



Garstang Town Council

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Garstang Scout and Guide

Headquarters

Kepple Lane

Garstang

PR3 1PB

Full Council Meeting, 20th February 2023 Minutes

Minutes of the Town Council meeting, held at Garstang library, on Monday, 20 February 2023, 7.30pm.

Present

Chairman; Councillor Leech

Councillors present: Allan, Atkinson, Halford, Leech, Mitchell, Pearson and Webster.

Also present: Town Clerk, Edwina Parry, Wyre Councillor Dulcie Atkins, Wyre Councillor Robert Atkins and Wyre Councillor Alice Collinson.

150(2022-23) Apologies for absence

Councillors Brooks and Dyer.

151(2022-23) Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

167(2022-23) Councillor Atkinson declared an 'other interest'. He is a member of the Garstang Scarecrow Festival.

167(2022-23) Councillor Leech declared an 'other interest'. He is a member of the Garstang Scarecrow Festival.

167(2022-23) Councillor Webster declared an 'other interest'. She is Chairman, Garstang Scarecrow Festival

152(2022-23) Public participation

The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public to speak.

Wyre Councillor Dulcie Atkins reported that it had been a quiet month.

Wyre Councillor Robert Atkins reported that if there was a particular issue that Garstang Town Council wished Wyre Council's, Overview and Scrutiny Committee to examine, they should let him know as soon as possible. There had not been a Climate Change meeting for a while.

Wyre Councillor Alice Collinson reported that Wyre Council's Partial review Plan has been adopted and that the Full Review had commenced, with the Local Plan to be completed by 2025. She reported that Wyre Council had housing stock for the next 9/10 years.

Following questions from Councillors, the following was agreed.

Wyre Councillor Dulcie Atkins agreed to follow up the O2 mobile phone signal issues relating to access the mast.

Wyre Councillor Alice Collinson agreed to report back to the Town Council what Wyre Council's latest position was for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies and section 106 agreements on the recent/forthcoming developments in Garstang.

153(2022-23) Announcements

The Mayor reported that it was a lengthy agenda, due to the number of items to cover.

154(2022-23) Minutes of the last meeting

Councillors were asked to approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2023.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2023 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

155(2022-23) Mayor and Deputy Mayor elect 2023/2024

Members were asked to give consideration (with reference to Standing Orders point 5j,) to the appointment of:

- a) Mayor elect and
- b) Deputy Mayor elect

in readiness for the Annual Town Council meeting on 11 May 2023.

Both appointments were dependent on the outcome of any forthcoming election, for Garstang Town Council, that may be held on 4 May 2023.

Councillor Mitchell had indicated earlier that day that she did not wish to stand Mayor elect.

Resolved:

- a) Mayor elect; Councillor Pearson was elected Mayor elect for the Civic year 2023 – 2024. The Council **further resolved** that at the Annual Town Council Meeting, the proposer would be Councillor Leech and the seconder would be Councillor Allan.
- b) Deputy Mayor elect; Councillor Mitchell was elected Deputy Mayor elect for the Civic year 2022 – 2023. The Council **further resolved** that at the Annual Town Council Meeting, the proposer would be Councillor Leech and the seconder would be Councillor Halford.

156(2022-23) Arrangements for Annual Town Council meeting (also known as ATCM and Mayor making), 11 May 2023.

The Clerk asked the Council what arrangements should be put in place for the ATCM. The Council noted that Wyrebank is not available on 11 May 2023.

Garstang St Thomas' Parish and Community Hall is available. The hall is available on 11 May 2023 (occupied until 7.15pm).

Resolved: The Council approved that the venue and refreshment arrangements for the Annual Town Council meeting be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Mayor elect. Any payments were delegated to the Clerk using budget code Mayor meeting 4520, which has a budget of £207.00.

157(2022-23) Arrangements for Civic Sunday 2023

In readiness for the new Civic year, the Clerk asked the Council what the arrangements for Civic Sunday should be for this year.

Resolved: That the date and arrangements for Civic Sunday 2023 be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Mayor elect, Councillor Pearson.

158(2022-23) Annual Governance Review.

