

## PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 10 November 2021, when the following Members were present:-

Mike Greenall (Mayor)	Tony Anderson
Paul Anderton	Richard Austen-Baker
Mandy Bannon	Phillip Black
Alan Biddulph	Victoria Boyd-Power
Dave Brookes	Abbott Bryning
Keith Budden	Roger Cleet
Roger Dennison	Gina Dowding
Jason Firth	Jake Goodwin
Mel Guilding	Tim Hamilton-Cox
Colin Hartley	Tricia Heath
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	Malcolm Thomas
Sandra Thornberry	David Whitaker
Anne Whitehead	John Wild
Jason Wood	Joanna Young

**69 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Darren Clifford, Tim Dant, Adrian De La Mare, Merv Evans, Kevin Frea, Andrew Gardiner, June Greenwell, Janice Hanson, Debbie Jenkins, Geoff Knight and Peter Yates.

**70 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2021 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**71 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**72 ANNOUNCEMENT - COUNCILLOR STEWART SCOTHERN**

The Mayor reminded Councillors of the sad death in October of Councillor Stewart Scothern after a period of illness.

Councillor Scothern was elected as a Conservative Councillor for the Upper Lune Valley Ward in May 2019. He would be sadly missed by his family, friends and fellow Councillors.

Stewart's funeral was held on 14 October 2021.

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

**73 ANNOUNCEMENT - LANCASTER DISTRICT FOOD POVERTY ALLIANCE LEAFLET**

On behalf of Councillor Thornberry, the Mayor drew Members' attention to the "Cash First" leaflets which had been put given to them before the meeting. These had been produced by the Lancaster District Food Poverty Alliance.

**74 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.

**75 PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES**

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

**76 LEADER'S REPORT**

The Leader noted that there was an error in her written report in paragraph 3.7 where the words "Minister of State for Transport" should have read "Minister for High Speed Rail".

She then presented her report updating Members on various issues since her last report to Council. The Leader, assisted by the Portfolio holder for Planning and Place Making, Councillor Dowding, responded to a number of questions from Councillors.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**77 MOTION ON MISOGYNY**

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

“Women and girls of the district, and in Lancashire as a whole, are suffering from misogyny, expressed in sexual harassment, domestic abuse and death. Lancashire women suffer a higher than average rate of deaths – the femicide census ranks Lancashire as 13th highest female killings in a list of 42 police forces in the UK.

There is evidence of a link between domestic abuse and terrorism.

We call upon the city council to write to the Minister of State for Crime and Policing, Kit Malthouse, with the following requests:

- That he prepare legislation to make misogyny a hate crime, to be recorded as such by all police forces across the UK, and prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service with as much vigour as other hate crimes.
- That police forces should be required to record all instances of femicide, the killing of a woman or girl by a man, with immediate effect.
- That a task force be set up before the end of this year to assess the extent and impact of incel (involuntary celibate) groups both online and offline, and to work with voluntary groups and experts who have already begun work in this field.
- That all incidents of domestic violence should be treated as violent assault or grievous bodily harm, to be prosecuted automatically without the victim being required to make a formal complaint.
- That policing resources should be increased to ensure that police forces are able to do these new responsibilities. At the very least they should return to pre 2010 strength.
- That resources be made available to further study the links between domestic abuse and the perpetrators of terrorist actions.

We also call upon Lancaster City Council to use its social media presence to promote local organisations that can support women impacted by misogyny.”

Councillor Thornberry seconded the motion.

Officer comments were included in a briefing note to accompany the motion.

Councillor Parr responded to questions from Councillors and a lengthy debate followed.

At the conclusion of the debate a vote was taken and the motion was clearly carried.

**Resolved:-**

Women and girls of the district, and in Lancashire as a whole, are suffering from misogyny, expressed in sexual harassment, domestic abuse and death. Lancashire women suffer a higher than average rate of deaths – the femicide census ranks Lancashire as 13th highest female killings in a list of 42 police forces in the UK.

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We also call upon Lancaster City Council to use its social media presence to promote local organisations that can support women impacted by misogyny.

## **78 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT**

Councillor Whitehead presented the Annual Treasury Management Outturn report for noting. She responded to questions from Councillors.

### ***Resolved:***

That the report be noted.

## **79 OUTSIDE BODIES**

Council considered a report submitted by the Chief Executive. The report noted that a vacancy had arisen on the Preston and Western Lancashire Racial Equality Council following the resignation of Councillor Lewis from that outside body.

The basis for the appointment to this body had previously been made by way of nominations and voting at full Council, therefore the Mayor asked for any nominations.

Councillor Caroline Jackson nominated Councillor Lenox seconded by Councillor Dowding. There were no further nominations therefore the Mayor declared Councillor Lenox appointed to Preston and Western Lancashire Racial Equality Council until the City Council elections in May 2023.

