

MINUTES OF THE FYLDE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

**Held at Headroomgate Farm, 58 Headroomgate Road, St. Anne's, FY8 3BG, on
Wednesday 19th November 2025, 19:00 – 20:00**

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Chair called the Meeting to Order and welcomed the attendees.

2. Apologies

- 2.1. The Secretary advised the Meeting of the apologies, and these were noted.

3. Adoption of Agenda

- 3.1. The Agenda was adopted as read.

4. Approval of the AGM 2024 Minutes

- 4.1. The AGM 2024 Minutes were adopted as read.

5. Reports

5.1. Chair's Report

- 5.1.1. Cllr. Phil Morgan presented the Chair's Report (see Annex A).
- 5.1.2. There was a wide-ranging discussion about the current situation regarding the proposed Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm transmission route, and the activities of the various protest groups.
- 5.1.3. The Chair's Report was adopted as read.

5.2. Treasurer's Report

- 5.2.1. Dan Gardner presented the Treasurer's Report (see Annex B).
- 5.2.2. The Treasurer's Report was adopted as read.

5.3. Membership Development Officer's Report

- 5.3.1. Cllr. Joanne Gardner presented the Membership Development Officer's Report (see Annex C).
- 5.3.2. There was a discussion concerning the targeting of Liberal Democrat Supporters in order to convert them into Liberal Democrat Members.
- 5.3.3. The Membership Development Officer's Report was adopted as read.

5.4. St. Anne's Town Council Report

- 5.4.1. Cllr. Stephen Phillips presented the St. Anne's Town Council Report (see Annex D).
- 5.4.2. The St. Anne's Town Council Report was adopted as read.

5.5. Fylde Borough Council Report

- 5.5.1. Cllr. Karen Henshaw presented the Fylde Borough Council Report (see Annex E).

5.5.2. There was a discussion about generating a Focus Leaflet for the whole of Fylde and not just for the St. Anne's Wards where we have Councillors.

5.5.3. The Fylde Borough Council Report was adopted as read.

5.6. **Diversity Report**

5.6.1. Cllr. Karen Henshaw presented the Diversity Report (see Annex F).

5.6.2. The Diversity Report was adopted as read.

6. Motions to the AGM

6.1. There were no formal Motions to the AGM, however, it was agreed that all efforts would be made to hold the AGM 2026 in October 2026 prior to the end of British Summer Time.

7. Election of Honorary President

7.1. After being proposed and seconded it was resolved that the Rvd. Brian Bullick be appointed Honorary President.

8. Nomination and Election of Officers

8.1. After being proposed and seconded it was resolved that Cllr. Karen Henshaw JP be appointed Chair.

8.2. After being proposed and seconded it was resolved that Cllr. Phil Morgan be appointed Vice Chair.

8.3. After being proposed and seconded it was resolved that Cllr. Stephen Phillips be appointed Secretary.

8.4. After being proposed and seconded it was resolved that Dan Gardner be appointed Treasurer.

8.5. After being proposed and seconded it was resolved that Cllr. Joanne Gardner be appointed Membership Development Officer.

8.6. The role of Elections Officer was left vacant. NB. Under the Constitution, the 2026 Executive Committee, once standing, has the ability to appoint an Executive Committee Member to this role.

8.7. The role of Diversity Officer was left vacant. NB. Under the Constitution, the 2026 Executive Committee, once standing, has the ability to appoint an Executive Committee Member to this role.

9. Nomination and Election of 3 (three) Ordinary Members to the Executive Committee

9.1. After being proposed and seconded it was resolved that Bob Fielding be appointed Ordinary Member #1.

9.2. After being proposed and seconded it was resolved that Christine Marshall be appointed Ordinary Member #2.

9.3. After being proposed and seconded it was resolved that Andrew Holland be appointed Ordinary Member #3.

10. To Note the accounts for the Financial Year 2024

10.1. The Accounts for the Financial Year 2024 were noted.

11. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the 2025 accounts

11.1. Neil Harrison was appointed as Independent Examiner for the 2025 accounts.

12. Close of AGM Business

12.1.1. As Cllr. Phil Morgan was stepping down as Chair this year (in line with the Constitution) the meeting thanked Phil for all his excellent work over the past three years.

