

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
HELD AT COLNE TOWN HALL  
ON 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026**

*PRESENT –*

**Councillors**

*M. Atkinson  
D. Cockburn-Price  
S. Cockburn-Price  
N. McCollum  
R. O'Connor  
A. Sutcliffe  
M. Waddington  
A. Whitehead*

**Co-optees**

*A. Bell (Colne Town Council)  
K. Salter (Foulridge Parish Council)  
R. Bucknell (Laneshaw Bridge Parish Council)  
B. Hodgson (Trawden Forest Parish Council)*

*(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Lord and S. Smith (Colne BID).)*

**Officers in attendance**

*Neil Watson  
Lynne Rowland*

*Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services  
Committee Administrator*

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**1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Members were asked to consider the appointment of a Chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2026/27.

After failing to reach an agreement, Members were advised that an officer of the Council would need to facilitate the meeting. The facilitator would manage the process only and would not take part in any decision making.

**RESOLVED**

That –

- (1) a decision on the appointment of a Chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2026/27 be deferred;
- (2) in the meantime, Neil Watson, the Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services and Area Coordinator would facilitate the meeting.

*Neil Watson, Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services  
(Area Coordinator) - In the Chair*

**2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

**RESOLVED**

That consideration of the appointment of a Vice Chair of the Committee for the municipal year

2026/27 be deferred.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEES**

**RESOLVED**

That the following organisations be invited to nominate a representative to be co-opted on to this Committee for the municipal year 2026/27 –

Colne Town Council; Foulridge Parish Council; Laneshaw Bridge Parish Council; Trawden Forest Parish Council; and Colne BID.

**4. DISPENSATIONS**

Due to the short period of time between the borough council election on 7<sup>th</sup> May and this meeting of the area committee, there had been difficulty in ensuring that the new members of the Council just elected, namely Councillors N. McCollum, M. Waddington and A. Whitehead had received the appropriate mandated planning law and procedure training to enable them to determine planning applications.

In view of these particular circumstances, the Council's Monitoring Officer had granted a dispensation to these Councillors, for this meeting only, to allow them to adjudicate on planning applications even when they had not yet received the training, on the grounds that it was in the interests of persons living in the authority's area.

**5. 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 for the reason stated –

Councillor D. Cockburn-Price	Colne Youth Action Group	Trustee of	Minute No.20
Councillor S. Cockburn-Price		Colne Youth Action Group	

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 CYAG matters on the grounds that it was in the interests of persons living in the authority's area.

The following persons declared an Other Registrable Interest in the item indicated for the reasons stated -

Councillor S. Cockburn-Price	Colne BID	Director of Colne BID	Minute No.21
Councillor A. Sutcliffe			

Councillors S. Cockburn-Price and A. Sutcliffe had each been granted a dispensation by the Council's Monitoring Officer to speak and vote on Colne BID matters on the grounds that it was in the interests of persons living in the authority's area.

**6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**7. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2026 be approved as a correct record.

(In the absence of a Chair, the minutes would be resubmitted to the next meeting of the Committee for further agreement and signing by the Chair.)

**8. PROGRESS REPORT**

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

In a verbal update on a matter previously considered by the Committee, it was noted that the Play Street Scheme was currently on hold, to allow for an Executive decision in relation to road closures. This was due to be considered at the Executive's June meeting. There was concern that the time delay would result in a substantial loss of play weeks over the summer months and therefore a request was made for this to be fast tracked where possible.

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services indicated that an application for a closure had not been made and that, under the Constitution of the Council, area committees were not able to agree or set up Play Streets.

**9. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES AND POLICE MATTERS**

Councillor A. Sutcliffe, the Chair of the Colne Community Safety Partnership (CSP) provided an update on community safety issues and police matters following his attendance at the earlier CSP meeting.

In addition, a Member also advised that a residents' request for speed bumps on Red Lane, Colne, to prevent speeding past the school, had been refused. The Committee felt that this matter should be looked into further.

**RESOLVED**

That the request for speed bumps on Red Lane, Colne, be referred to the Pendle Traffic Liaison Meeting for consideration.

