throughout the year.

**Resolved:**

That the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report for 2021-22 be received.

**156 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

In accordance with paragraph 6.30 in Part 2, Section 5 of the Council's Constitution, the Chair of Audit Committee, Councillor Stubbins, presented the Committee's 2021-22 Annual Report.

Councillor Stubbins responded to a number of questions.

**Resolved:**

That the report be received.

**157 MAYORS FOR PEACE**

Councillor Bannon proposed the following motion having given the required notice to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15:-

"This Council notes there is a real need for Local Authorities to work together in solidarity to promote more peaceful and safer communities at the local and the global level. There remains over 13,000 nuclear weapons which have the explosive content to create 280,000 explosions of the size that destroyed the city of Hiroshima on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945.

The Council also notes and welcomes the rapid development of the Mayors for Peace organisation, which campaigns for a more peaceful and nuclear weapons free world. It now has over 8000 member towns and cities from 166 countries representing over a billion people worldwide. 102 of those members are in the UK and Republic of Ireland and include cities like Manchester, London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cardiff, Dublin and Belfast.

The main charter of Mayors for Peace calls for "*closer cooperation among towns and cities, strives to raise international public awareness regarding the need to abolish nuclear weapons and contributes to the realisation of genuine and lasting world peace by working to eliminate starvation and poverty, assist refugees fleeing local conflict, support human rights, protect the environment, and solve the other problems that threaten peaceful coexistence within the human family.*"

**Action**

The Council hereby resolves

- To join the Mayors for Peace organisation and consider the approval of a suggested voluntary donation of £120 for larger Councils to assist development of the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter and the international campaigning work of Mayors for Peace led by its International Secretariats in Hiroshima and Ypres.
- To consider, along with the Mayor, a permanent representative for the Council to attend up to twice yearly meetings of the UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter.
- To engage with the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace as it develops.

- To consider holding on August 6<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> an annual commemorative peace ceremony to remember all innocent civilians killed in all conflicts over the past 75 years and / or an annual ceremony to commemorate International Peace Day on September 21<sup>st</sup>.”

Councillor Wood seconded the motion.

An officer briefing note accompanied the motion on the agenda.

Councillor Bannon replied to a number of questions raised by Councillors before the motion was debated.

At the conclusion of the debate a recorded vote was requested in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.4.

The votes were recorded as follows:

For the motion:

Councillors Anderton, Askari, Bannon, Black, Blaikie, Brookes, Bryning, Dowding, Frea, Greenwell, Hamilton-Cox, Hanson, Hartley, Hunter, Jackson (Caroline), King, Lenox, Lewis, Matthews, Mills, Parr, Penny, Pritchard, Redfern, Robinson, Sinclair, Stubbins, Taylor, Thornberry, Whitaker, Whitehead, Wood and Young. (33)

Against the motion:

Councillors Budden, De La Mare, Gardiner, Guilding, Jackson (Joan), Wild and Yates. (7)

Abstentions:

Councillors Anderson, Boyd-Power, Cleet, Dennison, Greenall and Heath . (6)

**Resolved:-**

This Council notes there is a real need for Local Authorities to work together in solidarity to promote more peaceful and safer communities at the local and the global level. There remains over 13,000 nuclear weapons which have the explosive content to create 280,000 explosions of the size that destroyed the city of Hiroshima on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945.

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suggested voluntary donation of £120 for larger Councils to assist development of the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter and the international campaigning work of Mayors for Peace led by its International Secretariats in Hiroshima and Ypres.

- To consider, along with the Mayor, a permanent representative for the Council to attend up to twice yearly meetings of the UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter.
- To engage with the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace as it develops.
- To consider holding on August 6<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> an annual commemorative peace ceremony to remember all innocent civilians killed in all conflicts over the past 75 years and / or an annual ceremony to commemorate International Peace Day on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

## 158 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Head of Democratic Services had submitted a report seeking Council's approval to carry out a Community Governance Review (CGR) of Scotforth Parish Council as recent building development close to the M6 had created an anomaly. An addendum to the report detailed a very similar issue with Quernmore Parish Council. Although housing had not actually been built on the land in that case, it was due for development, so it seemed prudent to include this issue in the CGR. The report asked Council to delegate authority to Council Business Committee to monitor the process for taking the CGR forward.

Councillor Lewis introduced the report, informing Councillors that she would not be proposing the recommendations exactly as written in the report, but would instead be proposing:

- (1) That Council Business Committee be requested to develop and agree terms of reference, determine consultation plans and agree a timetable for a Community Governance Review, in consultation with Councillors and Parish Councils.
- (2) That the Committee and Councillors be consulted throughout the process and make recommendations on the final proposals to Council.

Councillor Lewis then took questions on the report and further issues regarding parish boundaries were raised in the course of questions. The Head of Democratic Services explained that whilst resourcing was available to carry out the two minor reviews of Scotforth and Quernmore boundaries set out in the report and addendum paper, a wider community governance review of the district would need more resourcing. In view of that, it would be more appropriate to bring a report to a future Council meeting costing out a full CGR and when that might be timetabled into the elections team's work programme.