12.2. The Chair thanked all the attendees for their contributions, and the Meeting was closed.

Prepared by

Stephen Phillips
Secretary
Fylde Liberal Democrats

ANNEX A: Chair's Report

Fylde Lib Dem Chair Report 2024-2025

Morecambe and Morgan

My year, not just as Fylde Lib Dem Chair, but more generally, has been dominated by my leading the campaign against the Morgan and Morecambe cabling route and substation. This started when I was asked to chair the Transmission Assets Steering Committee (TASC). This eventually grew to cover 10 Town and Parish Councils, and the Newton Residents Association. We gained pledges of over £60K to cover the costs of Angus Walker to act as our advocate and advisor during the Examination process. That process included preparing a template representation used by hundreds of the over 2300 representation received as well as monthly TASC meetings with Chair's briefings, preparation for 3 sets of 4-day hearings plus Open Forums, 7 sets of submissions, a Statement of Common Ground (there wasn't any) and endless reading of hundreds of responses during each stage. I was present throughout the hearings and spoke at public meetings in Lytham and Freckleton.

This has meant working across boundaries. We welcomed not just Town and Parish Councils but local Fylde and Lancashire councillors of all colours. We worked closely with the FACTS group who enabled so many local people to be aware of what was happening and make their objections known. We supported the case for an alternative route, which will continue even though the hearings have now ended. We now await the outcomes of the Examination and the Secretary of State's response.

Meetings

Along the way I've attended and chaired most of our meetings during the year. I'm eternally grateful to Steve for all he does keeping us going throughout the year.

Elections

I'm grateful to Joanne, Steve and Christine for standing in the County Council elections. These were dominated by the success of Reform standing on their no cuts, no council tax increases platform, which have rapidly unravelled once in office, albeit quite not to the state of chaos experienced with other Reform councils.

Part of Reform's unravelling locally has included threats to close care homes including Milbanke in Kirkham. This has been highlighted in a (rare) Town Council by-election in Kirkham which was triggered by Reform but is now being used by the Conservatives to use opposition to the closures to gain support. We did get pleas to stand but there was simply no-one available from either us, or the independents who have traditionally dominated Kirkham elections. I think the time may be right to have some more detailed conversations with local supporters and allies about the forthcoming Unitary Authority elections which will be for larger seats than our borough elections.

Phil Morgan

ANNEX B: Treasurer's Report

FYLDE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS CONSTITUENCY PARTY – CP 258 **TREASURER'S REPORT 2025**

Summary

2024

2024 saw a General Election and local elections in Kilgrimol Ward.

The main expenses were £1333 for the General Election and £1124 for the local elections. In addition, we spent £648 on calendars, £432 on the website and £310 on 50/50 club prize money.

The main income came from significant General Election donations, the 50/50 club subscriptions and membership rebates from Head Office.

Total income was £4590, total outgo was £3847, and the account balance increased from £1774 to £2517.

To Date in 2025

This year saw Lancashire County Council elections. Costs for the Local Party were £2833. The main expenses were leaflet printing for Heyhouses and Kilnhouse wards. A significant portion of this was for delivery.

A large bequest of £13635 was made to the fund by a deceased member Barbara Shardlow, and the balance has increased from £2517 at the year end to £13354 at the end of October.

Everything was transferred to the Lloyds Bank account from the old TSB bank account during 2023 but the TSB bank account has not been shut down yet, so it is still possible for members to accidentally pay money into it as does happen occasionally, so I keep a regular eye on it.