Councillors noted that when completing the end of year Annual Return, Councillors are asked to confirm that the various internal control documents have been reviewed in the past 12 months and the Town Council has established a principle of conducting an annual governance review each February. Councillors were asked to review and approve the following documents.

a) Standing orders

The Clerk reported that NALC's model standing orders had been modified in April 2022. The Clerk has amended the current SO's, to reflect the changes at point 18 (circulated on Teams).

Resolved: The Council approved the updates at point 18 and approved the modified standing orders.

b) Financial Regulations

The Clerk reported that there have been no modifications to NALC's model financial regulations since 2019.

Resolved: The Council approved the current Financial Regulations; unamended from last year.

c) Schedule of Assets, as at 07/02/2023

The Chair of Finance reported that Kepple Lane Park Trust would be writing about the assets on Kepple Lane Park which have not yet been transferred to the Town Council.

Additionally, the RFO and Chair of Finance Committee are in discussions with a new accounts provider, whereby there will be an integrated asset register, which will supersede the current register. All further updates (apart from the addition of assets) will be made within the new accounts package.

Resolved: The Council approved the Schedule of Assets as at 07/02/2023.

d) Schedule of Assets and Disposal Policy

To comply with The Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) 2022 guide Fixed assets and equipment:5.56 – 5.66 and specifically at point 5.63. The RFO is recommending that the Council approves a Schedule of Assets and Disposal Policy. An example policy is detailed below from Maltby Town Council. The RFO is recommending that the policy is delegated to the RFO and Chair of Finance to modify and bring back to Council on 20/3/2023 for approval.

Resolved: The Council approved that the Schedule of Assets and Disposal Policy, produced by Maltby Town Council, is delegated to the RFO and Chair of Finance to modify and bring back to Council on 20/3/2023 for approval.

e) Risk management policy,

The Clerk reported that there were no amendments to approve.

Resolved: The Council approved the current Risk management policy; unamended from last year.

f) Risk register

Council noted that the register is reviewed quarterly by the Finance Committee. The Chair of Finance reported that he and the RFO are looking at an alternative risk register to provide a more topical and tailored Risk Register for the Council. It is anticipated that this will be brought to the Finance Committee in April 2023.

Resolved: The Council approved the Risk register as detailed on the website.

g) Publication Scheme Policy (updated version circulated on Teams).

The Clerk has updated the policy.

Resolved: The Council approved the amendments to the publication Scheme Policy.

h) Investment strategy

There were no amendments to approve.

Resolved: The Council approved the Investment strategy.

i) Reserves policy

There were no amendments to approve.

Resolved: The Council approved the Reserves policy.

j) Grant policy

There were no amendments to approve.

Resolved: The Council approved the Grant policy.

159(2022-23) Casual vacancies in the office of Town Councillor

Councillors were asked to consider how they wished to proceed filling the 3 Town Councillor vacancies.

Resolved: That the 3 vacancies be filled at the next ordinary elections of councillors on 4th May 2023. If the Clerk received any expressions of interest in the Town Councillor vacancies, the enquirer to be advised to submit the nomination papers to Wyre Council.

160(2022-23) NALC Five things you can do to promote local elections

In light of reading the report detailed under Clerk's report for information at point 31b) the Town Council were asked how they wished to promote the forthcoming elections.

Resolved: The Town Council agreed that the forthcoming elections be advertised by the following channels:

- a) Green Focus magazine
- b) Courier newspaper
- c) Posters on the notice boards
- d) Town Council Facebook page and other social media platforms.
- e) Forthcoming Council surgery
- f) NALC information pack
- g) Highlight photo ID requirements to be able to vote

The Council **further resolved** to delegate the promotion of the local election to the Clerk in consultation with Councillors Leech, Pearson and Webster

161(2022-23) LALC - Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party invite (retrospective approval sought)

Resolved: The Council retrospectively approved that the Mayor is nominated to go into the ballot to attend the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

162(2022-23) Developing and delivering a council's strategic plan

The Clerk advised the Council that a Council Plan is developed. The Clerk had circulated the following documents for consideration.

