

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 29 September 2015, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor B Hilton (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	S Hind
S Bibby	S A Hirst
A Brown	J Holgate
I Brown	S Hore
S Brunskill	A M Knox
S Carefoot	S Knox
P M Dobson	R Newmark
P Dowson	M Robinson
P Elms	J Rogerson
R J Elms	I Sayers
M Fenton	G Scott
M French	R E Sherras
G Geldard	D T Smith
L Graves	R Swarbrick
R Hargreaves	R J Thompson
T Hill	N C Walsh
K Hind	J White

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

315 PRAYERS

Monsignor Corcoran opened the meeting with prayers.

316 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J E Alcock, S Atkinson, G Mirfin and D Taylor.

317 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

318 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items of public participation.

319 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 July 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

320 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on events that she had attended since the last meeting. She had been to 26 events and highlighted two that were particularly significant.

Firstly she attended a Service of Remembrance for 25 airmen who had died in the Trough of Bowland during the Second World War. This had been a very moving occasion and was an excellent example of links between young people and those in the past as young people from the Borough had researched and been active in arranging the event.

Another key highlight had been the Tour of Britain, Stage 2 cycle race. She noted that this had been a brilliant event that had been supported by the whole community and wished to pass on thanks and congratulations to all who had been involved.

Finally the Mayor announced that the Mayoress, Mrs K Hill, had stepped down from Office for personal reasons. The Mayor wished to place on record her thanks and appreciation for the contribution that Mrs Hill had made to the Mayoralty over the last 4 months. The Mayor announced that her son Rupert Hilton would take up the position of Mayor's Consort for the remainder of her term of office.

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LEADER'S SPEECH

The Leader also reiterated his thanks and appreciation for the contribution of Mrs Hill during her time as Mayoress.

The Leader then went on to reflect opportunities that had been afforded via the Council's decision to hold Stage 2 of the Tour of Britain cycle race. He was pleased to report that the event was anticipated to bring a £3million boost to the area's economy. He expressed sincere thanks to all staff who had been involved and in particular to the Head of Cultural and Leisure Services, the Emergency Planning Officer and the Principal Communications Officer for their significant contribution to the overall success of the event.

The Leader noted that the Council had received much positive feedback on the event from a wide range of sources.

Next the Leader was pleased to report that according to figures recently released from the Office for National Statistics, Ribble Valley had been rated the second most happy place in the country and the fifth in the country in the ranking of how worthwhile residents' lives were. This was a very positive and pleasing result.

Finally the Leader reported on the ongoing proposals for a Lancashire Combined Authority as part of the Government's so called "Northern Powerhouse" initiative for devolution. He confirmed that at the last Leaders' meeting earlier in the month the 12 districts, 2 unitaries and the County had agreed a final detailed governance document that would be submitted to the respective Councils for approval or otherwise. He noted that that was a significant step forward. The Leader reported that the Council's consideration of the proposals would take place at the December meeting of Council.

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LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor A Knox, asked if the Leader could confirm how much the Council expected its budget to decrease by in both cash terms and percentage terms between now and each year thereafter until 2019/20. The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and confirmed

that the Policy and Finance Committee and the Budget Working Group had recently considered an updated budget forecast up to 2019/20. He confirmed that there was still much uncertainty surrounding the Council's future Government grant settlement but it was anticipated that reductions in core funding would continue in the coming years.

The Leader outlined the necessary reductions in expenditure that would be required to achieve a balanced budget year on year to 2019/20. These were:

Date	£000	%
2016/17	263	4
2017/18	445	7
2018/19	863	12
2019/20	1,048	14

The Leader confirmed that the Budget Working Group was scheduled to meet frequently over the coming months to consider the Council's position and ensure that it was on track to recommend a balanced budget for 2016/17.

Next Councillor Knox asked how many fly tips had been tackled by the Council in the 3 months since 1 June 2015 as opposed to the 3 months prior to that date. The Leader reported that from March to May 2015 there had been 199 instances of fly tipping that had been dealt with and from June to August 2015 198 instances had been dealt with.

Finally, Councillor Knox noted that figures from the Department of Health showed that following the Chancellor's Emergency Budget in July, Lancashire County Council had received an in-year cut of £4.2m and he asked how much of that cut had been passed on to the Council where it delivered Public Health Services on behalf of the County. The Leader confirmed that the overall reduction in the estimated Public Health Budget was equivalent to £4m of the in-year cuts for Lancashire County Council. The County Council had also allowed for a £2m increase in their Public Health Budget and so they had stated that the net reduction was the equivalent to a cut of £6m.

The Leader could confirm that the County Council was currently considering how to meet the reductions required from their Public Health responsibilities.

In respect of the Council the Council currently had a contract with the County to provide a healthy lifestyles programme. The Leader reported that the County had given notice to all providers in Lancashire that the current contracts for those services would terminate on 31 March 2016. Lancashire County Council were in the process of tendering the service via 5 lots which covered the county area. The current commitment from Lancashire County Council was that the current level of funding would be maintained for those services post 2016, however the scope of the services provided for in the new contracts had yet to be released. Tender documentation was due out in October 2015.

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COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Emergency Committee – 13 August 2015

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

(ii) Planning and Development Committee – 20 August 2015

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

(iii) Accounts and Audit Committee – 26 August 2015

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

(iv) Community Committee – 1 September 2015

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

(v) Personnel Committee – 2 September 2015

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

(vi) Health and Housing Committee – 3 September 2015

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

(vii) Policy and Finance Committee – 8 September 2015

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

(viii) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 10 September 2015

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

(ix) Licensing Committee – 15 September 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute Number 291.

MINUTE 291 – REVISION OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES – GAMBLING ACT 2005

Members were asked to approve revisions to the Council's Statement of Principles – Gambling Act 2005.

RESOLVED: That the Revisions of Statement of Principles – Gambling Act 2015 be approved.

x) Planning and Development Committee – 17 September 2015

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

The meeting closed at 7.08pm

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