MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT COLNE TOWN HALL ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT –

Councillor M. Atkinson (Chair)

Councillors	***Co-optees***
D. Cockburn-Price	*M. Thomas (Colne Town Council)*
S. Cockburn-Price	*A. Holmes (Trawden Forest Parish Council)*
D. Lord	*S. Smith (Colne BID)*
N. McCollum	
R. O'Connor	
A. Sutcliffe	
M. Waddington	
A. Whitehead	

Officers in attendance

Neil Watson	*Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services*
Lynne Rowland	*Committee Administrator*

(Apologies for absence were received from K. Salter (Foulridge Parish Council).)

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

Leo Brightley	*Legacy Fund*	*Minute No.124*

118. 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 an Other Registrable Interest in the item indicated for the reasons stated –

Councillor S. Cockburn-Price Councillor A. Sutcliffe	Area Committee Budget 2026/27 – application from Colne BID	Director of Colne BID	Minute No.123
Councillor S. Cockburn-Price Councillor A. Sutcliffe	Legacy Fund – application from Colne BID	Director of Colne BID	Minute No.124

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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.

The following persons declared a Non-Registrable Interest in the item indicated for the reason stated –

Councillor D. Cockburn-Price Councillor S. Cockburn-Price	Review of Lidgett and Bents Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan	Own properties within the Conservation Area.	Minute No.127

119. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

120. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

121 PROGRESS REPORT

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

A verbal update was provided on progress with the 'Swim for Your Lives' project, to which this Committee had allocated funding.

122. 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.

123. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2026/27

The Head of Housing and Environmental Health submitted a report which advised Members on the Committee's 2026/27 budget.

The Committee was asked to note the current position in relation to the funding of Colne Premises Improvement Grants. At its previous meeting, the Committee had awarded £1,456 towards an application that was ready to proceed, on the understanding that £3,000 remained available.

It had since been clarified that £2,976 of the £3,000 ledger balance had already been committed, leaving an uncommitted balance of £24. Additional funding was therefore required to fund the grant.

The Committee was advised that the grant application had been approved by the Committee's Grant Panel Members for £1,434. Taking account of the £24 available, the Committee was asked to allocate an additional £1,410 to enable the works to proceed.

The report also included a bid of £5,000 from Colne BID for Winterbloom 2027. It was intended that this would go towards the commissioning of light artists to supply light installations across town, as well as working with local artists to deliver a light projection project.

A request for a late bid to be considered was declined.

RESOLVED

(1) That the request for funding of £1,410 for Colne Premises Improvement Grants be approved.

(2) That the application for Winterbloom 2027 be refused.

REASON

(1) To allow the approved Premises Improvement Grant application to proceed.
(2) The Committee aims to award its limited area committee budget to support appropriate bids from various applicants. Colne BID has received funding from this budget on several occasions. An award of £5,000 would reduce the balance significantly, reducing the ability to support other projects/organisations.

124. LEGACY FUND

The Head of Housing and Environmental Health submitted a report which provided an update on the Legacy Fund.

The report included the following bids for consideration –

- Knur & Spell World Championship and associated Public Arts Project - £15,000
- Colne BID – Winterbloom 2027 - £1,058.16

Both applications provided details of the project and proposed use of funding. It was noted that the intended use for any agreed Winterbloom 2027 funding would be focused on delivering community engagement work with local schools and community groups.

Prior to considering the bids, the Committee responded to a number of questions from Mr Brightley relating to previously approved applications.

RESOLVED

(1) That the request for funding of £15,000 for a Knur & Spell World Championship and associated Public Arts Project be refused.

(2) That the application of £1,058.16 from Colne BID, towards Winterbloom 2027, be approved.

REASON

(1) The Committee lacked confidence in the success of a Knur and Spell World Championship revival event and felt that an award of £15,000 for this project would not be an appropriate use of the legacy fund.
(2) To support the delivery of community engagement work with local schools and community groups in the lead up to Winterbloom 2027.

125. COLNE TOWN CENTRE BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN SCHEME

In a verbal update it was reported that work on the Colne Town Centre Bus Service Improvement Plan Scheme was ongoing and still running close to programme, with around 30% of the works complete.

126. ENFORCEMENT/UNAUTHORISED USES

Enforcement Action

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

127. REVIEW OF ALBERT ROAD AND LIDGETT AND BENTS CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

Further to this item being deferred at the last meeting, the Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services resubmitted a report which advised of the reassessment of the Albert Road, and Lidgett and Bents Conservation Areas in light of changes in guidance and physical changes on the ground, in order to reflect up to date management proposals.

The draft Conservation Area (CA) appraisals and Management Plans for both the Albert Road, and Lidgett and Bents CAs were submitted for consideration. Each provided a contemporary assessment of the evolving nature of the areas and suggested alterations to boundaries. These were appropriate for consideration though a statutory public engagement process.