1. Developing and delivering a council's strategic plan
2. Seven highly effective habits for parish and town councils.
3. Roles and responsibilities of Clerk & Councillors.
4. Action Plan (last modified May 2022)

Resolved: The Council agreed to bring back the item to the first meeting post elections; 15 May 2023 for debate.

163(2022-23) Wyre Council Call for expressions of interest: Arts and Culture, town centre events and festivals

Resolved: The Town Council agreed to submit an expression of interest for the Christmas Lights projects. The deadline of 12pm, 28/02/2023 was noted. The Council **further resolved** that the submission be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with Councillors Webster and Atkinson.

Wyre Councillors Dulcie Atkins, Robert Atkins and Alice Collinson left the meeting

164(2022-23) Wyre Planning Ambassador position

The Clerk reported that Councillor Brooks is the Planning Ambassador at Wyre Council.

165(2022-23) Resurfacing of Moss Lane, Garstang, Councillor Webster

Councillor Webster reported on the poor condition and the need for Moss Lane to be resurfaced, which has been on the Town Council's and residents' radar for some time now. County Councillor Shaun Turner's had provided a detailed

explanation as to why Moss Lane hasn't been included in Wyre Rural East's capital programme for next year and his encouragement for residents and councillors to keep reporting Moss Lane to Lancashire County Council (minute ref 182(2022-23)).

Resolved: The Town Council agreed to write to County Councillor Shaun Turner and copy in Highways at Lancashire County Council (LCC) to express the Town Council's disappointment and dissatisfaction about their decision not to include Moss Lane in next year's programme. The Council are concerned about the numerous deep potholes. The Council have been contacted by local residents and inspected by Town Councillors and the road condition is unacceptable. The Town Council urge LCC to reconsider their decision or use the local deterioration fund in order to resurface Moss Lane.

166(2022-23) Enquiry to use Moss Lane football pitch, Clerk and Councillor Atkinson

An enquiry has been made to the Clerk about using Moss Lane football pitch. At most the pitch would be used twice a week, once for training and once for a match. The Clerk has circulated full details of the request in Teams.

Resolved: The Council approved the request in principal. The Council **further resolved** that the details of the agreement are delegated to the Clerk/RFO, in consultation with the Finance and Amenities Committee members.

167(2022-23) Request to use Moss Lane Playing Fields Garstang Scarecrow Festival

Councillors considered the request for Garstang Scarecrow Festival to use Moss Lane playing field over the weekend 7-9 July 2023.

Resolved: The Town Council accepted the request from Garstang Scarecrow Festival to use Moss Lane playing field over the weekend 7-9 July 2023.

168(2022-23) Tree survey work Kepple Lane and Moss Lane Parks, Councillor Atkinson and RFO

Councillor Atkinson reported that quotes had been sought to carry out the tree works, following the tree survey work undertaken.

Resolved: The Council approved that the RFO in consultation with Councillor Atkinson following 4.1 Financial regulations, appoint the contractor to enable approval before March's meeting. The payment to be allocated to cost centre 204 Amenities.

169(2022-23) Moss Lane Park, Councillor Atkinson

The Council noted that the last council resolution on Moss Lane Park was 227(2021-22) Moss Lane Park; 31 January 2022. The Council considered what the current issues with the play area are and how does the council wish to proceed going forwards?

Resolved: The Council agree and noted that:

- a) There was no commercial route forward with the supplier Kompan.
- b) The Mayor is fundraising for a new piece of equipment for the playground, which would be detailed in a separate future agenda item.

170(2022-23) Kings Coronation Commemorative Items, Councillor Atkinson

Councillor Atkinson reported the following update

- Garstang Community Primary School has 210 students within the main school and has responded positively to the idea of commemorative 50ps
- Garstang St Thomas Church of England Primary School has 215 students within the main school. The school has consulted with students and responded positively to the idea of commemorative 50ps.
- An email has been sent to Barnacre with Bonds Parish Council, and a response is expected after their next meeting.

The council has been able to source 500 King Charles 50p Coins, as these are legal tender they have been obtained via a cash withdrawal and so if the Council decides to pursue an alternative route can just be banked.

