

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 17 July 2012, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor I Sayers (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	S Knox
J E Alcock	G Mirfin
R Bennett	R Newmark
S Bibby	E M H Ranson
S Carefoot	L Rimmer
P Dowson	M Robinson
R J Elms	J Rogerson (6.40pm)
R Hargreaves	C Ross
T Hill	G Scott
B Hilton	R E Sherras
S A Hirst	D T Smith
J Holgate	D Taylor
S Hore	M Thomas
K Horkin	R J Thompson
A M Knox	A Yearling

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

150 PRAYERS

The Rev A Froud opened the meeting with prayers.

151 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors I Brown, S Brunskill, J B Hill, K Hind, R Moores, R Swarbrick, N C Walsh and J White.

152 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

153 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items of public participation.

154 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 April 2012 and the Annual Council held on 15 May 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

155 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on events that he had attended during his first nine weeks of office. He was particularly pleased to have met the Queen as part of her Diamond Jubilee tour and to have attended the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. He had also attended the Jubilee beacon lighting ceremony at Clitheroe Castle and a Jubilee Thanksgiving Service.

The Mayor also reported on visits to a number of local village fairs, Scout events and a range of musical events. Most recently he had visited new high-tech manufacturing facilities at British Aerospace in Sarnesbury.

The Mayor also reported on events undertaken by the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress.

156 APPROVAL OF A CODE OF CONDUCT

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive asking Members to approve a new Code of Conduct for the Council.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Code of Conduct drafted by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) be adopted with the explanatory notes as set out at Appendix 1 and 2 of the report; and
2. Council approve the arrangements regarding Members' registration of their interests as set out at Section 3.4 of the report.

157 AMENDMENTS TO TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive asking Members to amend two matters approved at the Annual Meeting, those being the Terms of Reference of the Accounts and Audit Committee and the list of Outside Bodies.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Terms of Reference for Accounts and Audit Committee as set out at Appendix 2 of the report be approved;
2. the addition of two further Bodies to the list of Outside Bodies as set out at Section 3.2 of the report be approved and that Councillor J Holgate be appointed to each of those Bodies.

158 POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive asking Members to approve arrangements for the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel.

The report confirmed that the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 had created the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Police and Crime Panels for each force area. The Ribble Valley area was part of the Lancashire Police force area. The elections for a Police and Crime Commissioner were to be held on 15 November 2012 and the Commissioner would be held to account by the Police and Crime Panel. That panel would be required to take up its full duties in October 2012.

RESOLVED: That Council agree

1. to the establishment of a Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire as set out at Appendix A of the report;
2. the draft Terms of Reference for the panel as set out at Appendix B of the report; and
3. the draft panel arrangements as set out at Appendix C of the report;
4. the draft Procedure Rules as set at Appendix D of the report; and
5. the appointment of Lancashire County Council as Lead Authority to the Police and Crime Panel and the appointment of Ian Fisher as Secretary to the Panel.

159 APPOINTMENT OF TWO INDEPENDENT PERSONS

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive asking Members to consider and approve the Council's Working Group recommendations for the appointment of two independent persons.

The report confirmed that whilst the Localism Act 2011 had, from 1 July 2012, abolished the requirement for each Council to have a Standards Committee, arrangements had to be put in place to include provision for the appointment of at least 1 independent person.

RESOLVED: That Council approve the appointment of Mr I B Dearing and Mr I S Taylor as Independent Persons to assist with Standards.

160 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader began by welcoming the Mayor to his first official Council meeting.

The Leader reflected on how the Borough had coped with the recent spell of poor weather conditions and heavy rainfall. He confirmed that work that had been ongoing with the Environment Agency to alleviate flooding appeared to have been successful. This included measures that had been invoked as part of the Emergency Plan. The Leader thanked all staff who had worked on the emergency measures during the period. The Leader also thanked staff who had

monitored noise and health and safety matters amongst other things at the recent Beatherders' Festival which had been a successful event.

The Leader highlighted forthcoming changes to Council Tax Benefit. He confirmed that officers were working on a scheme which would be put before the Policy and Finance Committee which would achieve a balance between protecting the most vulnerable people in the community and providing additional savings for the Council. The Leader also confirmed that the Council was preparing for the introduction of the localisation of Business Rates and that final Government proposals should be available soon.

The Leader then went on to outline the objectives for the ruling group in the year ahead namely to:

1. finalise the Core Strategy to ensure that any development in the Ribble Valley for the next 20 years would be proportionate;
2. ensure that economic development in the Ribble Valley was encouraged and given a top priority by the Council;
3. continue with tight fiscal policies to ensure that the Council remained financially viable as a small rural authority while at the same time continuing to provide efficient services to residents;
4. revitalise the main settlements in Clitheroe, Whalley and Longridge together with improving the tourism offer in the borough.

The Leader concluded by reminding Members of a range of exciting tourism events that would be taking place in the borough over the summer and particularly highlighted the Food Festival on the 4 August and the Torchlight Procession on the 25 August.

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LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Shadow Leader, Councillor A Knox, also expressed his thanks for staff who had worked on emergency planning during the recent bad weather and the Beatherders' Festival.

He then went on to ask three questions of the Leader.

Firstly he asked if the Leader could confirm how many waste paper recycling collections had not been collected from households on the due day since May 2010.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and confirmed that the paper collection service was operated by a contractor on behalf of the Council. The total number of reported missed paper collections in the 2010/11 year was 158, and 304 in 2011/12. The figures for April and May this year were 29 and 39 respectively.

In a supplementary question Councillor Knox asked if the contract could be looked at again to see if any penalties could be applied for missed collections. The Leader confirmed that the contract service was under review.

Next Councillor Knox asked if the Leader could comment on the success or otherwise of the Castle Grounds Crime and Disorder Project. The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and reminded Members that the Castle Grounds Project was jointly supported by the Crime Reduction Partnership and Children's Trust with funding via the Lancashire Drugs and Alcohol Action Team, with an emphasis on providing diversionary activities for young people at risk of alcohol and substance misuse. The project was delivered in a partnership between the Council, Young People's Service and The Grand. The main focus of the project was Friday evenings when outreach teams went out into the Castle Grounds to talk to young people and to signpost them to activities that were happening in Clitheroe Youth Centre. The Leader reported the average number of interventions each week was around 30 to 40 with around 20 attending activities in the Youth Centre.

The Leader confirmed that a Drop-in Centre was currently being prepared to further support work in the Castle Grounds. The Leader confirmed that there was much anecdotal evidence of young people modifying their behaviour as a result of the measures outlined. In a supplementary question Councillor Knox asked if further action could be taken for those people who had not modified their behaviour or had moved their activity to other areas of town. Councillor Ranson advised Councillor Knox to contact the Community Development Officer to discuss the matter further.

Finally Councillor Knox asked how much debt had been written off by the Council since May 2010. The Leader confirmed that debts totalling in the region of £350,000 had been written off in Council Tax, NNDR (Business Rates), Housing Benefit overpayment and Sundry Debtors since May 2010.

162 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Emergency Committee – 1 May 2012

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

(i1) Community Committee – 22 May 2012

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

(iii) Planning and Development Committee – 24 May 2012

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

(iv) Personnel Committee – 30 May 2012

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

(v) Health and Housing Committee – 31 May 2012

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

(vi) Policy and Finance Committee – 12 June 2012

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

(vii) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 14 June 2012

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

(viii) Licensing Committee – 19 June 2012

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

(ix) Planning and Development Committee – 21 June 2012

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

(x) Accounts and Audit Committee – 27 June 2012

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

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.

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