

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 13 December 2016, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R Bennett (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	K Hind
J E Alcock	S Hind
S Atkinson	S A Hirst
S Bibby	S Hore
A Brown	G Mirfin
I Brown	R Newmark
S Brunskill	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
G Geldard	R J Thompson
R Hargreaves	N C Walsh
T Hill	J White
B Hilton	

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

406 PRAYERS

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

407 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Carefoot, L Graves, J Holgate, A M Knox, S Knox and D T Smith.

408 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

409 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

410 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

411 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Deputy Mayor began by passing on the Council's best wishes to the Mayor for a speedy recovery and was pleased to report that she was now home. He then highlighted a number of events that he had attended since the last meeting including prize giving ceremonies, events to mark Remembrance Day and most recently the Whalley Pickwick Night.

412 LEADER'S SPEECH

The Leader reflected on the challenges and uncertainty that the Council continued to face not least of which was ongoing financial pressures. He was grateful for the many years of careful and cautious conduct of the Council's financial affairs which had left it in a good position to deal with future challenges.

The Leader went on to refer to two key issues of uncertainty that had demanded much attention during the course of the current year. The first of these was the proposals for the development of Clitheroe Market site and he welcomed the public consultation exercise that the Council had recently undertaken.

Secondly the Leader reflected on the works that had been ongoing in relation to Combined Authority discussions. He reported that he would soon be attending the final meeting for this year of the Shadow Combined Authority and would report back to the Combined Authority Working Group early in the New Year to review developments and thereafter make arrangements for a review seminar for all Members of the Council on the developing position.

Finally the Leader wished everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.

413 LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor A Knox, had submitted a written question in advance asking how much Business Rate the Council had failed to collect in the last 5 years.

The Leader reported that the Council had written off a total of £526,917 in Business Rates over the last 5 years, primarily as a result of insolvency and bankruptcy. However the Leader reminded Members that on average the Council collected 98% of the amount of Business Rates due in a year and continued to collect the balance until all recovery options had been exhausted. He reported that ultimately the Council's total collection rate was approximately 99%.

414 NOTICE OF MOTION

A Notice of Motion was posed by Councillor Ken Hind that:

"Ribble Valley Borough Council notes the importance of the Clitheroe Market Development to the borough and the need for widespread consultation on

proposals for the market, parking and additional buildings constructed on the site, and resolves:

1. to increase the size of the working group appointed by Policy and Finance Committee by 4 additional Members to 10;
2. the new Members to be 3 Conservatives and 1 Liberal Democrat;
3. the 3 new Conservative Members to be nominated by the Leader of the Council and the 1 Liberal Democrat Member to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition;
4. the working group to decide how they wish:
 - (a) to supervise the consultation carried out by Infusion;
 - (b) how they wish to consult the public, all interested parties and the nominated approved contractor; and
 - (c) how they wish to carry out their task.”

The Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ian Brown and was then debated.

RESOLVED: That the Notice of Motion be carried.

415 COMMITTEE MINUTES

- (i) Community Committee – 27 September 2016

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

- (ii) Planning and Development Committee – 13 August 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received

- (iii) Personnel Committee – 19 October 2016

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

- (iv) Health and Housing Committee – 20 October 2016

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

- (v) Policy and Finance Committee – 25 October 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute numbers 342 and 345.

MINUTE 342 – LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2017/18

RESOLVED: That the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/18 be approved.

MINUTE 345 – REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

RESOLVED: That the revised Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules be approved.

(vi) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 27 October 2016

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

(vii) Licensing Committee – 1 November 2016

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

(viii) Planning and Development Committee – 10 November 2016

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

(ix) Emergency Committee – 16 November 2016

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

(x) Accounts and Audit Committee – 17 November 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute number 401.

MINUTE 401 – EXTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT 2018/19 ONWARDS

RESOLVED: That the Council accepts the invitation to opt in to the sector-led option for the appointment of External Auditors for 5 years, commencing 1 April 2018 from Public Sector Audit Appointments.

The meeting closed at 7.17pm.

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