Resolved: The Town Council agreed to provide 50p Coins as a commemorative gesture to primary school aged pupils at Garstang Community Primary School and Garstang St Thomas Church of England Primary School . The Council **further resolved** to inform Barnacre with Bonds Parish Council of their decision. The Council **further resolved** to purchase some form of container/pouch for the coins. The purchase to be delegated to the RFO in consultation with Councillor Atkinson. Payment to be met from the surplus monies in Queens Jubilee EMR.

171(2022-23) Youth Council, Councillor Atkinson

The future of the Youth Council was discussed. The idea of a Young Mayor appointed from the primary school councils, to attend local events with the Mayor was discussed. That the Democracy day be put in the Town Council calendar and that the Town Council engage with the local schools as part of 'Local Democracy week'.

Resolved: That the Youth Council would no longer operate as it has operated in the past and that members, parents and carers be informed accordingly. The Council **further resolved** that the Town Council looks to appoint a Youth Mayor (nominated from the primary school councils) at the Annual Town Council meeting. The Clerk to work with the local primary school headteachers councils to enable the appointment. The Council **further resolved** to reintroduce the Local Democracy Day, as previously conducted by the Town Council.

172(2022-23) Garstang's Big Spring Clean Wednesday 22nd March 2023, Alan Pearson, Chair of Garstang in Bloom

Dual hatted Town Councillor Pearson and Chair of Garstang in Bloom Garstang in Bloom, spoke about the how Wyre Council, and Garstang's Chamber of Trade are organising a Big Spring Clean Up. The event is being organised as part of the National Keep Britain Tidy campaign. The Team are encouraging Traders and residents to join in and make our Town a very attractive place to visit. We will be visiting shops to encourage participation and leaving flyers with full details

Resolved: The Council resolved not to support and participate in the event.

173(2022-23) Britain in Bloom North West Entry 2023, Clerk

The Council noted the correspondence relating to Britain in Bloom North West Entry 2023.

Resolved: The Town Council agreed to enter the Small Park category. The cost of entering the competition, would be met by budget code 4705 Amenities.

174(2022-23) Finance payments – for decision

Councillors approved the following payments:

Unity bank account – cashbook 5

Payments requiring approval, without a resolution

Reference	Description	Amount
BACS00528	Garstang Christmas Lights Appeal (detailed in approved budget, Budget code 4630, 17/01/2022). Background Ref 19/4/2022;283(2021-22) and 6/12/2021;175b(2021-22). Councillors are asked to note that the 2021/22 payment was paid in Q1 of this financial year (2022/23). Consequently the 2022/23 payment will also be paid out of this same financial year (2022/23).	3,096.00
BACS00533	SLCC Enterprises Ltd - Clerk training Quotes, Tenders & Contract Management (6th, 13th and 20th July 2023). Budget code 4701 Training	£108.00
BACS00537	Mr Hodgson 20 loads of woodchip at £25/load to be delivered to Kepple Lane Park for annual maintenance. Budget code 4733 Kepple Lane Playing Field.	£500.00

Payments requiring approval, with a resolution or monthly reoccurring items (adhering to Financial regulations 6.7 and 6.8)

Reference	Description	Amount
BACS0000526 & BACS00527	Payroll (figures provided by Towers + Gornall) To be paid electronically on 26/02/2023, Clerk: LC2 range SCP 19-32), 'National Agreement on Salaries and Conditions of service of Local Council Clerks in England & Wales 2004'. Lengthsman: scale point SCP 1-4	£3,158.36
BACS00530	EGM Machinery - Repairs and service to Stihl blower & strimmer	£159.60
BACS00531	Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd - Alpha Software Annual Support and Maintenance Licence for 1 User, Pro rated to 31/03/2023. Part payment as contract with Rialtas will not be renewed for 2023/2024. Budget code 4461 Finance Package Annual Support	£44.58