After confirmation from the Monitoring Officer that this would be a decision for Council, not an executive decision, Councillor Lewis moved:

"That the report be withdrawn to allow Democratic Services to consult with Councillors and Parish Councils and submit a report of all the issues raised to the Council meeting in June 2022."

The proposition was seconded by Councillor Wood.

The Mayor called for a vote and the proposition was carried.

**Resolved:**

- (1) That the report be withdrawn to allow Democratic Services to consult with Councillors and Parish Councils and submit a report of all the issues raised to the Council meeting in June 2022.

#### 159 APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

No changes were reported since the last meeting of Council.

#### 160 QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 (Pages 8 - 11)

The Mayor advised that seven questions had been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rules as follows:

- (1) Councillor Whitaker to Councillor Brookes regarding fly-tipping.
- (2) Councillor Morris to Councillor Dowding regarding charging the Fire Service for parking spaces.
- (3) Councillor Morris to Councillor Dowding regarding free parking for businesses.
- (4) Councillor Hanson to Councillor Heath regarding the former Frontierland site.
- (5) Councillor Hanson to Councillor Dowding regarding the Morecambe Area Action Plan.
- (6) Councillor Whitaker to Councillor Brookes about cleaning of back streets in Morecambe.
- (7) Councillor Whitaker to Councillor Brookes about responsibility for cleaning of back streets in Morecambe.

Details of the questions and answers together with any supplementary questions and responses are appended to the minutes.

#### 161 MINUTES OF CABINET

Council considered the Cabinet minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2022. No questions were asked.

***Resolved:***

That the minutes be noted.

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Mayor

(The meeting finished at 9.35 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these minutes,  
please contact Debbie Chambers, Democratic Services - email [dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk)**

**1) Councillor Whitaker asked Councillor Brookes:**

*In the case of severe fly-tipping on the back streets of the West End of Morecambe and where there is a clear arson risk, what is the standard timescale of a complete clearance?*

Councillor Brookes answered:

You probably won't be surprised to know that the timescale hasn't changed since you last asked the question about three months ago. So, the Council's corporate service level agreement for removal of fly-tipping is five working days. This is the timescale that the budgeted level of resource is designed to achieve in normal circumstances. We don't have any verified data on response times, but officers assure me that a high percentage of fly tips are collected same day as we have a dedicated crew in Morecambe solely assigned to the removal of fly-tipping. They do have to be reported; council staff don't necessarily go trawling round the back streets looking for stuff. Although obviously while they're out if they find things they will remove it. As I said in March, which is when you originally submitted this question, if you evidence that properly reported fly-tips are not being collected within the five day timescale, then I would invite you to supply it.

**2) Councillor Morris had submitted the next two questions for Councillor Dowding. He had left the meeting before the end, therefore the Mayor permitted Councillor Gardiner to ask the questions for him:**

*Please could the portfolio holder explain why LCC is charging the Fire Authority for car parking in the Cable Street car park?*

Councillor Dowding answered:

Lancashire Fire and Rescue and North West Ambulance services are invaluable partners of the Council. During the planning and construction of their new combined station negotiations with the Council took place in order to provide the amount of land they needed and to ensure they had on-site parking for vital staff. Basically, there was a land deal and it was agreed between the Fire service and North West Ambulance service with the City Council. It was all agreed and part of the deal was we had some dedicated spaces in our car park as a result, for their staff. So it was a mutually agreed arrangement that provided the outcomes that they wanted and there was a contribution to the value of our car parking spaces, in effect. But everyone was very happy with the arrangement and as far as I know, nothing has changed.

**3) Councillor Gardiner (on behalf of Councillor Morris) asked Councillor Dowding:**

*With LCC's plan for the regeneration of our high streets, would you not agree with me, that small businesses in town centres should have one free car parking permit, to help reduce their costs?*

Councillor Dowding answered:

For any business, including us as a Council, transport costs, including parking, represent a cost which forms part of the business modelling considerations of the business. For small businesses, the existing parking permits, which are charged for but at very reasonable rates, for use on our car parks represent very good value for money and many of the businesses do make use of these. We provide information on these to representatives of the business community via BID etc. If you would like me to read out the rates, I have them here to show you just what good value they are.



**4) Councillor Hanson asked Councillor Heath:**

*Could the cabinet member for Morecambe's economic prosperity please tell us what plans if any are being worked up for Frontierland?*

Councillor Heath answered:

The Frontierland site has been listed as one of Cabinet's four top priorities for the coming year. It's proposed to ask for leisure community based expressions of interest for the site, which will then go out to consultation, as promised before a decision is made. We are aware that several companies have expressed interests in an informal way particularly in the build of a new hotel. The Cabinet has every intention of ensuring that action takes place on this very important site, important to us all, as soon as possible. I have not had a response to officer to your question but I'm giving you the Cabinet answer. There is a meeting taking place this Friday, when we've asked for an update from officers.