**REASON**

*In view of the reported speeding past the school.*

**10. 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 -

**26/0131/FUL Full: Replacement of existing perimeter fencing and gates at Primet Primary School, Tatton Street, Colne for Mrs Cunningham**

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services gave a verbal update, which advised of comments from Colne Town Council, objecting to the proposal on the grounds of it being detrimental to the heritage, and diminishing the character of the area; and comments from Growth Lancashire, who did not raise any objections.

**RESOLVED**

That consideration of the application be **deferred**.

**REASON**

***To allow for further negotiations with the applicant with regard to the design of the proposals.***

**(b) Planning appeals**

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

An update had been circulated prior to the meeting which provided additional information on two of the appeal decisions. The update also included one amendment, which clarified that the appeal against an Enforcement Notice at Field 3226 at the junction with Reedymoor Lane, Whitemoor Road, Foulridge had been dismissed.

**11. CALDERDALE ENERGY PARK CONSULTATION**

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on proposals for Calderdale Energy Park, an onshore wind project located on Walshaw Moor, West Yorkshire. The evolving proposal was to erect 38 wind turbines (150m & 200m in height), along with associated infrastructure works. The development would be determined under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) process under which the applicant was obliged to carry out a non-statutory consultation process and a statutory consultation prior to a Development Consent Order (DCO) being submitted.

The Committee was being consulted as part of the statutory consultation which would close on 10<sup>th</sup> June. The formal response of the Council would be determined by the Executive. Members were therefore asked to consider whether there were any areas of information or issues with the scheme that should form the basis of the comments to the consultation, and to make a recommendation to the Executive for consideration at its next meeting.

The Committee discussed the matter at length and considered the main issues as detailed in the report. During discussion a Member expressed the opinion that the consultation had fallen foul of the Gunning Principle 2. They advised that Laneshaw Bridge Parish Council had agreed to mount an objection on this legal basis, and that Colne Town Council was to consider the same at its meeting next week.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Executive be recommended to –

- (1) explore the potential for a judicial review under the Gunning Principle;
- (2) express concerns about the development at this stage due to lack of full detail and potential major impacts on, in particular but not exclusively, highway impacts; impacts on the landscape and the visual quality of the area; tourism; and biodiversity sand ecology including impacts on the peat environment;
- (3) express concern about the lack of accuracy in some of the documents;
- (4) specifically reference the insufficient emphasis on heritage assets; the lack of significant viewpoint information; the impact on the structural integrity of houses along the route and to the side; and the maintenance of the long term infrastructure of the area;
- (5) reserve the right to object to any or all of the development once the Environmental Statement has been completed and the Development Consent Order submitted.

### **REASON**

***It is the view of the Committee that the process has fallen foul of Gunning Principle 2. It is not possible to come to an overall view of the development with much of the information that is needed still being developed.***

## **12. 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 provided on a number of cases on the list.

## **13. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2025/26 AND 2026/27**

The Head of Housing and Environmental Health submitted a report which advised Members on the Committee's 2025/26 and 2026/27 area committee budgets and gave details of the commitments for each year.

Members were advised that the works to provide a timber handrail at Newtown Street, Colne had been completed at a cost of £1,798 which was £2 under the allocated budget of £1,800. The Committee was asked to de-allocate the underspend of £2 and return the funds to the area committee budget.

The Committee was reminded that the maximum carry forward figure was capped at the equivalent of one year's budget.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Committee –

- (1) notes the budget as committed and the cap on the carry forward figure;
- (2) agrees to de-allocate the £2 underspend on the works to provide a timber handrail at Newtown Street, Colne and return the funds to the area committee budget.

**REASON**

***In recognition of the commitments already made and to continue to make effective use of the Committee's budget.***

**14. COLNE TOWN CENTRE BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN SCHEME**

An update on the Colne Town Centre Bus Service Improvement Plan Scheme had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Scheme was part of Lancashire County Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan which was utilising funding from the Government and supporting Pendle Council's wider regeneration ambitions.

**15. TRAFFIC LIAISON MEETING**

The minutes of the Pendle Traffic Liaison meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February were submitted for information.