Reference	Description	Amount
BACS00532	Wyre Council Gambling Act 2005 : Small Society Lottery (Renewal). Budget code 4460 Membership	£20.00
BACS00534	S Carr & Son 10 Past Mayor broaches minute ref 293(2021-22) the expenditure of £250 is allocated to EMR 326 Civic Mayors boards £1,000 (budget code 4532 Civic Expenses)	£300.00
BACS00535	S Carr & Son Mayoral chains 2 x engraved links (budget code 4532 Civic Expenses)	£144.00
BACS00536	LCC Library Room Hire October 2023 – December 2023 (budget code 4100 Room Hire)	£75.25
BACS00529	Payment made in between meetings, as per Financial regulations 4.1. Approval was sought and approved by Mayor and Chair of Finance Committee as payment was to the Clerk. Clerk reimbursement King Charles 50p purchase reimbursement as per agenda item 21.	£250.00
Direct Debit 8/02/2023	Vodafone – mobile phone 29 Dec - 29 Jan 2023	£12.06
Cashbook 3 direct debits		
Direct Debit 8/02/2023	Three.co.uk - Office internet	£8.75
Direct Debit 19/02/2023	LCC Pension; January	£1,007.34

Unity Corporate Multipay Card (operated with Lloyds Bank) Cashbook 6
Approval for payment as per standing orders or minute

Reference	Description	Amount
CC032	Invoice date 27/01/2023 Microsoft Teams 27/12/2022 - 26/01/2023, budget code 4738	£64.80

Councillors noted the receipt received cashbook 5 Unity Trust account

Reference	Description	Amount
7 February 2023	HMRC - VAT reclaim Q 2 & 3 (1/7 – 31/12 2022)	£1,871.07

175(2022-23) Statement of Accounts at 31 January 2023 – for information

Cashbook 3	Royal Bank of Scotland	£ 39,888.13
Cashbook 5	Unity Trust account	£ 24,200.58
Cashbook 6	Multipay Lloyds bank (28/01/2023)	£-3.00
Cashbook 7	Nationwide	£30,844.00

176(2022-23) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 - Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Council resolved that in accordance of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

177(2022-23) Discussion of staffing matter

The Council noted that the Lengthsman would be on planned leave from 1/3/2023 for a period of 4-8 weeks.

That the temporary cover arrangements, for the Lengthsman, be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairs of the Finance and Personnel Committees.

178(2022-23) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 - Re-admission of the Press and Public

The Council resolved that the confidential business having been concluded, the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting.

179(2022-23) Items for Next Agenda

Councillors are asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda and 'Report of other representatives and projects' for the meeting of the Town Council on **20 March 2023** by notifying the Clerk by **12 March 2023**. The item should specify the business which it is proposed to transact in such a way that the member who receives it can identify the matters which he will be expected to discuss i.e. it needs to specify either what the proposal is and that a decision is required or whether the item is for information only.

The Clerk has produced an agenda item template to assist Councillors collate their agenda item. The template can be found on Teams – Full Council.

The Meeting Finished at: 9.52pm

For Information Only

180(2022-23) Clerk's Report

a) NALC Legal Update – February 2023; advice issued Annual council meetings dates - uncontested elections

We have been asked about the earliest date a council annual meeting can be held where there is no contested election. Our view is that where there is no contested election, so it is known whom to summons, the summons can be served in sufficient time with the requisite three clear days' notice so that the annual council meeting could be held on Tuesday 9 May. That is the day councillors will take office because of the Coronation bank holiday on Monday 8 May. Councils have to know who they need to summons so notice cannot be given before results are known where there are contested elections.

b) NALC - Five things you can do to promote local elections

1. Hold a coffee morning/small physical event

Now that COVID-19 is receding into the background of daily life – why not hold a coffee morning or similar social event in your village hall or community centre?

You could advertise it through your local council/county association website and encourage local community activists to come along. At the session, provide refreshments, invite existing local councillors to speak to attendees, and explain the commitment and the difference they can make to their community. See this general example from Charnock Richard Parish Council (<https://charnockrichardparishcouncil.com/category/coffee-morning>).

