

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2023

Present:

Councillor Campbell (in the Chair)

Councillors

Baker	Ellison	Jones	M Smith
Bamborough	Farrell	Marshall	S Smith
Boughton	Flanagan	B Mitchell	Taylor
N Brookes	Galley	C Mitchell	Thomas
P Brookes	Hobson	D Mitchell	Walsh
S Brookes	Hoyle	Roberts	Warne
Burdess	Hugo	Roe	Webb
Cartmell	Humphreys	D Scott	Williams
Cooper	Hunter	Mrs Scott	Wilshaw
Critchley	Jackson	Sloman	

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships / Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Sarah Chadwick, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

Jenny Bollington, Media Manager

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 24 MAY 2023

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 May 2023 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor expressed condolences to the family and friends of Harold Elletson who had passed away the previous week. Mr Elletson had served as the Blackpool North MP from 1992 to 1997 and Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in the early stages of the peace process.

The Mayor also announced the sad death of Russ Weaver, former Head of Neighbourhood Management and previously Chief Superintendent of Blackpool Police and passed on condolences to his family and friends.

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The Mayor offered congratulations on behalf of the Council to the two Fylde coast residents who had been awarded honours in the King's Birthday Honours list namely:

- John Child, former Managing Director of the Sandcastle Waterpark, who had been awarded the Member of the British Empire for services to tourism, people with disabilities and to the community in Blackpool
- Civil Servant Gill Andrew, manager of the DWP Job Centre in Fleetwood, who had been awarded the Order of the British Empire medal for public and charitable services in Fleetwood.

The Mayor also announced that Charlotte Foster from Blackpool Polar Bears Swimming Club had won a silver medal in the 25m freestyle at the Special Olympic World Games in Berlin.

Finally the Mayor advised members that Bev Robinson OBE, Principal and Chief Executive of Blackpool and the Fylde College would be leaving after eleven years' service, and on behalf of the Council, thanked her for her services to education in the town and wished her well for the future.

4 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

Mr Ian White addressed Members on the subject of empty properties and the potential for these to become problematic when used to house cannabis farms in terms of risk anti-social behaviour, crime and public health.

Councillor Williams, Leader of the Council responded to Mr White on the matter and advised that the Council worked closely with the Police in this area who had a lead responsibility and also explained that an Empty Property Strategy was being developed and would be considered by the Council's Executive later in the year.

Note: Councillor Williams left the meeting following consideration of the item.

5 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Members considered the report from the Chair of the Audit Committee in relation to work undertaken during the previous municipal year. Reference was made to important role of the Committee and thanks were expressed to Councillor Galley, the former Chair.

Motion: Councillor Roberts proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

'To receive the Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/2023'.

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

6 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board, Councillor Galley, presented a report to Council on scrutiny achievements during 2022/23 which highlighted the work of the committees during the year and individual scrutiny reviews.

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Reference was also made to the recent review of scrutiny undertaken by North West Employers which had reported favourably on key achievements and had identified opportunities going forward.

The Council noted its thanks to former councillor Mrs Callow in her role as Chair of Scrutiny Leadership Board.

Motion: Councillor Galley proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

‘To receive the Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/2023’.

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

7 EXECUTIVE AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Members considered proposals for revisions to the Council’s procedural rules in relation to presentation of Executive Member reports and Combined Fire Authority reports at full Council meetings, following the matter being raised at the cross-party Constitution Working Group and subsequent agreement by Council that these should be reviewed.

Motion: Councillor Taylor proposed (and Councillor Galley seconded):

1. To adopt a revised a Procedural Standing Order for Council meetings to replace Council Procedural Standing Order 11 as attached at Appendix 7(a) to the council report and for this to be effective from the ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 20 September 2023.
2. That the Group Leaders review the revised process within the next 12 months and report back to Council should any change be required, as set out in paragraph 5.9 of the Council report.’

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

8 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Council received the report from the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the full review of the Members Allowances scheme which had been undertaken following the all-out local election in May.

Debate took place on the scheme including the proposed uplift and a number of views were expressed.

Motion: Councillor Taylor proposed (and Councillor N Brookes seconded):

1. To agree the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and to adopt the proposed new Members’ Allowances Scheme.
2. That the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to update the Members’ Allowances Scheme accordingly.’

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Prior to voting, five members of the Council requested that the vote on the motion should be recorded. The voting was as follows:

For the motion: Councillors Bamborough, Boughton, N Brookes, P Brookes, S Brookes, Burdess, Cartmell, Critchley, Farrell, Flanagan, Hobson, Hoyle, Hugo, Humphreys, Hunter, Jackson, Jones, Marshall, Roe, M Smith, S Smith, Taylor, Thomas, Webb – **total 24.**

Against the motion: Councillors Baker, Cooper, Galley, B Mitchell, C Mitchell, D Mitchell, Roberts, Robertson, D Scott, M Scott, Sloman, Walsh, Warne, Wilshaw - **total 14.**

Abstentions: Councillor Campbell – **total 1.**

Motion carried: The motion was therefore carried.

9 HONORARY ALDERMEN

Members considered a proposal, following discussions between the two political group leaders, to defer the item.

Resolved: To defer the item to allow for further discussion on civic honours.

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 6.46 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance
Tel: 01253 477127
E-mail: lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk