

## Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 16 October 2018, starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor S Carefoot (Chairman)

Councillors:

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

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Economic Development and Planning, Director of Resources, Head of HR, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Administration Officer.

### 354 MINUTE'S SILENCE

A minute's silence was observed in memory of former Councillor John Cowgill who had recently died.

### 355 PRAYERS

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

### 356 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Bibby, S A Hirst, J Rogerson, R Swarbrick and J White.

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

Councillor R Sherras declared an interest in respect of Agenda item 9.

### 358 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Pendlebury of Clitheroe submitted a petition regarding the proposed settlement boundary changes in Clitheroe.

The Chair of Planning and Development Committee, Councillor A Brown, thanked Mr Pendlebury for the petition. She noted that the signatories requested that "Ribble Valley Borough Council reconsider the land allocation plan and prioritise affordable housing in the surrounding villages, giving young adults

opportunity to remain part of those communities” and that the petition be presented to the Inspector as an objection to the additional allocations.

Councillor Brown confirmed that the proposed additional sites would form part of the Inspector’s considerations at the forthcoming Examination in November. She reminded Mr Pendlebury that the Council was bound by Government Regulations in respect of building allocations. She confirmed that the consideration of additional sites would form part of the Inspector’s Examination into the allocations plan.

359 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

360 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on a number of recent events that he had attended. These had included a Degree Presentation Ceremony at UCLAN, the Chipping and Hodder Agricultural Shows, a Harvest Festival at St Michael’s, Whitewell and the Dedication of a new War Memorial in West Bradford.

361 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive asking Members to review the Council’s Constitution in order to ensure clarity following the appointment of the Director of Economic Development and Planning.

RESOLVED: That changes outlined at Section 3.3 of the report including the Scheme of Delegation of Development Management and Countryside Matters be approved.

362 REVIEW OF THE POLITICAL BALANCE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018/19 ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLORS FROM THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive outlining a proposal to revise current Committee arrangements following a view of the political balance calculations.

Councillor A Knox proposed an amendment to the Committee membership that Councillor M Fenton be removed from Licensing Committee and put on Economic Development Committee and that Councillor S Atkinson be removed from Economic Development Committee and placed on Licensing Committee. This was seconded by Councillor K Hind.

A vote was taken and the amendment was carried.

Next Councillor T Hill proposed an amendment that Councillor S Bibby remain on Policy and Finance Committee in place of Councillor Alcock. This was seconded by Councillor Paul Elms.

A vote was taken and the amendment was carried.

Councillor K Hind proposed an amendment to the Representatives on Outside Bodies as presented to the effect that there be two Councillor seats on the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership and that those seats be taken by Councillor S Hirst and Councillor R Thompson with Councillor R Thompson remaining as Chair. The amendment was seconded by Councillor T Hill.

A vote was taken and the amendment was carried.

RESOLVED: That

1. the allocation of seats and appointment of Members to the Committee as set out in Appendix A and B and taking account of the amendments as agreed be approved;
2. the proposed amendment of Representatives on Outside Bodies as outlined at Appendix C be approved with the addition of Councillor R Thompson remaining as Chair on the Community Safety Partnership; and
3. the representation of Parish Council Liaison Committee be as set out in the report.

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#### LEADER'S SPEECH

The Leader reflected on achievements over recent months. He reported that Community Committee was looking at the development of a 3G pitch at Roefield, which he hoped to see up and running in 2019. He affirmed the Council's commitment to the project.

Next the Leader reported that the Council was part of a project that had put together a bid to Government for a Business Rates Pilot Scheme that was calculated to increase public spending in the county by £10.8m. The officer team on the project was being led by the Council's Director of Resources. Councils throughout the county had met recently to approve the bid and Ribble Valley's Emergency Committee had met to approve the Council's involvement. The Leader noted that all Lancashire Authorities, with the exception of Lancaster, had joined together in the submission. He outlined that the application was structured in three sections with:

- 5% of the fund to be put aside to cover losses;
- £2.5m to be put into an economic growth and sustainability fund to be distributed by Council Leaders;
- the remaining monies to be distributed to all authorities in line with the tier splits which were: county 17.5%; districts 56%; unitaries 73.5% and the fire authority 1.5%.

The pilot was part of the Government's plan to end the revenue support grant by 2020/21 and give Local Authorities 75% of Business Rates in their area.

The Leader went on to formally welcome the new Director of Planning and Economic Development to the Council.

Finally the Leader updated Members on matters relating to the Clitheroe Market Development. He reported that Policy and Finance Committee had decided to

take a step back and consider the most appropriate way to re-develop the Clitheroe market site.

He confirmed the Council was still committed to the regeneration of Clitheroe Town Centre which would include improving the market, increasing parking, providing new facilities and improving access.

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#### LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor A Knox, asked if the Leader would comment on the decrease in neighbourhood policing in the Ribble Valley.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and confirmed that any reductions in neighbourhood policing were a concern for the Council and that the matter was kept under review by the Community Safety Partnership. The Council continued to work on a number of initiatives to help reduce the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour, or the fear of crime or anti-social behaviour taking place, by lobbying at all relevant levels, including the Police and Crime Panel. He also noted that Ribble Valley continued to experience some of the lowest levels of crime in comparison to other authorities in Lancashire.

