

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE
HELD AT COLNE TOWN HALL
ON 3RD JULY 2025**

PRESENT –

Councillor D. Cockburn-Price (Chair)

Councillors

*M. Atkinson
A. Bell
N. Butterworth
S. Cockburn-Price
D. Lord
R. O'Connor
A. Sutcliffe*

Co-optees

*M. Thomas (Colne Town Council)
R. Bucknell (Laneshaw Bridge Parish Council)*

Officers in attendance

<i>David Walker</i>	<i>Assistant Director, Operational Services</i>
<i>Athira Pushpagaran</i>	<i>Planning Officer</i>
<i>Lynne Rowland</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K. Salter.)



The following person attended the meeting and spoke on the item indicated.

<i>Angela Hudson</i>	<i>25/0233/FUL Full: Part demolition and part rebuild to former workshop at 8 Cumberland Street, Colne</i>	<i>Minute No.57(a)</i>
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52. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

Members' attention was also drawn to the requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct relating to the disclosure of Other Registrable Interests and Non-Registrable Interests.

The following persons declared a pecuniary interest in the item indicated –

<i>Councillor D. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>Colne Youth Action Group</i>	<i>Minute No.63</i>
<i>Councillor S. Cockburn-Price</i>		

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.

The following person declared an Other Registrable Interest in the item indicated –

<i>Councillor A. Bell</i>	<i>Area Committee Budget 2025/26 – Bid from Colne Dramatic Society</i>	<i>Minute No.59</i>
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53.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A local resident and member of Colne Town Council reported that there was an issue with rats in the Exchange Street, Patten Street, and Elm Street areas of Colne. It was stated that the rats had been seen in people's homes and had shown no fear of animals or humans. As rats were a carrier of disease, this was a major concern. It was asked what action was being taken to address the problem.

It was explained that the issues were being investigated, as was the case with all reports received. However, pest control was not a statutory duty of the Council, therefore there was a charge for the treatment of rats.

The Committee asked that the process be speeded up, to help put residents' minds at ease.

54.

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

55.

PROGRESS REPORT

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

In a verbal update it was reported that, since the publication of the report, a response had been received from Lancashire County Council (LCC) regarding the replacement of bollards in Colne Town Centre. This had been circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

In summary, LCC had explained that, when considering the need to replace a damaged bollard, it would first review whether it was still required. If it considered that a new bollard was required, it would be replaced with a black plastic self-righting bollard to match the style or profile of the existing bollards. The reasons for this were explained in the response.

It was noted that LCC had wrongly addressed Colne Town Council in its response.

In a further verbal update, in response to a question of this Committee, Members were advised that the land to the front of Newtown Street, Colne was owned by Pendle Borough Council.

RESOLVED

That it be made clear to Lancashire County Council that the restoration of the cast iron bollards in Colne Town Centre has been at the expense of this Committee, not Colne Town Council, and that the replacement of cast iron bollards with plastic is considered to be inappropriate in this conservation area.

56.

COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES AND POLICE MATTERS

The Chair and Vice-Chair provided a brief update following their attendance at the earlier Community Safety Partnership meeting.

It was noted that one area of concern was late evening anti-social behaviour in the cemetery.

RESOLVED

That, following up on the social media post on the installation of Colne Cemetery gates, the Head of Policy and Commissioning be asked to organise a further post providing information on how to report any anti-social behaviour issues.

57. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Applications to be determined

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

25/0233/FUL Full: Part demolition and part rebuild to former workshop at 8 Cumberland Street, Colne for Mr A. Rais

RESOLVED

- (1) That consideration of this planning application be **deferred** to allow for further information on the proposed use of the building; clarification on the height of the development, distance to neighbouring properties and location of windows; further discussions on the design; and parking.
- (2) That the Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services be asked to arrange for an urgent inspection of the building and scaffolding.

(b) Planning appeals

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

58. 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.

59. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2025/26

(Councillor A. Bell declared a Non-Registrable interest in this item in relation to a funding bid from Colne Dramatic Society.)

The Head of Housing and Environmental Health reported that the current balance for the Committee's area committee budget for 2025/26 was £30,524.

The following bids were submitted for consideration –

- Roof repairs – Colne Dramatic Society - £2,000
- Additional work on the Conservation Area Appraisal for Keighley Road and Carry Lane - £1,323

Members also discussed the funding previously allocated for preparation of a bid to the Arts Council for public art in Colne. The submission of a bid had been delayed whilst clarity on the process was sought.

RESOLVED

- (1) That £2,000 be allocated to Colne Dramatic Society towards roof repairs to The Little Theatre, Colne.
- (2) That £1,323 be allocated for the additional work required on the Conservation Area Appraisal for Keighley Road and Carry Lane.
- (3) That a Member meeting be requested with appropriate officers from Policy and Commissioning.

