

Minutes of Meeting of Full Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 14 July 2015 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor B Hilton (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	K Hind
S Atkinson	S Hind
S Bibby	S A Hirst
A Brown	J Holgate
I Brown	S Hore
S Brunskill	G Mirfin
P M Dobson	R Newmark
P Dowson	M Robinson
R J Elms	I Sayers
P Elms	G Scott
M Fenton	R E Sherras
M French	D T Smith
G Geldard	D Taylor
L Graves	R J Thompson
R Hargreaves	J White
T Hill	

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Resources, Head of HR, Solicitor.

148 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Monsignor Chaloner, opened the meeting with prayers.

149 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Alcock, R Bennett, S Carefoot, A Knox, S Knox, J Rogerson, R Swarbrick and N Walsh.

150 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

151 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items of public participation.

152 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 April 2015 and the minutes of the Annual Council held on 19 May 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

153 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported that she had attended 23 events since her installation as Mayor. She highlighted three key visits: the launch of the Tour of Britain, a visit to the East Lancashire Hospice and a visit to Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service, all of which had been interesting events.

154 REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEMES

Consideration was given to the written report of the Director of Resources outlining the findings of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' allowances, following their review of the current scheme, and subsequent recommendations made by Policy and Finance Committee at its meeting on 16 June 2015.

RESOLVED: That

1. the new scheme of Members' allowances be approved with effect from 1 August 2015; and
2. the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Independent Remuneration Panel Members to thank them for their work.

155 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader began by reflecting on the success of the General Election in May.

The Leader confirmed that the Conservative group had identified three key objectives for the forthcoming year, namely:

- to set a balanced budget for the next financial year 2016/2017.
- to be in a position to publish the draft Site Allocations Plan to support the implementation of the recently adopted Core Strategy.
- to complete the contractual arrangements with the Council's preferred partner for the re-development of the Clitheroe Market area.

He also drew attention to the longer term challenges that the Council would face and noted that continued financial pressures would require an innovative and creative response to those challenges. However, one key opportunity lay in the gathering pace of the national devolution agenda and the combined authority model of local government working.

This model preserved the independence of Ribble Valley and other districts within Lancashire and was a collaborative framework in which each authority would have an equal voice.

The Leader confirmed that he had recently been elected as Deputy Leader of the 'District Authorities in Lancashire' group. In relation to steps towards a combined authority for Lancashire, he reported that at a recent meeting of Lancashire

Leaders, a decision had been taken to agree in principle to move forward and start work on more detailed proposals. These would subsequently have to be agreed by all the component Councils and the Leader expected that this matter would be given further consideration at the September meeting.

Finally, the Leader looked forward to the forthcoming Tour of Britain event on 7 September 2015, and asked Members to encourage all residents and community groups to support the event on the day.

156

LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

Councillor Mary Robinson on behalf of the Shadow Leader Councillor Allan Knox, asked if the Leader could confirm what plans the Council would have in place to build on the economic benefits of the Tour of Britain.

The Leader thanked Councillor Robinson for her question and reported that officers were currently making great efforts to ensure that the event was a tremendous success and that following the event, the tourism, regeneration and communications officers would ensure that the borough built upon this success.

Next, Councillor Robinson asked if the Leader supported the expansion of the 'Right to Buy' to Housing Association properties.

The Leader confirmed that as current legislation allowed Council tenants the 'Right to Buy' the property in which they lived, it seemed appropriate that Housing Association tenants were afforded the same opportunity. However, the Leader did express caution and said that he would support government proposals to this end on the proviso that the government would ensure that for every house sold, a new social house was built.

Finally, Councillor Robinson asked what action the Council was taking in conjunction with the Forest of Bowland AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Advisory Committee to prevent the continued decline of the Hen Harrier population in the Forest of Bowland.

The Leader reported that between 50-90% of the total number of the English breeding population of Hen Harriers were to be found within the Forest of Bowland AONB. As a consequence of species being under threat from extinction, the Hen Harrier project had been established by the RSPB in partnership with Natural England and United Utilities, who were responsible for areas of the upper AONB Bowland area. The Leader confirmed that the Council had a long established working partnerships with the AONB countryside service and in partnership with the RSPB, Natural England and the Lancashire County Countryside Service had provided a grant of £500 in 2014 to help the Harrier conservation project.

Councillor Jim White asked if, as part of the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Community Covenant, the Leader could request that officers look in to the current policy, that allowed Social Housing Organisations to offer social housing outside of the Ribble Valley, once the statutory six month period of advertising locally within the valley had expired. He believed that before this was allowed, it would be appropriate for officers to look into the feasibility of offering such

housing units to the 42nd North West Brigade and the Personnel Recovery Unit (PRU).

The Leader confirmed that officers had written to the Veterans Nomination scheme and had made them aware of the possibility of affordable accommodation in the Ribble Valley. They had responded that they would make contact should they have a vested interest in living in the borough. Contact had also been made with the 42nd North West Brigade to make them aware of the type of accommodation that had been developed and the housing service contact details, should they have anyone from the armed forces who was interested in affordable housing in the borough.

157 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Community Services Committee – 2 June 2015

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

(ii) Planning and Development Committee – 4 June 2015

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

(iii) Personnel Committee – 10 June 2015

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

(iv) Health and Housing Committee – 11 June 2015

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

(v) Policy and Finance Committee – 16 June 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of minute number 86.

158 MINUTE 86 – AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS (PART 4 OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION)

Members were asked to approve amendments to the Council's Standing Orders in line with new regulations that had come into force in May 2015 in respect to disciplinary procedures for the most senior officers of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the amendments to the Council's Standing Orders in respect of disciplinary procedures for the most senior officers be approved. .

(vi) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 18 June 2015

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

(vii) Licensing Committee – 23 June 2015

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

(viii) Accounts and Audit Committee – 24 June 2015

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

(ix) Planning and Development Committee – 2 July 2015

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

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.

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