Next Councillor Knox asked if the Leader would comment on the increasing number of water leaks that were evident in the Ribble Valley.

The Leader confirmed that the Council did not have any involvement with water supplies. It was a matter for United Utilities.

Finally Councillor Knox asked if the Leader would state what the Council's priorities were in its Corporate Strategy.

The Leader confirmed that the priorities were as follows:

Priority 1 – To ensure a well-managed Council providing the efficient service based on identified customer needs.

Priority 2 – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.

Priority 3 – To help make people's lives safer and healthier.

Priority 4 – To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.

Priority 5 – To match the supply of homes in our area with identified housing needs.

Councillor R Hargreaves asked if the Leader had leaked any information in relation to an ongoing complaint.

The Leader said that he had not leaked any information to the press.

Councillor P Elms asked if the Leader could confirm that he intended to stand in the new Waddington and Bashall Eaves Ward in the 2019 Council Elections.

The Leader noted that it was up to the Ribble Valley Conservative Association to decide where their candidates would stand for Election in next year's Council Elections.

Councillor R Thompson asked the Leader if he could confirm how many complaints the Council had received about Councillors during the Leader's membership of Accounts and Audit Committee and why the Leader accepted the protocol for dealing with such complaints but did not accept the protocol now. The Leader confirmed that he had not been on Accounts and Audit Committee since 2017 and that during his time on the Council no complaint has been submitted to the Accounts and Audit Committee since the Localism Act had come into force in 2011.

The Leader confirmed that he accepted all the Council's protocols.

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#### NOTICE OF MOTION

A Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor A Knox that:

"This Council has no confidence in the Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee".

Councillor G Mirfin proposed a recorded vote and this was supported by six other Councillors.

A debate then took place in respect of the Notice of Motion.

At the end of the debate a recorded vote was taken.

The following Members voted for the Motion:

I Brown	R Hargreaves	A Knox
P Dobson	T Hill	S Knox
P Elms	J Holgate	M Robinson
M Fenton	S Hore	R Thompson
M French		

The following Members voted against the motion:

P Ainsworth	R Elms	R Newmark
J Alcock	G Geldard	I Sayers
S Atkinson	L Graves	G Scott
R Bennett	B Hilton	D Smith
A Brown	K Hind	D Taylor
S Brunskill	S Hind	N Walsh
P Dowson	G Mirfin	

The following Member abstained:

S Carefoot

Councillor R Sherras had declared an interest and did not vote on this item.

The Notice of Motion was lost.

(i) Licensing Committee – 3 July 2018

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

(ii) Special Planning and Development Committee – 7 July 2018

Councillor S Knox asked if the Chair of Committee could confirm how many years land supply the Council had on 31 March 2017 and what the figure was at 30 September 2018.

The Chair, Councillor A Brown, thanked Councillor Knox for her question and confirmed that at 31 March 2017 the Council had a 5.73 year housing land supply. She reported that on 13 September 2018, national Government had amended planning guidance in respect of what housing sites could be considered deliverable for the purposes of housing policy. The housing land supply would therefore be calculated in accordance with the new guidance but this had not yet been produced.

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

(ii) Accounts and Audit Committee – 25 July 2018

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

(iv) Accounts and Audit Sub-Committee – 1 August 2018

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

(v) Planning and Development Committee – 2 August 2018

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

(vi) Licensing Sub-Committee – 6 August 2018

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

(vii) Community Committee – 4 September 2018

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

(viii) Planning and Development Committee – 6 September 2018

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

(ix) Personnel Committee – 12 September 2018

Councillor A Knox asked in respect of Minute number 253 if the Chair of Committee could confirm what interventions had been taken to prevent interference and intimidation in respect of Member/Officer relations and what further interventions would she personally take to eradicate such behaviour.

Councillor Elms thanked Councillor Knox for his question and began by clearly stating that she did not condone interference or intimidation in any situation or circumstance. She reminded Councillor Knox that relationships between Members and Officers were underpinned by the Member/Officer Protocol which was included at Part 7 of the Council's Constitution. She confirmed that all Members had recently been reminded of their roles and responsibility in respect of the Protocol.

As Chair of Personnel Committee she confirmed that she was always mindful of the need to consider and protect the welfare of staff.

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

(x) Accounts and Audit Sub-Committee – 13 September 2018

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

Councillor L Graves left the meeting at 8.58pm.

(xi) Health and Housing Committee – 13 September 2018

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

(xii) Licensing Sub-Committee – 17 September 2018

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

(xiii) Licensing Committee – 18 September 2018

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

(xiv) Economic Development Committee – 20 September 2018

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

(xv) Emergency Committee – 25 September 2018

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

(xvi) Policy and Finance Committee – 25 September 2028

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

(xvii) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 27 September 2018

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

(xviii) Planning and Development Committee – 4 October 2018

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

The meeting closed at 9.08pm.

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