

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE
HELD AT COLNE TOWN HALL
ON 8TH AUGUST 2024**

PRESENT –

Councillor D. Cockburn-Price (Chair)

Councillors

*S. Cockburn-Price
R. O'Connor
A. Sutcliffe*

Co-optees

R. Bucknell (Laneshaw Bridge Parish Council)

Officers in attendance

*Alex Cameron Principal Planning Officer
Lynne Rowland Committee Administrator*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. Butterworth, D. Lord, K. McGladdery, T. Ormerod, and K. Salter, and M. Thomas (Colne Town Council), B. Hodgson (Trawden Forest Parish Council) and A. McGladdery (Colne BID).)



62. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct concerning the declaration of interests. The following persons declared a pecuniary interest in the item indicated –

Councillor D. Cockburn-Price	Colne Youth Action Group	Minute No.72
Councillor S. Cockburn-Price		

Councillors D. Cockburn-Price and S. Cockburn-Price had each been granted a dispensation by the Council's Monitoring Officer to speak and vote on Colne Youth Action Group (CYAG) matters.

63. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

64. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

65. PROGRESS REPORT

A progress report on action arising from the last meeting was submitted for information.

In a verbal update, the Chair reported that an initial meeting had been held on the site of Dockray Street Car Park to look at maintenance issues and other parking related matters.

66. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES AND POLICE MATTERS

The Chair provided a brief update following his attendance at the earlier Community Safety Partnership meeting.

The crime figures for July 2024 compared to the same period the previous year were submitted for information. The figures related to the policing areas of Waterside, Horsfield, Colne Rural, Vivary Bridge and Foulridge and the totals were broken down as detailed below.

	2023	2024
Burglary – Residential	6	8
Burglary – Commercial	4	9
Burglary – Non-dwelling	4	3
Vehicle Crime	29	11
Assaults	78	79
Theft	59	59
Arson/Criminal Damage	43	25
All Recordable Crime	320	277
All Recordable Crime – Year to Date	935	1154
Hate Crime	2	3
Anti-Social Behaviour	133	112

67. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Applications to be determined

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report of the following planning applications to be determined -

24/0314/VAR Variation of Condition: Vary Condition 2 (Plans) of Planning Permission 13/12/0162P at 3 Greenfield House, Greenfield Road, Colne for Mr Dean Brown

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted an update report which provided comments from conservation consultants, Growth Lancashire. Their assessment found no discernible level of harm or loss of significance to the heritage asset and raised no objections from a heritage perspective. The recommendation to approve the application remained the same.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Chair, be delegated authority to **grant consent** subject to receipt of acceptable plans for vehicle access and turning arrangements, and details of the proposed garden area, prior to approval.

REASON

Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that applications be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The proposed variation of condition is acceptable in all relevant regards. The development therefore complies with the development plan. There is a

positive presumption in favour of approving the development and there are no material reasons to object to the application.

24/0430/ADV Advertisement Consent: Display of 4 no. illuminated fascia signs, 9m pylon sign, “Drive Thru” directional sign, Height Restrictor, Digital Menu Board, “Order Here” canopy, Triple Digital Menu Screen, Drive thru “No Entry” and “Thank You” sign, Mini Monolith directional sign, 2 no. “DRIVE THRU” text, “STARBUCKS” lettering, 2 no. Siren Logos, “STARBUCKS” wordmark and non-illuminated banner frame at land adjacent to Whitewalls Drive, Colne for EG On The Move Limited

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted an update which reported comments from the Council’s Environmental Health Department and Lancashire County Council (LCC) Highways. LCC had requested an amendment to the plans. In response, amended plans had been received and the proposed conditions had been revised to reflect the change. The concerns of LCC Highways had been addressed and therefore the application was recommended for approval.