2. Hold a webinar/online event

Many of the same principles as a physical event/coffee morning would apply in setting up a short, simple online event on Zoom or MS Teams through your local council or county association – to encourage community activists to consider standing in the local council elections. Ask a couple of passionate local councillors to join the event and speak about the difference being a local councillor can make to their communities – keep contact details of attendees. See this general example from Street Parish Council (<https://street-pc.gov.uk/event/wilder-churches-freeonline-event>)

3. Use NALC's Make A Change communications pack

One broader way your local council or county association could encourage community activists to stand in the local council elections could be to use the materials provided in NALC's Make A Change communications pack (<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/elections-1/3685-make-a-changeresources-comms-pack/file>). The pack contains a poster, media release, information flyer, email text, social media posts and visual assets.

4. Use county association elections promotional materials

County associations often prepare their own materials to promote standing in local council elections (sometimes but not always based on NALC's Make A Change materials). If your local council has elections in May 2023 and your county association (<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/about-county-associations>) has its own

promotional materials for local use, get in touch with the association, secure and use its own materials.

Network with other community organisations and engage with their members

We know from experience that many local councillors have stood for election having been asked to do so by other community organisations that have been active within their community. So whether this is a local village shop, a charity, a network to help elderly residents or a community hub, why not get in touch with these local bodies and ask to attend a meeting/gathering of their members, explain what is involved in being a local councillor (ideally bring current local councillors with you) and how they can make a massive difference to the communities by standing for election. See this example by Curdridge Parish Council (https://www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk/Community_Links.aspx).

c) NALC - 31 JANUARY 2023, L01-23 | code of recommended practice on local authority publicity (England) / publicity during the pre-election period

A code of recommended practice on local authority publicity ('the Code') was issued on 31 March 2011. By virtue of s.6 of the Local Government Act 1986, the Code applies to parish councils.

It is recommended that parish councils follow the Code, which is available via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recommendedcode-of-practice-for-local-authority-publicity>

Paragraph 28 of the Code says:

“Local authorities should not publish or incur expenditure in commissioning in hard copy or on any website, newsletters, newssheets or similar communications which seek to emulate commercial newspapers in style or content. Where local authorities do commission or publish newsletters, newssheets or similar communications, they should not issue them more frequently than quarterly, apart from parish councils which should not issue them more frequently than monthly.

Such communications should not include material other than information for the public about the business, services and amenities of the council or other local service providers”.

Paragraphs 34 and 35 of the Code are set out below:

“During the period between the notice of an election and the election itself, local authorities should not publish any publicity on controversial issues or report views or proposals in such a way that identifies them with any individual members or groups of members. Publicity relating to individuals involved directly in the election should not be published by local authorities during this period unless expressly authorised by or under statute. It is permissible for local authorities to publish factual information which identifies the names, wards and parties of candidates at elections.

In general, local authorities should not issue any publicity which seeks to influence voters. However this general principle is subject to any statutory provision which authorises expenditure being incurred on the publication of material designed to influence the public as to whether to support or oppose a question put at a referendum. It is acceptable to publish material relating to the

subject matter of a referendum, for example, to correct any factual inaccuracies which have appeared in publicity produced by third parties, so long as this is even-handed and objective and does not support or oppose any of the options which are the subject of the vote”.

The Local Government Association has published a short guide to publicity during the pre-election period. The guide is available via the following link:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/guidance-and-resources/pre-electionperiod>.

d) Wyre Open Space Survey

Wyre Council are planning to do some consultations directly with the parish and town councils and WBC ward members of the emerging findings from the open space audit. The Audit looks at the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces. I hope we can make some map based information available on-line that that can be “sense checked” for its accuracy. We also want to provide the opportunity for people to identify any open space that should be identified as such but hasn’t been.

The consultation which is the subject of our e-mail will provide information that will feed into the Audit. We would be grateful if you can promote it to the population of Garstang in any way you can to give us the evidence around the value people put on open space, why they use the space and areas for improvement.

181(2022-23) Councillor Report

None

182(2022-23) Outside body representatives

County Councillor Turner – Moss Lane, update 01/02/2023

In total, four resurfacing/ surface dressing projects were secured in Wyre Rural East for next years capital programme - one of those being surface dressing for Dorchester Rd. By the way - this was more schemes than any other Wyre County Councillor managed to obtain.

