

## Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 25 April 2017, starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor J Holgate (Chairman)

### Councillors:

P Ainsworth	B Hilton
J E Alcock	K Hind
S Atkinson	S Hind
R Bennett	S A Hirst
S Bibby	S Hore
A Brown	A M Knox
I Brown	S Knox
S Brunskill	G Mirfin
S Carefoot	J Rogerson
P M Dobson	I Sayers
P Dowson	G Scott
P Elms	D T Smith
R J Elms	R Swarbrick
M Fenton	D Taylor
G Geldard	R J Thompson
L Graves	N C Walsh
R Hargreaves	J White
T Hill	

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

### 694 PRAYERS

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

### 695 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors M French, R Newmark, M Robinson and R E Sherras.

### 696 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

### 697 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 698 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

699 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

As she approached the end of the municipal year, the Mayor reflected on her year in office and thanked Members for the support that she had received during her period of absence due to illness.

Since the last meeting she was particularly pleased to have been able to welcome Prince Charles to the borough and his visit had showcased what the borough had to offer.

700 LONG SERVICE AWARDS

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

Helen Bolton – Printing and Stationery Officer

David Law – Lifeguard

Catherine Moore – Administration and Licensing Officer

Colin Winterbottom – Community Leisure and Sports Development Manager

Louise Hilton – Environmental Health Technician also received an award but had been unable to attend the meeting.

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

701 LEADER'S SPEECH

The Leader began by announcing that the meeting would be his last as Leader of the Council. He thanked the Mayor for her work during the year and also extended his congratulations to the new Leader Elect, Councillor Hind and passed on his good wishes for the future

The Leader was pleased to report to Members that the Council's affairs were in good order and represented a solid basis from which the new Leader and his team would be able to go forward.

The Leader went on to reflect on key features of his term of office. He was very pleased that the Council had been able to maintain core services to nationally recognised standards and achieve very high public satisfaction ratings. The Council's accounts and finances were in very good order. The Council Tax was the lowest in Lancashire and within the lowest quartile of districts throughout the county.

The Council had also made a significant contribution to co-operative working across Lancashire authorities. He believed that there was now a firm opportunity to build on that work and enhance the status of Ribble Valley as discussions took place on the future configuration and organisation of Local Government in Lancashire.

The Leader also noted some of the challenges that had been faced by the Council during the last 4 years including the floods of 2015 and the work that had been undertaken to progress the Core Strategy.

The Leader concluded by stating his appreciation and thanks to those Members who had worked with him in recent years as Chairs and Vice-Chairs. He also thanked his previous Deputy, Councillor Simon Hore and current Deputy, Councillor Terry Hill, all Members of his party and the Opposition Leader and Members for the cordial and courteous way in which they had worked with him. He was grateful to the Management Team of Officers and to the staff of the authority.

Finally he wished the leadership team every success in building upon past achievements and looked forward with optimism to seeing the authority move forward to meet the challenges and harness opportunities that lay ahead.

The Mayor thanked the Leader and Deputy Leader for their hard work and contribution to the work of the Council and the borough during their term of office.

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#### LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor A Knox, began by thanking the Mayor for her services during her Mayoral year. He then asked three questions of the Leader; first Councillor Knox asked if the Leader could give an update on the situation regarding the proposed increase in planning fees.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and could report that the Chief Executive had received a letter from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) inviting the Council to take advantage of a 20% increase in planning fees. The Council had indicated acceptance of the offer and it was understood that it would take effect from July 2017. However, following the announcement that there was to be a General Election in June, the Director of Resources had received an update regarding the prospect of a number of proposed measures that may not be enacted prior to the dissolution of Parliament and in relation to the planning fee increase, the Local Government Associations (LGA) guidance was that it was possible that the legislation would not be passed before the General Election. In that event it would be up to the next Government and the next Parliament to decide on implementation of the measure. The LGA's assessment of the Parliament time required for the procedure suggested that the planning fee change may not be implemented in time for July 2017 with Autumn 2017 looking like a more realistic timescale.

Next the Leader of the Opposition asked if the Leader could confirm how many of the affordable homes built in the borough in each of the last 5 years had been for rent and what percentage that was of the total build.

The Leader confirmed that affordable homes for rent built over the past five years were as follows:

Year	No of Homes Built	Affordable Completions	No of Affordable Rent	% of Total Build
2012/13	172	29	25	14.5
2013/14	183	45	25	13.7
2014/15	345	113	78	22.6
2015/16	300	78	51	17.0
2016/17	390	100	45	11.5

Finally the Leader of the Opposition thanked the Leader for his work during his term and for the co-operative manner in which they had been able to work together.

703 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Community Committee – 14 March 2017

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

(ii) Planning and Development Committee – 16 March 2017

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

(iii) Personnel Committee – 22 March 2017

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

(iv) Health and Housing Committee – 23 March 2017

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

(v) Policy and Finance Committee – 28 March 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute Numbers 630 and 731.

Minute 630 – Treasury Management Strategy

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18 be approved.

Minutes 631 – Treasury Management Policies and Practices 2017/18

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management Policies and Practices 2017/18 be approved.

(vi) Accounts and Audit Committee – 29 March 2017

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

(vii) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 30 March 2017

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

(viii) Licensing Committee – 4 April 2017

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

(ix) Special Planning and Development Committee – 6 April 2017

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

(x) Planning and Development Committee – 13 April 2017

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

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

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