Supplementary question from Councillor Hanson:

I'm as passionate about Morecambe as you are and we're very concerned about Frontierland. With your new Morecambe Advisory Group, I'd ask you to consider to putting me down as a member of that group. I know it's a bit cheeky, but it's the only way I can get to you.

Councillor Heath answered:

I will consider that, Councillor Hanson.

**5) Councillor Hanson asked Councillor Dowding:**

*Could the cabinet member for planning please tell us if the Morecambe Area action plan is still viable and if not what is to replace it?*

Councillor Dowding answered:

This is quite a long response, but I won't try and edit it. The Morecambe Area Action Plan (MAAP) was formally adopted by the City Council on 17 December 2014. This means that it is a Development Plan Document that forms part of the Local Plan for the District and it remains an important framework document that sets out specific policies and actions to improve the local environment in Central Morecambe, and it guides planning decision-making in the district.

The Council has implemented a number of public realm improvement projects that were guided by the policies and objectives of the MAAP, including one of the "key elements" of the MAAP - achieving better pedestrian connections between the town centre and promenade area and investment in the pedestrianised area. Many of the other "key elements" of the MAAP continue to be relevant objectives today, such as encouraging people to "stay longer and spend more". However, I understand that some things in the MAAP could be considered out of date, but producing a completely-updated replacement Area Action Plan is a lengthy process. Such documents have to proceed through various statutory stages before being examined in public by a Government Inspector. And that period, whilst that change is going on can introduce a period of uncertainty for developers who may be seeking to take forward investment proposals.

So an example is, when the Eden North Project was first being discussed, one of the initial concerns from the Eden Project International Team was the planning status of the Central Promenade site. They were reassured that Morecambe had an adopted Area Action Plan that envisaged regeneration across the town and, more specifically, provided policy support for their proposed development.

So the MAAP's implementation plan anticipated that progress on implementing many of the policies initiatives, would have been made by 2021. A monitoring report could be prepared this year and that is what I am now suggesting, that whilst there is no current plan to commence work on a new Area Action Plan, particularly given that planning continue to advance the aspects of the Climate Emergency Local Plan Review and various other planning documents, that this monitoring report will, in effect, help to give us up to date information whilst not being part of a formal review of the MAAP. Initially our planning and housing strategy team will do that and it will be reported to the Local Plan Review Group and, of course, you are a member of that group.

Supplementary question from Councillor Hanson:

Thank you, Councillor Dowding. So, from what I can gather, the plan was devised in 2014, we're now in 2022, so obviously quite a lot of it is out of date, and I don't really see anyone working on a revised version of that because I feel that Morecambe – although some things have been done, I don't deny that – it's really been behind the times as far as other things have gone on, you know the Bailrigg Garden Village project seems to have taken over and taken our officers away from the Morecambe regeneration area. That's what I feel and I think that's true, so I want to know if officers are going to be specifically put back on to the MAAP and the regeneration of Morecambe as a whole?

Councillor Dowding answered:

I'm told that the annual monitoring report about the MAAP says that the policies will be maintained through document review when necessary and no review is currently anticipated. All I can reiterate is that actually, a formal process of reviewing the MAAP creates an element of uncertainty and that's one reason why it's not felt to be the best route to do the formal review and I gave the example of how Eden actually welcomed the fact that there is an adopted policy in place, because it gives some certainty.

**6) Councillor Whitaker asked Councillor Brookes:**

*What staffing Ratio is in place in regard to cleansing the back streets of Morecambe of litter that is spread out all over consequently causing the back street to look a mess and unsightly?*

Councillor Whitaker asked:

There are 26 staff in total, 14 allocated to the Morecambe area team; 54% of the total cleansing staff. These staff cover all street cleansing tasks including fly-tipping, litter, litterbins, graffiti, chewing gum and street sweeping. Cleansing hours of operation are up to 5.30am to 9.30pm seasonally and equate to 518 hours per week over a seven day rota. There is no practical way to calculate how much of this time is spent specifically on the back streets as much of the work is responsive. Removal of fly-tipping being the obvious example.

Supplementary question from Councillor Whitaker:

*Its just a concern that it seems that a lot of the back streets are being left littered and nothing is being done. I don't know whether its due to staff not seeing it or missing it. I know how hard they work and they are very dedicated, our staff, I've never seen staff work harder, but streets are being missed. The consequences really are bad management of private landlords, etc, bins tipping over, litter being everywhere so I'm just asking if we could look at a bit more proactive work and seeing if we can get these streets cleaned more regularly? Thank you.*

Councillor Brookes answered:

Okay I'll have to refer that to officers regarding resourcing but I would re-iterate the points I made before about reporting things. They are very responsive to reports.

**7) Councillor Whitaker asked Councillor Brookes:**

*I have been informed that it is the job of elected representatives to undertake cleaning of back streets due to lack of staff -Is that the case? (Councillor Whitaker qualified the question he had submitted, by saying he knew that it was not the case but it seemed to be the perception of a lot of people within the Morecambe area now).*

Councillor Brookes answered:

I think you have answered that question in asking it really. Yes, I would agree with you that it is not the case.