



# Annual Town Meeting

Onward to a Better Future

## THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015

AT THE NORTH EUSTON HOTEL, FLEETWOOD 7p.m.

Present: Cllrs. T. Rogers (Chair), W. Barrow, L. MacNeill, D. Shaw, J. Harrison, P. Treece-Birch, B. Glasgow

Also present: 14 members of the public were present, including Wyre Cllrs. L. Beavers and R Hewitt.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Cllr T.Rogers who welcomed everyone to the sixth Annual Town Meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. He introduced Peter Gibson Leader of Wyre Council and advised he would be speaking first in order to leave for a further appointment.

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Barowclough, Stephenson and Bond which were accepted.. An apology had also been received from the Rt. Hon. Eric Ollerenshaw M.P. who had been invited to speak at the meeting, but had Parliamentary commitments – a report had been provided instead.

### 2 MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014

It was resolved to accept the minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 as being a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### 3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – COUNCILLOR TERRY ROGERS

Cllr. Rogers thanked the public and all Councillors for their efforts in Fleetwood in the past, very busy year. He noted that if he was re-elected on 7<sup>th</sup> May we would do more together. He thanked the new Clerk for all her hard work. In particular helping CAB transition into the FTC office with health & safety requirements. He noted that the Clerk was due to start her CiLCA training in May 2015 and hoped the Council would be in a position to receive accreditation eventually.

He thanked all Councillors and conveyed best wishes to those who would not be standing for re-election on the 7<sup>th</sup> May.

He hoped to continue to work well with LCC and Wyre, put politics aside and move Fleetwood forward.

He said that Fleetwood Town Council had invested a great deal in Fleetwood and is doing a great job and is indeed good value for money.

He conveyed the best of luck to all candidates for the forthcoming elections on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. He thanked the public including Margaret Lund, Margaret Daniels, Bob Boal and Danny O'Neil.

He said Team Fleetwood would need to put their business plans on the table for the next four years.

He was enthusiastic in putting Fleetwood back on the tourist map.

He concluded that there is no room for party politics in Fleetwood Town Council.

#### Councillors

T.J Rogers (Chairman)  
W. Barrow (Vice Chairman)  
P. Treece- Birch

M. Barrowclough  
S. Leadbetter  
B.Glasgow

M. Bond  
L. MacNeill

J. Harrison  
D.C. Shaw`

J. Warnock  
B. Stephenson



#### 4 MESSAGE FROM THE RT. HON. ERIC OLLERENSHAW M.P.

The Chair read a report received from the Rt. Hon. Eric Ollerenshaw M.P. who was unable to attend the meeting due to parliamentary commitments. Report to Fleetwood Town Council 2014/15

First of all, can I again thank you all for the close working relationship that has been maintained over the past year. It really does help me in my endeavours, that I can always rely on your determination to work towards a better future for our Town and we are all able to put politics aside in trying to get "something done". I know this statement has become something of a ritual but I believe rituals are important and I have always genuinely valued our working relationship.

Part of my job as I have mentioned before is to ensure the "powers that be" do not forget Fleetwood, so I try and ensure in most debates I get called to speak in, our Town is mentioned at least, particularly when it comes to funding.

So I am really pleased that finally we have got some funding to start the much talked about Fish Park scheme. As you may know, I see it as not just a modern building to enable local processors to work in and expand their business but also a possible new tourist attraction like Billingsgate in London.

Hopefully this is the beginning of a further regeneration of the old Fish Dock and Siding Road once the processors can move into the new building. This alongside the planning permission finally for the Orient Building should really begin to make a difference to the entrance to the east of Lord Street.

Again the Coastal community fund monies and the generosity of Mrs Lofthouse means further improvements to our Sea Front alongside the fantastic work by the Friends going on in Memorial Park is certainly providing a real lift everyone in the Town.

The Government has given Assisted Status designation to Pharos and Mount wards which hopefully means we can access further grants etc to add to the developing regeneration of these key parts of Fleetwood.

In terms of transport of course we still face the issue of the NOW card and a Tram system crossing 2 transport authorities which I am more and more convinced can only be sorted out by legislation.

There are some monies going into the A585 but for the sake of the future I have put my comments into the County's Fylde Transport Master Plan with the suggestion of a look at extending the present Tram/light railway into Dock Street and beyond through Thornton and Poulton to create a possible Fylde circle line and maybe using the old railway line. Long Term it might seem at the moment but if it is not in this Master Plan or something like it then it will be much harder to bid for the funds as the economy improves. I assume you will be making your own submission to this Master Plan.

As this may be my last annual report to you as Town Councillors so can I again thank you for your willingness to work with me for the benefit of our Town and my best wishes to those of you standing down.

Eric Ollerenshaw OBE MP.

#### 5 PETER GIBSON LEADER OF WYRE COUNCIL – INVESTING IN FLEETWOOD

Thank you for your invite here tonight - it was a tough call as I had planned to go to the Fleetwood V Coventry game - so if I rush off I am sure you will understand.

Tonight I have brought our business plan and also our investing in Fleetwood update.

The business plan this time is over the electoral cycle - however it is a living document and is renewed every year as projects are delivered and other priorities come forward As you can see 3 themes say.