REASON

- (1) To allocate the Committee's budget effectively.*
- (2) To discuss progression of the bid to the Arts Council.*

60. MAINTENANCE OF BARROWFORD ROAD PLAYING FIELDS

It was reported that, at the request of this Committee, a meeting had been held between Pendle Council and Nelson and Colne College, where current maintenance of the site was discussed. It was agreed that the Council would provide a quote for additional works currently not carried out, to include sanding, fertiliser and herbicide.

It was also agreed that all enquiries regarding the site should be made to the college directly.

A further meeting had been scheduled to discuss the quote further.

61. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

At the last meeting of this Committee, Members were asked to appoint four representatives to the Hartley Homes Trust. Given that two of the Life Trustees were members of this Committee, the Trust was asked if one nomination would be satisfactory.

Members were advised that the composition of the Trust was governed by a Charity Commission Scheme and the Commission had decided that 11 trustees was the appropriate number. This provided for seven Life Trustees appointed by the Trust itself, and four Trustees nominated by Pendle Council. However, should the Committee choose to nominate only one representative, the decision would be accepted.

RESOLVED

That Councillor N. Butterworth be appointed as a representative to the Hartley Homes Trust.

REASON

To maintain Council representation on the Hartley Homes Trust.

62. WHEEL PARK, VIVARY WAY, COLNE

The Assistant Director, Operational Services provided an update on progress with the Wheel Park, Vivary Way, Colne.

It was reported that there were currently a few issues to resolve/investigate involving concerns around the potential for anti-social behaviour, parking issues and potential personal injury that could affect the leisure centre, and that a request for the wheel park to be sited at Alkincoats Park had been received. It was noted that the police were supportive of its current proposed site, adjacent to BMW.

As Alkincoats Park was managed by Colne Town Council, the Town Council had been asked for its opinion on the suggestion.

When the issues had been resolved/investigated further, the scheme would continue as planned. The next stage would be to proceed to formal planning permission for the scheme, prior to searching for external funding.

Members were unhappy to learn that Colne Town Council had been consulted on the suggestion to site the wheel park at Alkincoats Park, when there had been no consultation with this Committee. M. Thomas, the Chair of Colne Town Council, advised that this had not yet been discussed at a meeting of the Town Council.

RESOLVED

That the letter to Colne Town Council, seeking its opinion on the suggestion that the wheel park be sited at Alkincoats Park, be rescinded.

REASON

The design of the wheel park at the current proposed site has been developed following detailed consultation. The location is considered to be appropriate and views on an alternative site at Alkincoats Park are not required.

63. 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 Colne Youth Action Group (CYAG). This included information on the Group's ongoing activities; funding bids; and the Summer Holiday Activities with Food (HAF).

64. LEVELLING UP FUNDED PROJECTS

Members were advised that a new operator had been selected to take over the running of Colne Market Hall. Market traders had visited the market earlier in the day to see how the works were progressing and to meet the new operators.

A news item on the Council's website provided further information.

65. COLNE BID

It was reported that the new BID Manager was now in place. A new social media officer had also been appointed.

66. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Boundary Signs

At the request of a Councillor, the Committee was reminded of a previous request to Lancashire County Council (LCC) for town boundary sign slogans. At the time, the advice received was that the proposals suggested would not comply with the regulations and would therefore not receive LCC approval.

Following a change in administration at LCC, the County Councillor for Pendle Rural had been asked to raise this matter again. In response, LCC had explained the advice previously given and advised that further information about any proposals would be required before it could proceed further. Primarily, the proposed size and design of the preferred signs and their intended location was required. Advice on what was achievable within the current regulations could then be offered.

RESOLVED

That, based on the words and ideas agreed at previous meetings of this Committee, a mock-up sign(s) be made for consideration by Lancashire County Council.

REASON

To allow for further consideration of the request to provide informative, intriguing and enhanced signage on the key gateways into the Town.

67. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

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

- (a) Land to the Rear of Red Lane, Colne
- (b) Pigeons in Colne Town Centre
- (c) Colne Cemetery Chapel

68. 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.

69. 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.

Members were concerned at the number of breaches recorded at one particular property and the time it was taking to deal with these. In response to a Member request, a timeline of action would be provided.

70. PROBLEM SITES

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on problem sites in the Colne and District area.

A discussion was held on a number of sites on the list.

It was noted that the requested meeting with the owners of the site referenced PLE/22/0647 had not yet taken place. The Committee asked that this be arranged as soon as possible.

71. NUISANCE VEHICLES

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

CHAIR _____