We were informed by Lloyds Bank last year that the Lloyds account is being changed to a Community Account and we will be charged £4.25 a month plus £0.50 for cheques paid out. This doesn't appear to have happened yet and the account is still free of charges. I have also opened a deposit account after Barbara's large bequest. It doesn't pay a great rate of interest, just 0.6% pa, but is worth doing.

Dan Gardner
Treasurer
November 19th 2025

FYLDE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS CONSTITUENCY PARTY – CP 258
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY – 2024 cf 2023

	This year 2024 £	Last year 2023 £
<u>INCOME:</u>		
Election donations	3453.44	2687.44
Annual Dinner ticket sales	n/a	n/a
Annual Dinner raffle receipts	n/a	n/a
Fund raising from social events	n/a	282.00
Income from 50/50 club	770.00	688.00
Subscription rebates	366.82	144.67
Donation for printing calendars	-	-
Other donations	-	-
Transfer from Election Account	-	-
General Election postal charge refund	n/a	n/a
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	4590.26	3802.11
<u>EXPENDITURE:</u>		
Transfer to Election Account	0.00	0.00
Annual Dinner catering cost	n/a	n/a
Prize Monies 50/50 Club	310.00	340.00
Website operation costs	432.00	242.00
Local & General election funding	2456.75	2500.00
Printing and distribution of calendars (2021 & 2022)	648.00	1050.00
Printing and distribution of 'Thank you' leaflets	n/a	n/a
Purchase of Marked registers	n/a	n/a
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	3846.75	4132.00
<u>Excess/(Deficit) of income over expenditure</u>	743.51	(329.89)
<u>Closing balance at December 31st 2024</u>		£2517.73
<u>Closing balance at December 31st 2023</u>		£1774.22

D. Gardner
Treasurer

P. Morgan
Chair

January 22nd 2024

FYLDE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS CONSTITUENCY PARTY – CP 258
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY – 2025 ytd cf 2024

	This ytd 31/10/25 £	Last year 2024 £
<u>INCOME:</u>		
Election donations	570.20	3453.44
Annual Dinner ticket sales	n/a	n/a
Annual Dinner raffle receipts	n/a	n/a
Fund raising from social events	n/a	n/a
Income from 50/50 club	540.00	770.00
Subscription rebates	69.92	366.82
Donation for printing calendars	-	-
Other donations (bequest)	13635.20	-
Transfer from Election Account	-	-
Interest	54.80	n/a
General Election postal charge refund	n/a	n/a
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	14870.12	4590.26
<u>EXPENDITURE:</u>		
Transfer to Election Account	0.00	0.00
Annual Dinner catering cost	n/a	n/a
Prize Monies 50/50 Club	350.00	310.00
Website operation costs	360.00	432.00
General/Local Election funding	2833.60	2456.75
Printing and distribution of calendars (2023)	490.00	648.00
Printing and distribution of 'Thank you' leaflets	n/a	n/a
Purchase of Marked registers	n/a	n/a
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	4033.60	3846.75
<u>Excess/(Deficit) of income over expenditure</u>	10836.52	743.51
<u>Closing balance at October 31st 2025</u>		£13354.25
<u>Closing balance at December 31st 2024</u>		£2517.73

D. Gardner
Treasurer

P. Morgan
Chair

November 17th 2025

ANNEX C: Membership Development Report

Membership Report - Fylde Lib Dems AGM

November 2025

This is a brief outline of the current situation regarding our Members.

We currently have:

55 Members, this is a reduction of 2 Members since 2024.

Overall though this is a much more stable situation, since steadily losing members after the 'Membership Peak' in 2019 and the redefining of boundaries in 2024. We have 4 new members to date in 2025.

We have 22 Supporters

A call out from me - if you know of anyone who would like to join the Lib Dems, please don't hesitate to encourage them. We are especially looking to encourage younger people to become members. There is no doubt members are the life blood of our Party.

