

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 7 October 2004, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor EMH Ranson (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	G Mirfin
J E Alcock	R Moores
R Bennett	R Newmark
S Bibby	L Rimmer
I Brown	M Robinson
S Brunskill	J Rogerson
S Carefoot	C Ross
P Dowson	I Sayers
R J Elms	G Scott
R Hargreaves	R E Sherras
T Hill	D T Smith
B Hilton	R Swarbrick
K Hind	D Taylor
S A Hirst	R J Thompson
J Holgate	N C Walsh
K Horkin	J White
A M Knox	A Yearing
S Knox	

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Head of Human Resources, Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

310 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Roger Wood, opened the meeting with prayers.

311 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J B Hill, S Hore, J Shervey and M Thomas.

312 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

313 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items of public participation.

314 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 July 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on some 75 functions that he had attended since the last meeting. He reported that he had had the honour of welcoming Princess Anne to the borough on two occasions. Once to Gibbon Bridge when she was there in her role as President of Save the Children and secondly when she visited Stonyhurst College to plant a tree on behalf of the Woodland Trust of which she was also President. He had welcomed the new Bishop of Leeds and the Dales and had said farewell to the Bishop of Burnley who had retired. The Mayor had also enjoyed visits to the Chipping and Hodder Valley Show.

The Mayor noted that the period since the last meeting had been dominated by events to commemorate the commencement of the First World War on 3 August. He had attended a civic service at St Mary's followed by the dedication of the new War Memorial in Ribchester and then a Lancashire Service at Blackburn Cathedral.

On 4 August the Mayor had planted a Dove tree in the grounds of Clitheroe Castle to commemorate the 100th anniversary. The Mayor expressed his thanks to organisers, Parish Councils and the British Legion who had arranged the event. That event had then started off the commemorative tree planting initiative throughout the borough and the Mayor was pleased to report that he had planted almost all of 40 trees due to be planted throughout the borough.

The Mayor also reported on the success of his series of Mayoral walks around the perimeter of the borough which had now reached Chipping. He expressed his thanks to Barry Williams the Council's Healthy Development (Walks) Officer and to Councillor Thompson who had done a sterling job in guiding walkers over the fells.

LEADERS REPORT

The Leader commented on the ongoing priorities of the Council. He reported that the Council continued to wait for and formally consider the Planning Inspector's final report on the Core Strategy. He was heartened by progress that had been made to date and expressed his thanks to Members and officers who continued to work to achieve policy coherence in planning.

Next he commented on budget pressures and expressed his concern at the potential £500,000 gap in the budget which would increase further when recycling credits ceased to be paid by the County next April in relation to the Council's waste collection service. He confirmed that he had sought early discussions with County to address this longstanding and complex situation. These discussions had been constructive and productive with genuine concessions being made by the County and he remained hopeful that at a point in the near future Community Committee would be in a position to at least consider a worthwhile proposal from County in relation to cost sharing, as a way forward beyond April 2015.

The Leader reported that he had been elected Chairman of the Leaders Group of the Lancashire District Councils and would be hosting a meeting of the Group at

Ribble Valley the following day to discuss a range of matters relevant to local Councils.

The Leader referred to the outcome of the recent Scottish Referendum and the calls for devolution in England. In some quarters this had been used to raise the issue once again on local government reorganisation.

Finally he was keen to assure Members that recent speculation in the press about merger discussions between the Council and Craven District Council were wholly without foundation.

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LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Knox, asked what protections were in place to stop development on Primrose Lodge. The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and reported that the Primrose Lodge site was designated a County Biological Site which therefore was afforded some degree of control. He confirmed that a Management Plan had been produced and the site was registered as a receptor site for Biodiversity Off-sets that allowed the Council to ask developers to assist funding where appropriate. He reported that the Section 106 on the main housing site had raised £350,000 and it was hoped that the off-set contributions would add to that total. He reported that the Council's Countryside Officer continued to work with Lancashire Wildlife Trust to secure appropriate redevelopment on the site.

Next Councillor Knox asked how many litter pickers were employed by the Council. The Leader responded by confirming that the Council had an Amenity Cleaning team of six staff who covered the borough and litter picking was one of the duties of their role. Litter picking represented about half of their work and they also dealt with fly tipping, emptying bins, removing graffiti, any street mess and collecting dead animals from the highway.

Finally Councillor Knox said that he had planned to ask a question about what lessons could be learnt from the recent Scottish Referendum but acknowledged that the Leader had covered this in some detail in his speech earlier on in the evening.

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NOTICE OF MOTION

Consideration was given to a Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor S Bibby which read as follows:

"This Council wishes to express absolute opposition to the proposed closure of Clitheroe Jobcentre as stated in the consultation exercise conducted by the Department of Work and Pensions. We view with regret and dismay another example of the withdrawal of central services to rural authorities, and call for the proposal to be cancelled and reconsidered."

The motion was seconded by Councillor K Horkin and debated by the Council. Councillor A Knox proposed an amendment to the motion and asked that the following statement be added to the end of the motion:

“This Council believes that the alternative solutions are available and calls upon the Department of Work and Pensions to think again before they make their final decision. In particular we call upon them to work with Ribble Valley Borough Council, Ribble Valley Homes and all other interested agencies to find suitable premises to relocate to and continue a Monday to Friday service before the Lowergate Offices are closed.”

Councillor Bibby accepted the amendment.

The amended Notice of Motion was then put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED: That the following Motion be accepted:

“This Council wishes to express absolute opposition to the proposed closure of Clitheroe Jobcentre as stated in the consultation exercise conducted by the Department of Work and Pensions. We view with regret and dismay another example of the withdrawal of central services to rural authorities, and call for the proposal to be cancelled and reconsidered.

This Council believes that the alternative solutions are available and calls upon the Department of Work and Pensions to think again before they make their final decision. In particular we call upon them to work with Ribble Valley Borough Council, Ribble Valley Homes and all other interested agencies to find suitable premises to relocate to and continue a Monday to Friday service before the Lowergate Offices are closed.”

319 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Planning and Development Committee – 24 July 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(ii) Planning and Development Committee – 21 August 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(iii) Accounts and Audit Committee – 27 August 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(iv) Community Committee – 2 September 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(v) Personnel Committee – 3 September 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(vi) Health and Housing Committee – 4 September 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(vii) Policy and Finance Committee – 9 September 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute number 245.

MINUTE 245 – POLLING STATION REVIEWS

Consider was given to the recommendations from the Council's Polling District and Polling Place Review 2014.

RESOLVED: That the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Station Proposals as set out in Appendix 2 of the original report be accepted with one amendment in that St James' Gardens would not be used as a polling station and would instead be replaced by Ribblesdale School.

(viii) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 11 September 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(xi) Licencing Committee – 16 September 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(x) Planning and Development Committee – 18 September 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (414400).