

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 16 December 2014, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor EMH Ranson (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	G Mirfin
J E Alcock	R Newmark
R Bennett	M Robinson
S Bibby	J Rogerson
I Brown	I Sayers
S Brunskill	R E Sherras
P Dowson	D T Smith
J B Hill	R Swarbrick
T Hill	D Taylor
B Hilton	M Thomas
K Hind	R J Thompson
S A Hirst	N C Walsh
J Holgate	J White
S Hore	A Yearling
A M Knox	

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

448 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplin, the Rev Roger Wood, opened the meeting with prayers.

449 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Carefoot, R J Elms, R Hargreaves, K Horkin, S Knox, R Moores, L Rimmer, C Ross, G Scott and J Shervey.

450 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

451 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items of public participation.

452 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 October 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

453 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported that he had attended over 60 engagements since the last meeting. During that period he had attended a number of Remembrance

Services and Parades and the dedication of additional names to the War Memorial at Simonstone. He was pleased to report that he had completed the planting of 38 Oak trees across the borough to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, with the last tree being planted by His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent in the Castle grounds.

The Mayor confirmed that his “beating the bounds” walk had now reached Longridge and would continue in the New Year. He encouraged everyone to join him on the walks.

Finally the Mayor thanked all those who had helped and supported him throughout the year.

The Mayor ended by wishing everybody a Merry Christmas.

454

CORE STRATEGY ADOPTION

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive seeking Council’s agreement to the adoption of the Core Strategy, along with the recommended Main Modifications as laid out in the Appendix to the Planning Inspector’s report. The Chairman of Planning and Development Committee, Councillor T Hill, spoke in support of the recommendation and paid tribute to all officers who had worked on the strategy and passed on his thanks for all their hard work and efforts.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Core Strategy and Main Modifications recommended by the Inspector be adopted;
2. the Chief Executive be authorised to undertake the necessary steps for the adoption process to be completed;
3. Authority be delegated to the Head of Regeneration and Housing to make any final minor modifications to the document; and
4. the Council endorse the proposal to review the Local Development Scheme and monitoring procedures as set out in Section 3 of the report, with any subsequent monitoring reports to be considered by Planning and Development Committee.

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LEADER’S REPORT

The Leader began by identifying the key challenges for the New Year in 2015 and particular in relation to two areas. Firstly he identified that the recent Autumn Statement would have a significant impact on the Council’s strategic financial planning going forward in 2015 and beyond.

Secondly the Leader reported on recent discussions concerning the potential creation of a combined authority for Lancashire. He confirmed that further discussions were scheduled for the New Year and that he had asked the Chief Executive to hold a full briefing session for all Members on the matter in January. He stressed that the concept of a combined authority was not a proposal for a

unitary council but rather a coming of together of authorities across Lancashire to work together at a strategic level.

The Leader also added his congratulations and thanks to officers and Members for the finalisation of the Core Strategy.

The Leader ended by wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

456 LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor A Knox, noted that figures suggested that 13% of children in the Ribble Valley would be living in poverty over Christmas and asked what policies would the Council pursue in the coming year to reduce that figure?

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and noted that child poverty was a concern to all and especially at this time of year. He did however wish to put things in perspective and reminded Members that Ribble Valley was in the top 10 of Local Authorities with the lowest levels of child poverty in the UK. He confirmed that the Council would continue to provide the right environment for businesses to prosper and for residents to enjoy good schools, good services and good housing. In addition it would support and create employment opportunities, maintain a low level of Council Tax, provide an efficient benefits service for those in need and continue to support community and voluntary organisations, all of which were measures which could help to address poverty.

457 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Community Services Committee – 14 October 2014

Councillor J Rogerson submitted a written question under Standing Order 9 regarding public toilet facilities in Longridge. He asked for a commitment from the Council to invest in the development of the toilets in Berry Lane, Longridge on a similar level to that which had been invested in Clitheroe and Chipping.

The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Thompson, thanked Councillor Rogerson for his question. He reminded Members that there had been considerable and extensive debate before the Council had taken the decision to close 8 toilet stations across the borough due to cost saving measures but he also highlighted the success of alternative arrangements eg the community toilet scheme. He was mindful that a similar creative approach may be needed in the future as finances continued to be restricted.

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

(ii) Planning and Development Committee – 16 October 2014

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

(iii) Personnel Committee – 22 October 2014

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

(iv) Health and Housing Committee – 23 October 2014

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

(v) Policy and Finance Committee – 28 October 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute Number 385 – Financial Regulations.

Minute 385 – Financial Regulations

The Leader, Councillor S Hirst, asked Members to approve the Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED: That the revised Financial Regulations be accepted.

(vi) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 30 October 2014

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

(vii) Licencing Committee – 4 November 2014

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

(viii) Planning and Development Committee – 13 November 2014

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

(ix) Accounts and Audit Committee – 19 November 2014

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

The meeting closed at 7.30PM

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

MS/CMS/COUNCIL/16 DEC 15