**16. PREMISES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS**

The Head of Economic Growth submitted a report which updated the Committee on progress made on the Colne Premises Improvement Grant Scheme in 2025/26.

The report included a request for £3,000 remaining in the budget from 2025/26 to be carried forward to 2026/27 and for a further £3,000 to be allocated.

The Committee was also asked to nominate a minimum of two members to the Premises Improvements Grants Panel.

**RESOLVED**

That the Committee –

- (1) notes the summary of the Premises Improvements Grant Scheme;
- (2) agrees to carry over £3,000 remaining in the budget from 2025/26, but declines to allocate a further £3,000 for the 2026/27 year;
- (3) nominates Councillors Sarah Cockburn-Price, Dorothy Lord and Nathan McCollum to be appointed to the Premises Improvement Grant Panel for the 2026/27 year.

**REASON**

- (1) ***To allow for funding of Premises Improvement Grants to be considered on an ad hoc basis.***
- (2) ***To allow Members to make decisions that support the ongoing regeneration of Colne Town Centre.***

**17. TRAWDEN FOREST PARISH COUNCIL – CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL**

Further to consideration at the March meeting of this Committee, Members were reminded that Trawden Forest Parish Council was currently in the process of refreshing its Neighbourhood Plan. As part of this process, it wanted to update the Trawden Forest Conservation Area. The Committee had agreed to appraise the Conservation Area, providing that funding was in place.

It was reported that Trawden Forest Parish Council had some funding set aside for this purpose and was proposed that this Committee allocate £5,000 towards the work.

**RESOLVED**

That £5,000 be allocated to part fund the appraisal of the Trawden Forest Conservation Area.

**REASON**

*In support of the Conservation Area appraisal.*

**18. PROVISION OF LITTER/DOG WASTE BINS**

The Assistant Director, Operational Services reported on the spend on litter/dog waste bins in Quarter 4 for the period January to March 2026.

**19. VACANT PROPERTIES**

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

It was noted that, at previous meetings, details of empty properties had been provided. A request was made for this information to be made available at future meetings.

**20. COLNE YOUTH ACTION GROUP**

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

The Chair and Councillor S. Cockburn-Price provided an update on the work and ongoing activities of Colne Youth Action Group (CYAG), including information on funding. The recent Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme had catered for 50 children and overall the Group was seeing approximately 150 unique children per week.

**21. COLNE BID**

*(Councillors S. Cockburn-Price and A Sutcliffe declared an Other Registrable Interest in this item but had each been granted a dispensation by the Council's Monitoring Officer to speak and vote on Colne BID matters.)*

An update on the work of Colne BID had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**22. 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) Greenfield Road, Colne

**23. 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.

**24. LAND AT WINDY BANK, COLNE**

The Head of Property and Engineering submitted a report for consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Executive be recommended to declare the land known as Windy Bank surplus to requirements in accordance with paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 of the submitted report, subject to the proposed access road, illustrated as Section D on the plan, being approved for a temporary period by way of a licence agreement.

**REASON**

*To generate a capital receipt and protect the land from fly tipping.*

**25. 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.

An update was requested on a number of cases on the list.

**26. PROBLEM SITES**

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

An update was requested on one of the cases on the list.

A request was also made for case ref: PLE/25/0067 to remain on the list for the time being.

**27. ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME**

The Assistant Director, Operational Services submitted a report which informed Members of the enforcement actions taken during Quarter 4 within Colne and District.

The Committee noted that there had been zero Fixed Penalty Notices issued in Quarter 4 and felt that this was wholly unacceptable, particularly in view of the continuing problem with littering and dog fouling. It was felt that a dedicated team of people was needed to address the problem.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Executive be asked to consider the views of this Committee and take appropriate action

for greater enforcement of littering and dog fouling offences.

**REASON**

***Littering and dog fouling continue to be a problem in the Colne and District area. An increase in the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued would act as a deterrent.***

**28.**

**NUISANCE VEHICLES**

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

A request was made for a number of additional locations to be added to the list.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

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