



Ansdell & Fairhaven Parish Council

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at Ansdell Library, 59 Commonsides, Ansdell on Monday 1st June 2026 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor P Wilkinson in the Chair
Councillor J Frith-Williams (Vice-Chair)
Councillors M Morris, D Perkins, A Roe, P Spilsbury, D Wilkinson

Daniel Guise, Clerk & RFO

County Councillor John Singleton

Melissa Thorpe, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration,
Fylde Borough Council

Members of the Public: 7

19. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Dixon, S Millar, and E Taylor.

20. Declarations of Interest

It was noted that Cllr Frith-Williams had updated her register of interests form, concerning her appointment to the Board of Governors at Ansdell Primary School.

21. Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

22. Public Participation

Melissa Thorpe, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration at Fylde Borough Council (FBC), provided a verbal presentation on the work of her team. Ms Thorpe advised that the team supported and delivered projects for businesses in the Borough. Some examples were “Kirkham Futures”, Shop Local schemes, footfall monitoring, community grants, the renovation of Clifton park and Kirkham and St Anne’s baths.

Ms Thorpe advised that her team also monitored vacancy rates on the high street and could signpost and support local businesses. They could help liaise between parish councils and other Borough departments, and would also work with big employers to identify skills gaps in the local population. Ms Thorpe noted the “Connect to Work” scheme, which helped people in Lancashire overcome barriers to work.

Ms Thorpe noted that FBC were just pulling together a refreshed Economic Development Strategy. She expected that the draft would be sent to parish councils asking for it to be sent on to stakeholders and businesses.

Ms Thorpe discussed the Shop Local Scheme, which had originally been set up through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Ansdell & Fairhaven businesses had been able to access the St Annes scheme, but the funding for that was coming to an end. However, she believed there may be an opportunity for Ansdell & Fairhaven businesses to work with an ongoing Lytham scheme.

Cllr Frith-Williams noted that a recent survey of the high street in Lytham found there were 400 businesses just on Clifton Street, of which only 80 were retail businesses. She noted that you have to be brave to open a business and welcomed the support for small businesses.

Ms Thorpe noted that there was concern around business rates, as many did not know the new rateable value of their premises. She also noted that high footfall in Fylde did not translate into high spending in the town centres, but that vacancy rates were low and the Borough Council wanted to see businesses stay on the high street.

A member of the public raised a concern about paving slabs lifting and cracking around trees, and she asked if someone could just do the repairs. The Chair advised that this was a Lancashire County Council (LCC) responsibility. The member of the public asked if the Parish Council was considering hiring a Lengthsman. The Chair noted that the Council had only just employed a Clerk, and Cllr D Wilkinson advised that a Lengthsman was a little bit off yet.

A second member of the public asked why some of the Christmas Lights had not worked. The Chair advised that the lights had been gifted to the Council by a local community group, but they had only been obtained a week before installation.

Although they had been checked as far as possible, some were not fit for purpose. The member of the public asked if any money had been spent buying them, and the Chair confirmed that none had been. Moreover, money received towards the Christmas lights had been ring-fenced for that purpose. Cllr D Wilkinson confirmed that the 2026 switch-on event was scheduled for Saturday 21st November.

23. Grant Applications

The Council noted that its annual limit for s137 spending in 2026-27 was £82,893.60p.

Cllr Roe proposed that the presented applications and expenditure be approved. Cllr D Wilkinson seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: that the Council, in accordance with its powers under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

£700 grant to Fairhaven Methodist Church

£564.23 to purchase High-Vis vests for Love My Beach.

24. Planning Consultations

No comments were raised on the consultations from Fylde Borough Council.

25. SPIDs Consultation

The Clerk had been advised by LCC that it was necessary to consult residents in the vicinity of the proposed SPID sites, before work could commence. Cllr Singleton advised that, in his experience with 8 SPIDs in Fylde West, no circulation of documents to nearby addresses had been done. He advised that the requirement may have arisen because the Parish Council had sought to do the installation work themselves.

Several councillors noted that concerns around speed, and the need for SPIDs, had been a consistent feature of meetings since the Council had come into being.

The Chair proposed that, in the interests of expediting the work, the Parish Council appoint LCC to do the work at the last previously quoted price. The Clerk asked for authorisation to proceed with a consultation, in the event that this did not remove the requirement for it. Cllr Perkins seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: i) that the Parish Council appoint Lancashire County Council to install three SPID posts at the surveyed locations, at the last previously quoted price; and

ii) that the Clerk be authorised to conduct an expedited consultation, if it proves to be unavoidable.

26. Resilience Hubs

The Council had received correspondence from FBC regarding the development of Community Resilience Hubs.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk advise FBC of the comparable work done by existing church groups.

27. Shop Local Scheme

Cllr D Wilkinson explained the Shop Local scheme. This scheme added an extra incentive to consumers to spend in local, independent businesses. She explained that when a customer with a card made a purchase in a participating business, over £5, they received a stamp. When they had a completely stamped card, they were entered into a 6-monthly draw, in which they could win vouchers which can be spent in any of the participating businesses.

Cllr D Wilkinson explained that the vouchers were originally funded by the government's UKSPF, but that funding had finished. She explained that, without government funding, the prize money for the vouchers had to come from other sponsors. Since there was no Ansdell-specific scheme, Lytham's scheme was open to changing their name to "Lytham & Ansdell" and bringing in Ansdell businesses.