I contact each member to remind them that their membership is due for renewal, however there are many circumstances why people decide not to renew. Our losses this year are mainly due to people moving out of the area. This year saw us lose the amazing Bill and Pam Winlow to Leeds. They are so missed after contributing endless amounts of effort and time to Fylde Lib Dems.

This year saw the LCC elections and I'd like to thank all those members who helped with our campaigning efforts. Campaigning is hard but can be very rewarding too. There is no doubt that when we get to talk to residents we are able to persuade them to consider our local Lib Dem candidates. As well as more members we could do with building our campaigning team.

We held one social event throughout the year and I'd like to thank all Members who supported it. I'd also like to thank all Members for supporting Karen in the second half of her Mayoral year.

There was a working group set up to look at growing our membership. We decided that a better social calendar of events could be the key. This is an objective for next year.

Finally whatever your reasons for joining the Lib Dems, we thank you for doing so.

Joanne Gardner - Fylde Lib Dems Membership Secretary

ANNEX D: St. Anne's Town Council Report

St. Anne's Town Council Report 2025

St. Anne's Town Council (SATC) comprises 12 Councillors (8 Conservatives, 2 Independents, and 2 Liberal Democrats). Five of the SATC Councillors are also on Fylde Borough Council (FBC) and this gives SATC a depth of insight into local issues that is invaluable in Council discussions.

Joanne Gardner (Kilnhouse) has been on SATC for 6 years and Stephen Phillips (Heyhouses) for 2 years, with the next elections scheduled for May 2027.

Joanne and Stephen are both on the Community and Neighbourhood Committee (CAN) which is the "delivery arm" of SATC and focuses on staging events and delivering projects around the town. Joanne also represents SATC on the Blundell Road Allotments, St. Anne's in Bloom, and is the outside body liaison officer for the Morgan & Morecambe Wind Farm proposal.

The 3 Key Issues this year have been:

Local Government Reorganization (LGR): Whilst SATC will not be directly affected by LGR, it represents an opportunity for SATC to take control of various areas that Fylde Borough Council (FBC) currently control. Joanne and Stephen have been pushing for SATC to take over the FBC management of Parks and Gardens so they do not end up in the hands of the new Unitary Authority. In addition, SATCs current premises (West Lodge) are owned by FBC but are in a dilapidated state. With the impending demise of FBC, this may be an opportunity for SATC to take ownership of our own premises.

Music Festival & Fantasy Fayre: This year was the 4th year of the Music Festival which is organised by the CAN Committee to which Joanne and Stephen are both members. This year, to celebrate the Towns 150th year, the Music Festival was combined for the first time with a new Fantasy Fayre which included various role-playing acts, fire eaters, and even some dinosaurs! The event was deemed a great success and will feature again on the August Bank Holiday in 2026.

St. Anne's 150th Celebrations: St. Anne's was 150 years old in March 2025! Various events were held, which were all planned and managed by the CAN Committee. These included the burying of Time Capsules on the Allotment sites, a much bigger Music Festival incorporating the new Fantasy Fayre, a Civic Event at the parish church, new 150th themed benches for Ashton Gardens, and new Christmas lights for the switch on scheduled for Saturday the 29th November.

On a final note, with FBC and Lancashire County Council being abolished in 2027/2028, our Town and Parish Councils are going to take on far more importance as the only remaining hubs of local democracy. The SATC election in 2027 may well therefore be contested by many parties and it may be a tough battle to get both Joanne and Stephen elected in the face of Reform. Joanne and Stephen will be working hard all of 2026 with Focus Leaflets, Knock & Drop Surveys, etc. to put us in a good position to win in May 2027, and any help that can be provided will be most appreciated.

ANNEX E: Fylde Borough Council Report

Fylde Borough Council Report
Fylde Liberal Democrat's AGM November 2025

Fylde Lib Dems have 2 Cllrs on FBC - Cllr Karen Henshaw JP and Cllr Joanne Gardner.

