

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 26 April 2016, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor B Hilton (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	K Hind
J E Alcock	S Hind
S Atkinson	S A Hirst
R Bennett	J Holgate
S Bibby	A M Knox
A Brown	S Knox (7.25pm)
I Brown	G Mirfin
S Brunskill	R Newmark
S Carefoot	M Robinson
P M Dobson	J Rogerson
P Dowson	I Sayers
P Elms	G Scott
R J Elms	R E Sherras
M Fenton	R Swarbrick
M French	D Taylor
L Graves	R J Thompson
R Hargreaves	N C Walsh
T Hill	J White

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

726 PRAYERS

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

727 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Hore and D T Smith.

728 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no pecuniary and non-pecuniary declarations of interest.

729 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one item of public participation from Sarah Rainsford of Longridge Town Council, who asked why the Council had not chosen to introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and if an assurance could be given that future reviews of the Core Strategy would include a CIL.

The Chairman of Planning and Development Committee thanked Mrs Rainsford for her question and confirmed that the Council had, in the Core Strategy, expressed its commitment to put a CIL in place during the plan period.

The extent of development pressure experienced in Ribble Valley, together with the constraints of the statutory process to put the Core Strategy in place had meant that there would not have been a meaningful alignment of the site allocations plans with a CIL. Infrastructure requirements had however been considered against the development proposals brought forward through the planning application process and where appropriate, provision had been secured through legal agreements or providers had accounted for new infrastructure in their investment plans.

The Chairman of Planning and Development Committee confirmed that there was no provision to compensate Parishes as the result of a CIL not being in place.

Finally, she noted that a review of the Core Strategy would commence in the next 3 – 4 years in line with Government guidance and that the current plan-making system would require a single plan to be prepared for the borough that would bring together strategic policy, allocations and delivery. This would enable the Council to put in place the CIL that co-ordinated with the planned delivery of development.

730 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

731 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

As she approached the end of the municipal year the Mayor reflected on her year in office and noted that she had attended some 170 events to date, all of which had been varied and enjoyable. She reminded Members of her charities for the year: The McMillan Service and Dementia Care and highlighted the degree to which dementia affected citizens across Lancashire. She was pleased to report that she had been able to raise awareness of dementia issues during her year and that a memory bench had been installed in front of the Council Offices.

Finally she thanked all who had supported her during her Mayoral year.

732 LONG SERVICE AWARDS

The Mayor made presentations to staff who had achieved 25 years' service with the Council. She presented gifts to:

Mick Ainscow – Principal Auditor
Linda Boyer – Pollution Control Officer
Jane Horsfield – Electoral and Licensing Officer
Gillian Moxham – Building Control Admin Assistant
Liz Hincks – Office Cleaner and Chris Traynor – Grounds Maintenance Operative
had also received awards but had been unable to attend the meeting.

The Mayor also made a presentation to James Russell – Head of Environmental Health Services who had recently retired after 40 years' service in Local Government and 30 years combined service at Ribble Valley.

The Mayor thanked all the staff for their loyalty and commitment to the Council and for all their dedicated work over the years.

733

COMBINED AUTHORITY FOR LANCASHIRE

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive seeking agreement for the Council to become a constituent member of a Combined Authority for Lancashire. The report outlined the proposals for the authority, its key ambitions and reported the response from a public consultation exercise on the proposals.

The Leader then proposed the following addition to the recommendation as outlined in the report:

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT:-**

5.1 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, this Council resolves that the Lancashire Combined Authority sets a timetable for introducing a system of inclusive voting for all constituent Councils on transport matters and further reserves the right to withdraw from the Authority if, in the opinion of this Council, continuing membership cannot be clearly demonstrated to be in the best interests of Ribble Valley residents.

The motion was seconded by Councillor T Hill.
The matter was opened for debate.

Councillor G Mirfin proposed a 6 part amendment to the recommendation:

The amendment was seconded by Councillor N Walsh.

Councillor A Knox requested an adjournment under Standing Order 7.1(n) for Members to consider Councillor Mirfin's amendment. This request for an adjournment was put to the vote and carried.

The meeting duly adjourned at 7.15pm.

Councillor R Sherras left the meeting at the adjournment.

The meeting reconvened at 7.25pm.

Councillor Sue Knox joined the meeting.

Councillor Mirfin's amendment was then debated.
Following the debate a vote was taken and the amendment was lost.