Cllr D Wilkinson proposed that the Parish Council sponsor the next draw. This would cost £275, which was the total cost of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize vouchers. She noted that it might be possible for the next draw to be performed at the Christmas Lights switch-on, and that it would be a nice way to introduce Ansdell businesses to the scheme.

In response to questions from members, Cllr D Wilkinson advised that the scheme was well monitored, and that businesses were saying it brought footfall in.

However, it would only be possible to know in November what impact the next round had. She advised that Fylde Borough Council paid for printing the cards themselves, and that the Council would only have to pay over the sponsorship money in November. The Chair seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: that the Council sponsor the next draw for Shop Local (Lytham & Ansdell) at a cost of £275.

28. Noticeboards

Cllr D Wilkinson updated the Council on proposed locations for noticeboards, at Fairhaven Lake, the train station, and next to the existing community noticeboard on Woodlands Road. She circulated pictures of the proposed locations. Where other existing noticeboards were alongside the proposed locations, Cllr D Wilkinson advised that the style of the new ones would be matched as closely as possible.

Cllr Frith-Williams noted that the old tram stop area would also make a good focal point. However, Cllr Roe advised that this area needed a more holistic upgrade, including other features like planters, and that a noticeboard there would be best done as part of a complete project.

The Council was in possession of one quote for the work, but the Clerk advised that more were needed, to satisfy the financial regulations. The Chair advised that further decisions could be made once two more quotes had been obtained.

Financial support from Fylde Borough Council was discussed. The Clerk advised that he had not found any grant schemes from FBC which parish councils were eligible for, but councillors advised that Lytham Town Council had received exactly such support for their noticeboards. The Clerk was asked to contact Lytham Town Council to establish which grant or funding pot their support had come from.

29. Licensing and Gambling Policy Consultations

The Council had no comments to make on these consultations from FBC.

30. Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Council was presented with three possible auditors, including correspondence from the candidates and quoted fees. Cllr D Wilkinson proposed that the Council appoint Jennifer Sutcliffe. Cllr Morris seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: that the Council appoint Jennifer Sutcliffe as the internal auditor for financial year 2025-26.

31. Training on the Role of Internal Audit

Councillors noted the availability of training on this subject.

32. Risk Assessment and Management Policy

RESOLVED: that this item be deferred.

33. Asset Management Policy

RESOLVED: that this item be deferred.

34. Governance Committee

RESOLVED: that this item be deferred.

Councillors requested that new proposed policies and lengthy background information on agenda items be circulated to councillors one week before the agenda itself is circulated (assuming that the agenda is published precisely 3 clear days before the meeting).

35. Meeting with Lytham Town Trust

The Council was asked to nominate the councillors who were to attend such a meeting.

RESOLVED: that Cllrs Dixon, Frith-Williams, Perkins and Roe be delegated to meet with Lytham Town Trust, along with the Clerk.

36. Removal of Christmas Lights

The Council was presented with four quotes for the completion of this work, including one verbal update from the Chair. Cllr Roe proposed that the Council appoint Tim Young. Cllr Frith-Williams seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: that Tim Young be appointed to provide and operate a cherry picker for the removal of the Christmas lights on Woodlands Road.

37. Planning Parish Forum and District Parish Liaison Meetings

The Clerk advised that he was planning to attend both these meetings in June (15th June for the Planning Forum and 10th June for the Liaison meeting), to meet some of the key Fylde officers in person.

38. Local Government Pension Fund

The Chair asked the Clerk to liaise with the Chair of the Finance Committee, Cllr Perkins, to establish what pension arrangements were appropriate.

39. Payments Made in April & May 2026

The Council noted the following payments which had been authorised since the start of the financial year:

01/04/26	Mr MA Roe	£20.00	Key cutting
01/04/26	T&C Laycock	£270.00	Christmas Tree
13/04/26	Clothes2Order Ltd	£564.23	High Viz Vests – Love My Beach
23/04/26	Blue Skies	£425.00	Dragon Boat entrance fee
05/05/26	D Wilkinson	£106.47	Wellness Day tombola expenses
26/05/26	St Paul's Fairhaven	£54.00	Room hire – 27 th April
26/05/26	LCC	£37.50	Room hire – 11 th May
26/05/26	LCC	£15.40	Unpaid VAT from 2025 invoice

The Council noted the following payments which were made or submitted in the same period, to comply with contractual terms under Financial Regulations 6.8(iii) and 11.4:

01/04/26	Easy Websites	£60.72	Website & email
24/04/26	Talbot	£360.00	Storage unit rent
30/04/26	Unity Bank	£7.60	Service charge
01/05/26	Easy Websites	£60.72	Website & email
29/05/26	D Guise	£2234.22	April & May wages & allowance

The Council noted payments made in accordance with the Council's explicit authorisation:

22/05/26	LALC	£1049.16	Membership subs 2026-27, see minute 13
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The Clerk reported that, at the close of the last financial year on 31/03/26, the Council's overall bank balance was £83,081.37p. As of 26/05/26, it was £139,755.57p. The increase was almost entirely due to the first Precept payment arriving on 07/04/26.

40. Payments for Authorisation

The Council was asked to authorise the following payments:

D Guise	£22.74	Expenses – laptop bag
D Guise	£9.98	Expenses – Phone protective cover
D Guise	£10.00	Expenses – Phone credit

RESOLVED: that the presented payments be approved.

41. Meeting Dates March 2027

RESOLVED: that the meeting scheduled for Monday 29th March 2027 be re-scheduled to Monday 22nd March 2027.

Cllr Morris submitted her apologies for the next meeting on Monday 29th June.

The meeting finished at 8:20pm.