The Committee was invited to comment on the draft appraisals and, if satisfied with the content, was recommended to agree a public consultation on the proposed changes, together with the allocation of funding to cover the costs of carrying out the publicity. The budget required was estimated to be £2,000 for the press release and other publicity. If individual addresses were to be contacted, this would increase to an estimated £3,500.

Members had taken the opportunity, before the meeting, to view the draft appraisals and a number of corrections and suggestions had been submitted to the Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services.

The suggestions included highlighting, on the maps, the existing boundary for each Conservation Area to clearly identify the extensions proposed.

Members indicated that writing to every address in the existing CA boundary was unnecessary, but that those falling within the proposed extension areas should be contacted.

RESOLVED

That, taking into account the necessary corrections, the Committee agrees to consult on the proposed changes to the Albert Road, and Lidgett and Bents Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive be asked to agree funding of £2,000 for a press release and other publicity relating to the Albert Road, and Lidgett and Bents Conservation Area Appraisals.

REASON

(1) The appraisals for both Albert Road, and Lidgett and Bents Conservation Areas provide a contemporary assessment of the evolving nature of the areas and suggest alterations to boundaries. Each appraisal reflects the existing character of the area and what is important to retain and enhance. They are appropriate for consideration through a statutory public engagement process.

(2) The costs for undertaking the appraisals have been funded by the Colne and District Committee. A request is made for the publicity costs to be allocated from the central budget.

128. ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Following a referral from this Committee, the Executive had considered Members' concerns over the lack of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued for litter and dog fouling offences in the Colne and District area.

After considering a report at its September meeting, the Executive asked that further information be submitted to this area committee for consideration. This was to allow Members to consider the financial implications of this Committee entirely funding the employment of an additional officer resource within Operational Services. The resource would be dedicated to activities within the Colne and District Committee area and any income generated from the issue of FPNs would be ringfenced back to the Committee.

The Assistant Director, Operational Services submitted a report for consideration. It was noted that the estimated cost of one officer would be in the region of £34,335 per annum. Although the estimated annual income was around £19,556 (based on 2023 figures), Members were advised that this could not be used to offset the cost at this point.

RESOLVED

That –

(1) the financial implications, as detailed in the report, be noted;

(2) in principle, the Committee is in support of funding the employment of an additional officer resource within Operational Services, dedicated to activities within the Colne and District Committee area.

(3) the matter be reconsidered again in May 2027, once the 2027/28 area committee budget is known.

REASON

Littering and dog fouling continue to be a problem in the Colne and District area. The employment of an additional officer resource to carry out enforcement patrols, issuing Fixed Penalty Notices where necessary, would act as a deterrent. The potential income generated from Fixed Penalty Notices would potentially make the post cost neutral.

129. VACANT PROPERTIES

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

130. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Update on Cotton Tree Lane issues

At the September meeting, the Committee discussed emergency carriageway repair works that were being carried out on Cotton Tree Lane, Colne, which had resulted in a section of the road being closed to traffic.

In a verbal update by members of the Committee, it was reported that, to the side of the repair, the road was sinking. A surface water sewer problem and burst water main were referenced. A further road closure was expected.

(b) Failing water supplies in East Colne and Laneshaw Bridge

A Member provided a verbal update on their communications with United Utilities over recent issues with water supplies in East Colne and Laneshaw Bridge. It was explained that recent outages had been as a result of a power cut at the pumping station by Monkroyd. It was stated that a back-up system and a boost to investment was planned.

(c) Colne Cemetery Chapels

The Committee was invited to discuss a Member suggestion that the Council be requested "to submit a grant application for funding to repair the newly-listed Colne Cemetery Chapels, with match-funding to come from the reallocation of delayed/undeliverable capital projects".

It was suggested that, once renovated, one could re-open as a chapel, and the other for a community purpose, such as a café.

Members were asked to consider whether it would like a report to come to a future meeting.

During discussion reference was made to the Derelict Buildings Fund, a government fund which supported local authorities in bringing empty and deteriorating buildings back into use. It was Members' understanding that Pendle Council had/would receive an allocation from this fund, to be allocated to projects as appropriate.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive be asked to consider authorising the allocation of funding from the Derelict Buildings Fund to repair the newly-listed Colne Cemetery Chapels and bring them back into use. Alternatively, the Chief Executive be asked to authorise the submission of a grant application for the restoration and re-use of the Colne Cemetery Chapels.

REASON

To allow for the Grade II Listed buildings to be restored and brought back into use.

131. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

The following item had been requested by the Committee. A report/update would be submitted to a future meeting.

(a) Greenfield Road, Colne

132. 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.

133. 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 discussion was held on a number of cases on the list.

134. NUISANCE VEHICLES

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

It was agreed that the first case listed could be removed from the list, as the vehicle was no longer causing a nuisance.

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