Members then debated the substantive amended recommendation. At the end of the debate a vote was taken and the amended recommendation was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the following recommendation in relation to the development of a Combined Authority for Lancashire:

- 1 The contents of this report be noted
- 2 The appended response to the public consultation on the Combined Authority proposals be noted.
- 3 The council agree to become a constituent member of a Lancashire Combined Authority and submit proposals to do so to the Secretary of State.
- 4 In the interim period, the council agree to form a shadow Lancashire Combined Authority.
- 5 Any future proposals for a devolution deal with the Government be brought back to Council for agreement*.
- 6 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, this Council resolves that the Lancashire Combined Authority sets a timetable for introducing a system of inclusive voting for all constituent Councils on transport matters and further reserves the right to withdraw from the Authority if, in the opinion of this Council, continuing membership cannot be clearly demonstrated to be in the best interests of Ribble Valley residents.

734

LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader began by adding his congratulations to the worthy recipients of Long Service Awards and thanked them for the dedicated public service that they had given to the Council and residents over the years.

The Leader then reflected on the achievement of the Council and the challenges it had faced over the last 12 months with the Tour of Britain and winter floods being highlighted. He particularly praised the contribution and dedication of Ribble Valley officers and the spirit of civic self-help that had been displayed during the winter floods.

On a less positive note the Leader noted his disappointment that the Council's case for an increase in the number of County Council seats for Ribble Valley representatives had been dismissed by the Boundaries Commission.

The Leader then looked ahead at the challenges to come in the future including the end of Government central grant funding in 2020 and the ongoing work of the Combined Authority. Both of which would continue to present challenge for the Council.

Finally the Leader congratulated newer Members on reaching the end of their first year of office and thanked all Members for their hard work and commitment throughout the course of the municipal year. He also added his personal thanks to the Mayor for her tireless work in carrying out the very demanding duties of First Citizen.

LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor A Knox, asked how many people had been on the Council's housing waiting list each year from the period 2011 to 2016.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and confirmed that the numbers on the housing waiting list had been as follows:

2010	-	739
2011	-	735
2012	-	figures not available
2013	-	918
2014	-	1,107
2015	-	957

Next Councillor Knox asked how much consideration was given to public health issues when deciding alcohol licensing applications.

The Leader confirmed that any representations made by the Director of Public Health are taken into account when assessing whether or not an application meets the licensing objectives as set out in the Licensing Act 2003. He further reported that since 2014 any licence that authorised the supply of alcohol was subject to mandatory conditions aimed at addressing concerns about the effect on public health. These conditions controlled irresponsible promotions, the supply of alcohol at discounted prices and also imposed requirements in relation to an age verification policy and quantities in which alcohol must be supplied or measured.

Finally Councillor Knox asked what specific measures the Council was planning to take to meet the Prime Minister's 2020 dementia challenge.

The Leader reported that the Council had sought to deliver a number of measures to improve support for dementia sufferers in the borough for some time and continued to look to develop its role around dementia support. Activities included:

- working in partnership with the local Dementia Alliance to support a programme of training events for carers, Council staff and professionals on Dementia Awareness and developing a Dementia Friendly Community model involving many of the local businesses who now operated as dementia friendly businesses;
- working in partnership with local agencies and the Ambulance Service to help put in a place a dementia information tag that enabled emergency services to quickly recognise and locate contact details for dementia sufferers in an emergency;
- monitoring dementia issues and providing a route to raise matters on service provision via the Health and Wellbeing Partnership;
- improving the provision of Dementia friendly accommodation through the affordable housing stock and working with the local Clinical

Commissioning Group (CCG) to develop a concept scheme for dementia care facilities; and

- working with partners to support the implementation of the Mayor's dementia project to enhance awareness and support for a 'Memory Bench' project.

Councillor T Hill then asked if the Leader would support a move to register the Council's serious concern at the decision by the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) to refuse the allocation of 5 elected representatives within the Lancashire District of Ribble Valley following the Council's submission in December 2015. He asked if the Leader could ensure that representation was made to the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the LGBC outlining the Council's concerns.

The Leader confirmed that the borough's MP had been informed of the matter and that the Leader and the Chief Executive would raise the matter at a forthcoming meeting with a Senior Officer of the Boundary Commission, however, he did note that there was no right of appeal against the decision.

736 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Community Committee – 15 March 2016

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

(ii) Planning and Development Committee – 17 March 2016

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

(iii) Personnel Committee – 23 March 2016

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

(iv) Accounts and Audit Committee – 30 March 2016

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

(v) Health and Housing Committee – 31 March 2016

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

(vi) Policy and Finance Committee – 5 April 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute numbers 684, 685 and 688.

MINUTE 684

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management Strategy 2016/2017 be approved.

MINUTE 685

TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES 2016/2017

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management Policies and Practices 2016/2017 be approved.

MINUTE 688

AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

RESOLVED: That the suggested changes to the Council's constitution be approved.

(vii) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 7 April 2016

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

(viii) Licencing Committee – 12 April 2016

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

(ix) Planning and Development Committee – 14 April 2016

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

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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