

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
WYRE AREA COMMITTEE**

**GARSTANG COUNTRY HOTEL AND GOLF CENTRE
WEDNESDAY 25th JUNE 2025 AT 7PM**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes of the meeting held 30th April 2025

To approve the minutes from the meeting.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4. Report from Lancashire Constabulary

5. Guest Speaker

Fiona Riley, Planning Policy Manager at Wyre Council, will brief members on the new local plan project, introduce neighbourhood plans and explain the pros and cons of having a neighbourhood plan in place.

6. Report from Wyre Council

Update to be provided by Rebecca Huddleston, CEO.

7. Report from LALC Executive Committee

8. Matters Raised by Members

9. Date and Time of Next and Future Meetings

The date for the final 2025 meeting is Wednesday 24th September at 7pm.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
WYRE AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT
GARSTANG COUNTRY HOTEL AND GOLF CENTRE
WEDNESDAY 30th APRIL 2025 AT 7PM

Present

Cllr Jan Finch (Catterall PC) – Chair
Emma Millington – Area Secretary
Cllrs Tony Fennell, Norman Howell and James Reilly (Barnacre with Bonds PC)
Cllrs Julie Bostock and Sue Bulman (Catterall PC)
Cllrs Trevor Browning and Alan Yates (Great Eccleston PC)
Cllr Julie Robinson (Hambleton PC)
Cllr Dean Faria (Inskip)
Cllr Steve Elliott (Nether Wyresdale PC)
Cllr Phil Orme (Preesall Town Council and Stalmine-with-Staynall PC)
Cllr Peter Muirhead and Clerk Debbie Smith (Stalmine-with-Staynall PC)
Cllr Brenda Brodie and Gail Crook (Winmarleigh PC)

John Ashurst (LALC)
Joanne Billington and Jane Collier (Wyre Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Francis Fitzherbert-Brockholes (Claughton on Brock PC)
Cllr Sandra Perkins (Garstang TC)
Cllr Gareth Williams (Kirkland PC)

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2025

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Guest Speaker

Joanne Billington, Assistant Director of Governance and Legal (Monitoring Officer) and Jane Collier, Deputy Monitoring Officer gave a presentation on the role of the monitoring officer and the standards regime.

The role of the monitoring officer is “to ensure that the Council, its officers, and its Elected Councillors, maintain the highest standards of conduct in all that they do.” Also to report on matters he/she believes are, or are likely to be, illegal or amount to maladministration, To be responsible for the operation of our Constitution and to be responsible for matters relating to the conduct of Councillors and officers.

The monitoring officer maintains and publishes a Register of Interests, advises regarding declarations at meetings, advising on the declaration of Gifts & Hospitality,

investigates claims of Predetermination, advises on Predisposition and supports Parish and Town Councils.

Wyre Council's Code of Conduct was updated in 2021 and is based on the Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct issued in May 2021. The code applies as soon as a councillor signs the acceptance or attend their first meeting – Section 83 (4) LG Act 1972, when acting as a councillor, when actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public that they are acting as a councillor and it applies to all forms of communication and interaction.

The Code of Conduct complaints procedure follows four stages.

Stage 1 – Initial Assessment of the Complaint

Stage 2 - Informal Resolution

Stage 3 – Formal Investigation and Report

Stage 4 – Standards Committee Hearing

- In the public domain
- Impose sanctions the MO can not

Code of Conduct training will be held towards the end of 2025. The recording on the 2024 training is available and will be sent out.

5. Report from Lancashire Constabulary

None.

6. Report from Wyre Council

Joanne Billington, Assistant Director of Governance and Legal (Monitoring Officer), shared the following report.

Election – 1 May

- LCC Election tomorrow – Wyre has 75 polling stations, covering 8 county divisions.
- There is also a Park ward by-election taking place (Cllr Beavers seat).
- The count takes place on Friday 2 May at Marine Hall

There will also be a Fleetwood Parish Town Council Election in Fleetwood on the 12 June for the two vacancies in the Park and Warren Wards. The notice of election will be published on the 7 May.

Local Government Reorganisation

A brief update on Local Government Reorganisation.

Lancashire councils have now passed their first milestone by submitting an interim plan for reorganisation in Lancashire to government. The plan has been developed and signed collaboratively by all Lancashire councils. The interim letter provides a high-level summary of the options being considered in Lancashire, provides context including the potential challenges.

