

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 12 December 2017, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R Bennett (Chairman)

Councillors:

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

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

465 PRAYERS

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

466 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R J Elms, G Geldard, T Hill and J Holgate.

467 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

468 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

469 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

470

MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on a varied range of engagements that he had attended since the last meeting. This had included a visit to the Clitheroe Concert Society, a range of Remembrance Services, award presentation evenings at St Augustine's School and Longridge High School and a fundraising dinner at The Higher Trapp Hotel.

He had also recently attended the installation of the new Vicar at St Mary's Church, Gisburn. He thanked the Mayoress and the Deputy Mayor for their support throughout the Mayoral year so far.

471

LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader began by reporting on the recent Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge that had taken place in November. He thanked everyone who had been involved in the exercise and noted that the challenge team had indicated at the end of their visit that they thought the Council was a highly motivated organisation with a sense of direction, that it was well run and had strong financial management.

The initial feedback given at the end of the visit had suggested some areas for improvements and the Council would reflect further on any recommendations once the final report was received.

The Leader went on to say that he was hopeful that the Council's strong financial position may enable it to avoid having to follow other Councils who had been forced into collecting household waste every 3 weeks, introducing charges for green waste and ending paper and card collection services following cuts to recycling credits. He confirmed that when the Council had a clearer picture of the Government's view on Local Government finance, the Council would be able to finalise a view on matters and was determined to retain the current system if at all possible.

Next the Leader reported on a range of activities that had taken place over the last 5 months. These had included changes to Council policy, a re-write of the Council's Corporate Strategy, the creation of an Economic Development Committee, approval for a new tourism policy and the announcement of a heritage and tourism trail.

The Leader then went on to look ahead to key priorities for 2018. He noted that 2018 would see the start of the five yearly review of the Core Strategy which would hopefully include policies to revitalise the rural area with small developments in some tier 1 and tier 2 villages, identify commercial sites for development throughout the borough and consider the adoption of the Community Infrastructure Levy on all newly built homes. He confirmed that the Council would continue to support new homes being built for young people and would also encourage job creation for young people in order to enable the borough to become a more sustainable community.

Finally the Leader reported on the activities of the Communications Working Group which had launched a slogan competition for a new Economic Development website that had been created. The Leader was delighted to present the prize for the competition to Lawson Oddie for his prizewinning slogan “Amazing spaces, people and places”.

The Leader closed by wishing all staff, officers and Councillors a Merry Christmas.

472

LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor A Knox, asked if the Leader could explain what reference was made to public transport in the Council's Corporate Strategy.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and confirmed that the Council had adopted a revised Corporate Strategy in September 2017. Priority 2 of that strategy was “to sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley” and two objective links to that priority were:

- to seek to improve the transport network, especially to rural areas; and
- to work with the Council's partners to ensure that the infrastructure in Ribble Valley was improved and fit for purpose.

In a supplementary question Councillor Knox urged the Leader to support actions to engage with County Council in respect of consultation that had gone out following proposals for the closure of the Information Office at the Clitheroe Interchange as part of the County Council's cost saving measures.

Next Councillor Knox asked if the Leader could confirm when he had last met with the Leader of the County Council and when he next planned to meet him.

The Leader reported that he had met with the Leader of the County Council on three occasions during the past year and the next meeting was planned for the New Year.

Finally Councillor Knox asked where sociability of young people in the Ribble Valley had rated in a recent report of the Social Mobility Commission.

The Leader reported that Ribble Valley had been placed 90th overall in the recent “State of the Nation 2017; Social Mobility in Great Britain” report. He explained that the index assessed the education, employability and housing prospects of people living in England's 324 Local Authority areas, and highlighted where people from disadvantaged were most and least likely to make social progress. In the Youth index Ribble Valley was ranked 13th out of all authorities ranked in the band of 260 to 324 authorities, which indicated that youth in the area did not always have a smooth transition from school to work and were perhaps disadvantaged due to living in isolated rural areas.

473 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Policy and Finance Sub-Committee – 10 October 2017

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

(ii) Community Committee – 17 October 2017

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

(iii) Accounts and Audit Committee – 18 October 2017

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

(Councillor Fenton left the meeting 7.00pm)

(iv) Health and Housing Committee – 19 October 2017

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

(v) Personnel Committee – 25 October 2017

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

(vi) Planning and Development Committee – 26 October 2017

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

(vii) Policy and Finance Committee – 7 November 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute Numbers 388 and 391.

Minute 388 – Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2018/19

RESOLVED: That the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2018/19 be approved.

Minute 391 – Review Of Financial Regulations And Contract Procedure Rules

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

(viii) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 9 November 2017

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

(ix) Licensing Committee – 14 November 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute Number 433.

Minute 433 – Adoption of Taxi Licencing Policy

RESOLVED: That the Taxi Licensing Policy be adopted.

(x) Economic Development Committee – 16 November 2017

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

(xi) Planning and Development Committee – 30 November 2017

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

The meeting closed at 7.12pm.

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