RESOLVED

- (1) That consideration of this application be **deferred** to allow for discussions with the applicant. This to include requests for a 3D visualisation covering long range views from significant viewpoints across the town as identified in the Colne Neighbourhood Plan and from the M65; the Illuminance level of 300 cd/m² to be reduced during the hours of dusk/darkness; and a reduction to the height of totem sign 18 in line with that of the totem sign at nearby Boundary Mill.
- (2) That the applicant be asked to consider renaming the Services to ‘Cotton Way Services’ in recognition of Lancashire’s industrial heritage, rather than any reference to Silk which has no connection to the area.

24/0331/ADV Advertisement Consent: Display of 14 no. illuminated and 6 no. non-illuminated signs to a new Petrol Forecourt Station at land adjacent Whitewalls Drive, Colne for EG On The Move Limited

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted an update as referred to at planning application 24/0430/ADV above. Condition 2 had been revised to reference the amended plans. The recommendation to approve the application remained the same.

RESOLVED

That consideration of this application be **deferred** to allow for further discussions with the applicant as set out above.

(b) Planning appeals

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on planning appeals.

68. ENFORCEMENT/UNAUTHORISED USES

Enforcement Action

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which gave the up-to-date position on prosecutions.

A verbal update was given on a number of cases on the list.

69. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2024/25

The Head of Housing and Environmental Health submitted a report which advised Members on the Committee's 2024/25 area committee budget.

The following four bids were submitted for consideration –

- Litter and dog waste bin provision - £1,500
- Painting gas light and old sign, with new lamp top - £400
- Public Art Project – Preparing and submitting external grant applications - £4,300
- Polytunnel for Trawden in Bloom - £500

It was noted that there was a current overspend of £210 for the provision of litter and dog waste bins in Colne and District. Members also noted the amount of £12,000 remaining in the ledger for Premises Improvement Grants.

In a verbal update, the Chair advised that, with the funding allocated to scheme 84, 18 new nameplates had been erected and a quote was being obtained for the 48 signs on the list in need of repainting.

RESOLVED

- (1) That allocations from the Committee's central area committee budget be agreed as follows –
 - Litter and dog waste bin provision - £2,000
 - Painting gas light and old sign, with new lamp top - £400
 - Public Art Project – Preparing and submitting external grant applications - £4,300
 - Polytunnel for Trawden in Bloom - £500
- (2) That the Head of Economic Growth be asked to submit a report to the next meeting of this Committee on the current position with Premises Improvement Grant applications and awards.
- (3) That Councillors S. Cockburn-Price and D. Lord be encouraged to commit the remaining balance from their individual councillor projects fund by 31st December 2024 and, should any balance remain at that date, the funds be returned to the Committee's central pot.

REASON

To allocate the Committee's budget effectively.

70. KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

The Assistant Director, Operational Services submitted a report which informed Members of the current condition of the King George V playing fields and provided detail of the opportunities to improve the facility for future generations.

The report provided a brief history of the site and invited a discussion on its future use.

Members were keen to see the upper level restored to a playing field and for it to be utilised for hosting events but agreed that a survey of the land and the Castle Road entrance was essential prior to proceeding with this course of action. The installation of goal posts and lining of a football pitch was discussed along with an alternative proposal of a hockey pitch. The Committee also agreed that one or more formal access route(s) from the lower level to the upper level would be required.

Members noted the recommendation that the transfer of the site be discussed with Colne Town Council, as funding for improvements to the site may be more easily sought by them. They also acknowledged that funding may be available from sources such as the Lancashire Environmental Fund.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Director, Operational Services be asked to arrange for a survey to be carried out; explore the options of both a lined football pitch and the alternative of a lined hockey pitch for the upper level; obtain costings for each; and report back to a future meeting of this Committee.

REASON

To help establish the best option for improving the site for local residents for fitness and recreational activities.

71. WHEEL PARK, VIVARY WAY, COLNE

The Assistant Director, Operational Services advised that actions to progress the development of the wheel park/skatepark on Vivary Way, Colne were ongoing.

A further consultation meeting to discuss the development of the facility had taken place on Monday 5th August where attendees saw design drawings along with updates based on feedback received and an outline of the next steps in the project.