The next milestone will be November 28 when Lancashire will submit their final LGR proposals. There will be a great deal of work to do before then which will involve working closely with other Lancashire Chief Executives and Leaders. An LGR Delivery Network has already been established and has had its first meeting, A Lancashire Councils Transformation Group has been established and the council will continue to work through all the information and guidance provided by the District

Council Network, Local Government Association and the Local Government Information Unit.

Wyre representatives will keep you up to date through these meetings.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund / Rural England Prosperity Fund

The first round of UKSPF and REPF ended on 31 March 2025. We have successfully delivered over 40 projects and spent the majority of Wyre's £3.9m allocation which is a fantastic achievement. There have been so many fantastic examples of projects, too many to mention but to give you a flavour:-

- Upgrade to the town centre CCTV and new control room at Civic Centre
- Fleetwood market improvements
- Wyre estuary path improvements
- Development of the active wellbeing suite at Thornton Leisure Centre
- Grants for various community projects e.g. Fleetwood hospital and Garstang sports and social club

Three of the infrastructure schemes did not complete and will continue into the UKSPF programme for 2025/26, these are Cleveleys public realm, Garstang public realm and the Cottam Hall pavilion refurbishment project.

Our UKSPF allocation for 2025/26 is £1.2m and we are now working up details of the programme proposals and schemes which will be progressed during 2025/26. This will include community infrastructure grants and arts and events grants. If you want to find out more, details are on the council's website.

Economic Development and Visitor Economy strategy

The Economic Development and Visitor Economy Strategy that Sarah Palmer spoke to you about when she attended in January has now been approved by Full Council and I have brought copies of this for you today.

The Strategy provides a clear statement of what the council aims to achieve over the medium to long term in the borough. It outlines strategic objectives and identifies key commitments which will drive forward economic development and visitor growth.

This is a working document, which will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect local and regional priorities, guidance, policies and best practice.

Council Tax

All Wyre Residents should now have had their council tax bills for the 2025/26 financial year reflecting the Council's decision to increase its element of the bill by just £6.77 (2.99%) on a Band D equivalent property to £233.08 or just 64p per day.

Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge

In June 2024, Wyre took part in a Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge – overall it was a really positive experience. The peer review team will return in May to see how we are getting on with implementing their 9 recommendations. One of these recommendations relates to working closer with our parish and town councils and a piece of work will get underway after the elections to identify how we communicate already with our Parish and Town Councils, how this can be improved and how we can work more efficiently with the Town Centre Partnership delivery boards.

Events during May

Garstang walking Festival – 3-11 May. You can book on-line via the council website. The walks are co-ordinated by the Friends of Garstang Walking Festival, supported by Wyre. There are a number of excellent guided walks for all ages and abilities.

The council are hosting a number of events to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE day on the 8 May.

- There will be a flag raising event at the Civic Centre which starts at 8.45am.
- There will be an event on the Mount in Fleetwood starting at 8pm, including a Beacon lighting, music from the Flat Cap three and reflective poems from the community.
- We are also working with partners to support a weekend VE Day afternoon tea / celebration event at the Community Hall in Poulton.

Recent Achievements / Announcements

Wyre Moving More - I am pleased to report that our fantastic physical activity programme 'Wyre Moving More' achieved an I-network Partner Excellence Award at an event held in Manchester on 27 February 2025. This win is a testament to our successful partnership working and our ongoing commitment to improving the health and happiness of all our communities.

Life in Wyre – A big thank you to all our residents that took place in the 2025 Life in Wyre survey during February and March. 4000 residents were randomly selected to have their say about where they live, council services and other important health, wellbeing and community topics. The survey has now closed, and results are being analysed and will be communicated soon.

7. Report from LALC Executive Committee

A working party has rewritten the LALC constitution and it will be taken to the next meeting for acceptance.

The Northern Group met at the beginning of April. The topic of conversation was mostly devolution.

The LALC Conference will take place on the 7th June 2025 at The Delta Marriot Hotel.

8. Matters Raised by Members

None.

9. Date and Time of Next and Future Meetings

The dates for the 2025 meetings are Wednesday 25th June at 7pm and Wednesday 24th September at 7pm.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 8:30pm.