### ***Resolved:***

That Councillor Lenox be appointed to Preston and Western Lancashire Racial Equality Council until the City Council elections in May 2023.

**80 APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Head of Democratic Services reported that, since the last Council meeting, appointments had been made to fill several vacancies:-

- Councillor Sinclair had been appointed to the Eco-Socialist Independent Group vacancies on the Budget and Performance Panel and the Personnel Committee.
- Councillor Austen-Baker had been appointed to the Conservative vacancy on the Chief Executive Recruitment Committee.
- Councillor Budden had been appointed to the Conservative vacancy on the Appeals Panel.
- Councillor Thomas had been appointed to the Conservative vacancy on the Standards Committee.

In addition, two named substitutes had been appointed by the Labour group to the Chief Executive Recruitment Committee; Councillors Hanson and Woods.

**81 QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12**

The Mayor advised that three questions had been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rules. All three questions were from Councillor Pritchard to Councillor Brookes.

Councillor Pritchard asked: *We have a problem with grass and weeds growing on our roads and pavements, this has got considerably worse since we stopped using weed killers in the Lancaster district, and consequently the roots are causing damage to both our roads and pavements. The Council road sweeper is vital to clearing some of this from our roads, so I would like to know how often the roads are cleaned, particularly in the rural areas, although this is a distinct wide problem?*

Councillor Brookes replied: Before I deal with the question I just want to clarify the point made about the use of herbicide on roads and pavements. The City Council has stopped using glyphosate herbicide on its own land, except to deal with particularly problematic invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed. Roads and pavements belong to the County Council of course, and the City Council used to carry out weed treatment on the County Council's behalf. We decided to stop doing this and return the responsibility back to the County Council at the end of 2019, partly because we didn't want to use herbicide, and partly because we were only being paid a quarter of what it was costing to do the job.

So the County Council is now responsible for dealing with weeds on roads and pavements and, just to be clear, is using herbicide where it is carrying out treatment. In 2020, mostly due to the pandemic, County only managed to carry out reactive treatment of small areas in response to specific complaints. This year, after some difficulty letting contracts, County contractors did start planned treatment in some areas in the summer, and I've been told there was a second spray in October. County says that it has also continued to carry out reactive treatment following complaints. Nevertheless, there have been lots of complaints about street weeds and County has acknowledged that it needs to allocated a larger budget to increase the geographical coverage of planned treatment in 2022. In the meantime, the advice from County is to use the 'Report it' system on the County Council's website to flag up areas that need treatment.

On to sweeping. The frequency of sweeper visits is based on intensity of use and housing density. Lancaster city centre and Morecambe town centre are swept daily, streets close the centres weekly, other urban streets are on a two weekly or three weekly schedule, suburban and rural areas are typically on a six-week schedule. The cleansing team is also

out regularly emptying litter bins and can provide a reactive service to deal with specific cleansing incidents between sweeper visits – contact Customer Services for this.

One thing I should add is that there have been a number of times over the last eighteen months where it has been necessary to use cleansing team staff (including sweeper drivers) to fill absences in the bin collection crews to keep bin and recycling collections going. This is what the City Council chose to prioritise during the pandemic, and the teams managed to keep a full collection service going all the way through. This will have resulted in a reduced road sweeping services on occasions.

Councillor Pritchard asked: *At this time of year leaves are an issue, blocking drains this can lead to flooding, do we sweep the roads more often to prevent this?*

Councillor Brookes replied: The mechanical road sweeper schedules don't change in the autumn, but what does happen is that other resources from cleansing and grounds maintenance are brought in to remove leaves as quickly as possible. The weather affects how long it takes leaves to fall, which means some years leaf clearance takes longer than others. When heavy rainfall events are forecast the focus is shifted to areas that are known to flood to try to reduce the risk. But the teams can't be everywhere at once and leaves continue to fall between visits, of course. Where safe, residents can help by brushing or kicking leaves off gullies to allow them to drain.

Councillor Pritchard asked: *Could advance notice be given as to when the road sweeper is sweeping an area? Then an attempt made to help the sweeper be more affective, by reducing the parked cars.*

Councillor Brookes replied: In principle, yes. In parished areas officers would be more than happy to liaise with the parish council to provide a sweeping schedule. It would be great if this was promoted in parish newsletters asking people to remove parked cars so that road edges can be swept.

In urban areas this is more difficult to achieve due to housing density and the amount of on street parking. The County Council used to work with the City Council on Street Pride deep clean events, and suspend on street parking for a day to allow kerbs and gullies to be cleaned, but this arrangement stopped several years ago due to a lack of resources.

## 82 MINUTES OF CABINET

Council considered the Cabinet minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2021. No questions were raised.

***Resolved:***

That the minutes be noted.

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Mayor

(The meeting finished at 7.20 p.m.)

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