

## Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 11 July 2017 starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor R Bennett (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	S Hind
J E Alcock	J Holgate
S Atkinson	A M Knox
A Brown	S Knox
I Brown	G Mirfin
S Brunskill	R Newmark
S Carefoot	M Robinson
P M Dobson	I Sayers
P Dowson	G Scott
R J Elms	R E Sherras
M Fenton	D T Smith
M French	R Swarbrick
G Geldard	D Taylor
L Graves	R J Thompson
R Hargreaves	N C Walsh
B Hilton	J White
K Hind	

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

### 133 PRAYERS

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

### 134 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Bibby, P Elms, T Hill, S Hirst, S Hore and J Rogerson.

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

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

### 136 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 137 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2017 and the minutes of Annual Council held on 9 May 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

138

## MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on a varied range of engagements that he had attended since the last meeting. These had included his Civic Service at Read, the Mayor of Clitheroe's Civic Service, presentation evenings and birthday celebrations, the Longridge and Goosnargh Show a memorial service for Lord Waddington followed by the dedication of a stained glass window in his memory at Read Parish Church.

The Mayor ended by informing Councillors that he would be hosting a Mayor's Garden Party on 20 August 2017 to raise monies for his chosen charities.

139

## LEADER'S SPEECH

The Leader began by paying tribute to his predecessor, Councillor Stuart Hirst and expressed his thanks for the work that he had done as Leader of the Council.

The Leader then reported on key items that had been featured at the Local Government Conference which he had recently attended. He highlighted three themes that had been raised.

1. the need for Councils to increase their income by innovation and cooperation.
2. a need for the Districts to take on an expanded role in health and cooperate in social care; and
3. the need to build more affordable housing and appropriate homes for an increasing population.

He then went on to outline progress that the Council had already made in these areas.

In respect of increasing income the Council would set up a new Economic Development Committee to reorganise the planning, housing and economic development functions and to approve the appointment of a Planning and Economic Development Director. The focus of this directorate would be on growing the local economy.

The Council also needed to continue to press the government to implement its policy of allowing local government to retain 100% business rates by 2020, to replace the revenue support grant that was due to be phased out. This would enable the authority to have more control over their income.

The Leader was also keen to ensure that the Council built a sustainable community that created jobs and infrastructure for an increased population that kept the borough's young people housed and working in the valley.

The Leader confirmed that the rural economy, agriculture and tourism would be at the centre of the Council's economic policy.

Next the Leader confirmed that a decision had been made to withdraw from the proposed Lancashire Combined Authority. However, he recognised that major

infrastructure projects could only be achieved by local authorities working together and therefore confirmed that the Council would continue to take part in the Lancashire Authorities Group which involved all authorities in the county meeting regularly to continue to work on infrastructure projects across Lancashire, including Broadband connection, transport and other issues.

In respect of housing, the Leader confirmed that the Council had achieved the government's housing requirements for the borough and had a five year supply of development land. He was keen to ensure that any development was carried out speedily and in accordance with the specific housing needs of the borough with particular emphasis on homes for first time buyers and those aged over 55.

In terms of health and social care, he confirmed that the Council's role in public health was preventative and centred around the promotion of healthy living. This also incorporated provision of leisure facilities and maintenance of green space. The Leader outlined two additional key priorities in this area, namely the desire for the Council to become the first Dementia Friendly Council in Lancashire, and to build on the current Ribblesdale Partnership Pilot Project which sought to join all health and care providers in a multi-speciality community group to deliver efficient and effective health care within the boundary of the partnership. He stated that the Council should now look to start similar pilots in remaining parts of the borough covered by other Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG). As the main body representing all patients in the Ribble Valley, the Council would take a vigorous role in promoting the healthcare of its residents.

The Leader went on to confirm that he was pleased to report that in response to public concerns regarding dog fouling, the Council had embarked on a public consultation on the matter with plans for controls in many of the borough's green areas.

The Leader closed by confirming that the Council's desire to create a stronger voice for the people of the valley both regionally and nationally would continue and that the creation of jobs, increase in income and provision of better services would be central to the work of the Council moving forward.

140

#### LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the opposition, Councillor A Knox asked if the Leader could confirm how many EU nationals were employed in the Ribble Valley.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and reported that the NOMIS website run by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) supplied official labour market statistics. The information provided could be broken down to different areas including those at district level. However, information was not given on the nationality of those employed. The latest information that was available from the Register of Electors indicated that there were currently 380 EU nationals living in the Ribble Valley but could not confirm whether or not they were in employment.