In 2024/2025 Karen continued her role as Mayor with Joanne as her deputy.
Karen's year was extremely successful, with a wide programme of Civic visits and charity fundraising events. In total Karen raised nearly £22k - totally awesome achievement!

Karen was a member of FBC Exec, but stepped down to fully concentrate on her Mayoral year. She has since joined the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee. This committee scrutinises external bodies, eg the operation of the Swimming Pools, United Utilities and LCC's activities in Fylde.

Joanne is a member on the Planning Committee, which she joined this year and is a member of the Internal Scrutiny Committee. The ISC looks at internal operations of FBC and has undertaken reviews of the Council's approach to issues such as the Planning Department, Climate Change and Affordable Housing. Scrutiny is a vital role within the Council and raises important areas of concern, however it can only work fully when the leading group is completely open to areas that need change.

2025 has been totally dominated by two significant issues. Firstly, the impact on Fylde of the Morgan & Morecambe Wind Farm project, and secondly the current Government instructions for LCC to implement local government reorganisation (LGR).

Morgan & Morecambe Wind Farm

FBC is the statutory council regarding this project. However, only since pressure was exerted by the parish and town councils, local residents and FACTS (a local campaigning group) did FBC start to take this issue with the seriousness that it warranted. Our own chairman Phil Morgan played a major role in this. Coincidentally, this coincided with the appointment of a new head of planning Paul McKim. Paul reorganised his team so that they could properly challenge the significant flaws within the M&M project. In my opinion had the previous head of planning and the leaders within the Council been as aware of the impact of this project on Fylde at a much earlier stage the case against it from a FBC perspective would be far stronger. We are now waiting for the Planning Inspectorates' report to be sent to the Secretary of State.

Local Government Reorganisation

This is the second of two major issues affecting FBC in 2025. The Government instructed LCC to prepare for local government reorganisation in order to create a one-tier structure. Town councils will remain and become increasingly relevant. These unitaries are to be structurally and geographically logical and be made up of approximately 500,000 residents. Each borough within LCC has been formulating their preferred new unitary structures. There are currently 5 business cases in the running. The 5 business cases are:

1. LCC's proposal, 2 unitaries north & south.

2. 3 unitaries proposed by Wyre, Blackburn, Fylde & Rossendale. This puts Fylde with Blackpool, Lancaster & Wyre.
3. 4 unitaries proposed by Chorley, South Ribble, Preston, Ribble Valley & Lancaster. This puts Fylde with Blackpool and Wyre.
4. 5 unitaries proposed only by Burnley & Pendle.
5. Blackpool's alternative.

Submissions from the councils have to be with the Government by November 28th. The decision on their preferred option will be made in June/July 2026. The next elections to the shadow unitaries will take place in May 2027. Vesting day is April 1st 2028. A lot of work is being carried out behind the scenes to put together financial implications and many others. As you can see there has been a lot going on, Fylde has also seen the departure of some senior officers. That said the calibre of the incoming heads of department in Planning and Tourism are excellent.

Any questions?

ANNEX F: Diversity Report

Fylde Liberal Democrats Diversity Report 2025

I received a message from Jen Yockney MBE, Regional Administrator for the North West in 2024 with links to information.

It would appear that Zoom meetings were not very popular and so they have been discontinued.

At the last one I attended, I felt that there was not enough diversity – there should have been more representatives of different ages, disability, ethnicity and faiths.

As part of my Mayoral duties, I went to the AGM of Preston & Western Lancashire Racial Equality and Diversity Council. Apart from myself, the Mayor of Preston and a Deputy Mayor there were no other Mayoral representatives. It was a great evening with a guest speaker, the High Sheriff of Lancashire, Mrs Helen Bingley OBE DL JP. I will have the Annual Report available at our AGM if anyone would like to read it.

Cllr Karen Henshaw JP
Fylde Diversity Officer