LHS objectives, actions and measures Objectives are what we want to achieve, actions are what we need to do to achieve these objectives and measures are how we gauge whether we have achieved the objectives.

Enterprising Wyre -I spend much of my time with the Chief Exec in meetings trying to convince businesses to invest in the Wyre area and our Officers are now expert at bidding for grants to fund initiatives in the local area however I recognise that Governments don't create jobs - industry does but I do my best to facilitate in any way I can, job creation

The £2.5 million seed funding for the fish park will make an enormous difference to Fleetwood and not only for the fishing industry Associated British Ports will then have a site for mixed use which will mean housing, retail and office space being created which will mean jobs for Fleetwood 130 jobs will be created in the fishing industry as well as guaranteeing the current jobs in Fleetwood .The local plan is both frustrating and time consuming as I am sure your Chair will confirm.

The National Planning Policy Framework is in my view to prescriptive and should any Government actually believe in localism then they will hopefully get rid of it.

The NPPF calls for sustainability and a sequential test which few can define and even fewer understand



The 54 Fleetwood projects are going to be fantastic for the promenade when they are delivered. The design for the Mount is being put together and I know that every area of the Borough wishes they had a benefactor like Mrs Lofthouse to provide funding. Over the last couple of years she had donated £2million to Fleetwood and we are for ever grateful. Rossall Sea Defences - as I said earlier without the expertise of our Officers we wouldn't have been awarded £63 million. Moving on to healthier Wyre - our age demographic means that we have an older population than anywhere else in the North of England. There has been some significant success in supporting vulnerable families. Social isolation issue in rural areas as well as urban areas but we are piloting this in rural areas first. The investments in leisure centres are for the whole of Wyre not for any specific area. Engaging Wyre mentions efficiency savings and if you don't deliver them you can't protect front line services. Our Government grant has been reduced by 54% over the last 4 years and if we hadn't found £7 million of efficiency savings we would have had serious problems. Lastly the strap line on the business plan says together we make a difference and that is so true - Wyre Council and Fleetwood Town Council do work well together - we put politics aside and work together and I would particularly praise your Chairman because together I believe we do make a difference.

## 6 OPEN SESSION FOR THE PUBLIC & QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS OF THE CHAIR & PETER GIBSON

- a) Member of the public Lorraine Beavers spoke in her capacity as a Lancashire C. C. Councillor and asked Peter Gibson if he would ask Wyre Council to come back to the table to discuss joint funding of the Now Cards for the tram service.
- b) Peter Gibson advised that Wyre is not the transport authority and therefore not the remit of Wyre Council.
- c) Cllr Rogers the Chair commented that the Fleetwood Town Council initiative to bring CAB services back to Fleetwood was invaluable. He took the opportunity to thank Wyre Council for the further funding of this project.
- d) Member of the public asked why Mr Gibson was not attending the Mayors Charity Ball and Mr Gibson advised he would be contributing to the charity but was attending another event of the evening in question.
- e) Member of the public Lorraine Beavers asked if Fleetwood Town Council would consider funding tram shelters at certain Fleetwood tram stops. She noted that Singleton Parish Council had provided bus stops for their area. She suggested a possible joint venture with LCC and Blackpool Transport could be considered.
- f) Member of the public Ted Taylor said he was disappointed that Eric Ollerenshaw was unable to attend the Annual Town Meeting. Cllr. Shaw noted that Mr Ollerenshaw was in Parliament and thus unable to attend. He also noted that when Keith Riley was Mayor £25,000 was spent for a feasibility study of a possible Fish Park. He recalled this study was scrapped by a previous Conservative government.
- g) Member of the public asked why Cat Smith had not been invited to speak at the Annual Town Meeting. Cllr Rogers noted that Mr Ollerenshaw was invited as he was currently the incumbent MP for Lancaster & Fleetwood.
- h) Member of the public asked when would Team Fleetwood have their first meeting. Cllr Rogers conveyed this will be after the May elections.
- i) Member of the public Rita Hewitt asked would non-political/independent Councillors be welcome. Cllr Rogers confirmed they would.
- j) Member of the public Emma Anderton said she was excited about team Fleetwood and noted Fleetwood as a high percentage of under 16 year olds we should try and encourage them to love their town. Cllr Harrison advised Fleetwood Town Council had created a Youth Council in previous years which was unique in this area.
- k) Member of the public Norah Stutchfield raised concerns about the delays of the completion of the Splashpark and the impact on tourists this Summer. Cllr Rogers responded and asked the Clerk to find out what the delays are and report this information to the member of the public concerned.
- l) Member of the public Bob Boal said he was disappointed to see that not all Councillors were present at this meeting. Cllr Rogers said make your voice heard on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. He also went on to encourage all potential candidates for Fleetwood Town Council to seriously commit to the next 4 years on Fleetwood Town Council. He lamented that several good Councillors would not be standing for re-election.
- m) A member of the public asked if it was an appointment system for CAB. Cllr Rogers confirmed this was correct.



The Chair thanked Mr Gibson for attending and speaking at the meeting and for answering questions from the public and councillors. He also thanked the councillors and the clerk. Final thanks were given to members of the public for their attendance and participation. The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

Signed .....

Date .....