Next Councillor Knox asked what different types of Council Tax there were and how many people were covered by each (excluding those for people on benefits).

The Leader explained that Council Tax fell into two main categories – discount based on the residents of a property and discounts for unoccupied properties. In relation to discounts for residents of properties, a full Council Tax charge was based on there being at least two adults resident at the property and where this was not the case, a discount may apply. The largest category of discount applied by the Council was for properties occupied by only one adult and at 1 July 2017 the Council had 7,774 such properties where occupants were in receipt of a 25% Single Person Discount. This represented 29.5% of the total properties in the borough. In addition, again on 1 July 2017, there were 377 properties that received 25% disregard discount that covered categories such as students and apprentices, carers, residents of hospitals and care homes etc. In 2015 the government had introduced a new 50% discount for annexes that were occupied by family members and as at 1 July 2017 the Council had 9 such discounts.

In terms of unoccupied properties, the Council currently granted 100% discount for the first six months that a property was unoccupied and unfurnished, of which there were currently 383 cases in the borough, and the first 12 months if a property was uninhabitable or undergoing major renovation work – there were 51 such properties as at 1 July. 2017.

In terms of second homes ie properties that were unoccupied and furnished, they currently received a 10% discount and there were 216 such properties on 1 July 2017. In some cases special job related circumstances may exist where this discount was increased to 50% and the Council had two such cases on 1 July 2017.

Finally the Leader confirmed that the Council had introduced a local 100% discount to help those properties that had been affected by the floods in December 2015 and there were currently three properties where residents had been unable to return to their homes.

Finally, Councillor Knox asked if the Leader could outline what projects the Council ran to influence healthy eating in the borough. The Leader drew attention to the Council's 'Up and Active' programme, under which staff had been working in a number of primary schools to deliver sessions to pupils on healthy eating over a six week period. The plan was to engage with all primary schools in the borough in this way.

In addition every Tuesday the Council provided two weight management courses, one of which was part of a 12 week programme for residents and which included information about healthy eating. This course also included a physical activity programme for residents who were self-referred. Staff also provided drop in sessions after a number of their supervised gym sessions for members of the public to be weighed and given advice on healthy eating. Finally the Leader could also confirm that during the week beginning 18 September 2017 staff would be organising a range of activities as part of National Health week which included healthy eating and would provide three sessions for children on healthy eating as part of the Roefield holiday club programme.

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive, outlining a recommendation from Policy and Finance Committee to amend the Council's structure to enable the creation of an Economic Development Committee.

RESOLVED: That

1. a new Economic Development Committee be created;
2. the political balance of the Committee be as set out in the report with the addition that Councillor M Fenton be appointed to the seat relinquished by the Liberal Democrats; and
3. the changes to the Committee timetable outlined in the report be approved.

142 HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DPD (DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT) SUBMISSION

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive asking Members to approve the Housing and Economic DPD Proposal Map and submission.

RESOLVED: That the Housing and Economic DPD submission be approved as outlined in the report.

143 CASUAL VACANCY FOR VICE CHAIR OF POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive seeking the appointment of a Vice Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee following the resignation of Councillor T Hill from the position. In addition, a further vacancy had arisen since the report was written for a Vice Chair of Personnel Committee.

RESOLVED: That

1. Councillor P Elms be appointed Vice Chair of Policy and Finance Committee; and
2. Councillor J White be appointed Vice Chair of Personnel Committee.

144 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Community Committee – 16 May 2017

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

(ii) Planning and Development Committee – 18 May 2017

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

(iii) Personnel Committee – 24 May 2017

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

(iv) Health and Housing Committee – 25 May 2017

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

(v) Licensing Committee – 13 June 2017

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

(vi) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 15 June 2017

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

(vii) Planning and Development Committee – 22 June 2017

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

(viii) Policy and Finance Committee – 27 June 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of minute number 113.

Minute Number 113 – Lancashire Combined Authority

Members considered a recommendation from Committee that the Council formally withdraw from the Shadow Lancashire Combined Authority but continue to attend meetings with a view to collaborative working.

RESOLVED: That the Council formally withdraw from the Shadow Lancashire Combined Authority but continue to attend informal meetings with a view to collaborative working.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

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