That said, I fully expected the planned surface dressing of Dorchester Road to prompt such a question for roads like Moss Lane and others which are seemingly in a worse state. The fact is that’s true...but before I outline how I am pushing for Moss Lane (and others), I will try and explain the rationale.

Local Authorities have to follow something called the Transport Asset Plan (TAMP) – something which they have to demonstrate when they bid for government funding. Below is a summary of the TAMP:

- The TAMP was approved in 2014 to clearly set out the council's key priorities for the maintenance and management of our transport assets.
- The TAMP recognised that ongoing financial constraints meant that we could no longer simultaneously maintain all our transport assets to the same standard as previously.
- A fundamental principle of the TAMP was to move away from the philosophy of tackling 'worst first' in favour of an approach where the underlying condition of the network is addressed through early

intervention, preventative maintenance strategies. This enables us to make more efficient use of our resources.

- It covers the period 2015 to 2030 – and operates in three phases:
 - Phase 1 (2015-2020) - Targeted at improving our A, B and C roads and our footway networks.
 - Phase 2 (2020-2025) - Targeted at improving the Unclassified Rural and the Unclassified Urban networks.
 - Phase 3 (2025-2030) - Targeted at improving structures and street lighting assets.
- It sets clear service standards, which:
 - support planned maintenance of the network
 - achieve a reduction in maintenance backlogs
 - reduce the annual investment needed to deal with natural deterioration.
 - make best use of available resources
 - ensure transparency and accountability
 - ensure a consistent approach across the county
- Our standards are based on either national standards or benchmarked performance data.
- We publish an annual refresh document which details how we have performed. (Background- This information can be viewed [here](#).)

Advantages of the TAMP Approach.

- As a result of phase 1 the approach has seen improvements in the condition of our A, B & C roads which are now in a better condition than they were in 2009 and since 2014, we now have 503 km less of 'red' or 'amber' sections of road (43% reduction)
- Our approach aligns with national guidance and means that we can base decisions on condition and assessed risk to prioritise assessment and maintenance on our most vulnerable assets.
- On each occasion Coroners Inquiries have asked about our approach the Coroner has deemed the approach sufficient.
- Inclusion of weighting factors that relate to the strategic importance of assets, be it bridges on the resilient route network, or roads servicing schools and other amenities, ensures that those assets most important to keeping Lancashire moving are prioritised.
- The use of data such as repeat visit to potholes or repeat flooding to the highway in carriageway scheme assessments means that the Capital works through the TAMP assessment reduces pressure on the reactive and revenue budgets. If there is any divergence from the full asset management TAMP approach, then it is likely that the number of potholes and repeat visit to potholes would increase putting further strain on the carriageway and footway programmes.
- Our approach to TAMP is fundamental to our annual DfT self-assessment – it means we have been able to achieve the maximum banding for a number of years – in 2022/23 this helped secure over £3.2m in extra funding.

In short, following the TAMP may well mean more roads are addressed but not in priority of need order....so surface dressing Dorchester Road is akin to varnishing your windows and keeping them sound for longer..... it will give it an extra 10-15 years of life and prevent it quickly deteriorating into a much worse state whereby surface dressing is no longer an option.

Regarding Moss Lane, having previously said this would be surfaced dressed, a further inspection of this road revealed it is beyond surface dressing and now needs a more costly resurface. Currently it is being kept 'safe' in terms of pot holes being filled but it wasn't chosen for next years capital programme for the reasons explained above. I continue to press for it to be resurfaced and I have asked that this is put forward for funding from another pot of money known as the local deterioration fund. This is specifically for these types of road across the county – though admittedly it is a much lesser pot of cash.

I would urge that councillors whether as a collective or individually also keep reporting Moss Lane as being in need of attention as this will help my cause. Moreover, please ask any residents who bring it to your attention to report it – especially via the 'love clean streets' app which is very easy to use. Again the more complaints, the further up the list Moss Lane will go.

183(2022-23) Mayor's engagements

None