Continued involvement from users and Members was encouraged to ensure the wheel park/skatepark met the needs and expectations of all community members.

It was noted that funding opportunities would be explored. Councillor Sutcliffe, who was also the County Councillor for Pendle Central, suggested that there may be an opportunity for funding through LCC's Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

72. COLNE YOUTH ACTION GROUP

(Councillors D. Cockburn-Price and S. Cockburn-Price declared a pecuniary interest in this item but had been granted a dispensation by the Council's Monitoring Officer to speak and vote on Colne Youth Action Group matters.)

An update was provided on the work of the Colne Youth Action Group (CYAG). This included information on the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme; funding opportunities; activities; and recruitment.

73. LEVELLING UP FUNDED PROJECTS

An update on progress with the Colne Levelling Up Fund (LUF) projects was submitted for information. The projects consisted of the Heritage Quarter (the Muni Theatre, Little Theatre, and Pendle Hippodrome) and the Colne Market site.

It was noted that completion of works at the Muni Theatre was scheduled by the 22nd August. Members asked for confirmation that there had been no further cost overrun on this project.

The Committee welcomed the news that proposals for future phases to satisfy more fully the original LUF bid for more accommodation and a cinema had been endorsed by the national Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Levelling Up Team, and that the Project Team was now ensuring that the LCC Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP) for Colne in respect of alterations to the bus station aligned with the proposal in terms of site layout.

However, the Committee was disappointed to note the issues identified in relocating the outdoor market to Hartley Square and the recommendation that the market continued in its current location.

During discussion reference was made to the benches located outside the Colne Market site which were currently situated inside the hoardings. A request was made for these to be relocated to the outside of the hoardings.

74. COLNE BID

The Committee was given a brief update on the work of Colne BID.

75. LITTER/DOG WASTE BINS AND SUBSTATION SITES

The Assistant Director, Operational Services reported on the spend on litter/dog waste bins in Quarter 1 for the period April to June 2024.

It was noted that, of the £1,000 allocated by this Committee at its June meeting, £817.92 had been spent on the erection of two litter bins and one dog bin. In addition, due to wear, damage, or a reduced need for the facility, two bins had been replaced/removed/repared by Operational Services.

76. VACANT HOUSES

The Head of Housing and Environmental Health submitted a report which advised on the position regarding vacant houses in Colne and District.

77. TRAFFIC LIAISON MEETING

The minutes of the Traffic Liaison meeting held on 5th June 2024 were submitted for information.

78. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

The following items had been requested by the Committee. Reports/updates would be submitted

to a future meeting.

- (a) Town Boundary Signs
- (b) Site in Laneshaw Bridge
- (c) Colne Market – Consultant’s report on future operation

79. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the next items of business when it was likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings or the business to be transacted that there would be disclosure of exempt information which was likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

80. OUTSTANDING ENFORCEMENTS

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted, for information, a report which gave the up-to-date position on outstanding enforcement cases.

A verbal update was given on a number of cases on the list.

81. ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

The Assistant Director, Operational Services submitted a report which informed Members of the enforcement actions taken during the period between 1st April to 30th June 2024 within Colne and District and provided annual totals for 2024/25.

The Committee was disappointed in the small number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued to date, as litter and dog fouling continued to be a problem.

82. VACANT HOUSES

Details of vacant properties were submitted for information.

The Committee agreed that future reports need only include properties that were deemed a problem (e.g. derelict/neglected/uninhabitable/attracting anti-social behaviour) or those vacant for over 12 months. It was also agreed that further information on the status of the property and any action taken and when, would be helpful to allow comparison with the Environmental Crime report.

RESOLVED

That the Head of Housing and Environmental Health be asked to revise the report to include additional columns on the status of the property and actions taken and when and submit an extract of six random properties to the next meeting of this Committee.

REASON

To help identify the properties that require attention.

83.

NUISANCE VEHICLES

The Head of Policy and Commissioning submitted a report on nuisance vehicles in Colne and District.

A request was made for one further vehicle to be added to the list.

CHAIR _____