

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 15 October 2019, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor S Brunskill (Chairman)

Councillors:

J E Alcock	B Hilton
S Atkinson	S A Hirst
A Austin	B Holden
R Baxter	S Hore
R Bennett	A Humphreys
D Berryman	A M Knox
S Bibby	S Knox
D Birtwhistle	G Mirfin
A Brown	R Newmark
I Brown	D Peat
R Buller	M Robinson
S Carefoot	J Rogerson
J Clark	J Schumann
L Edge	G Scott
R J Elms	R E Sherras
S Fletcher	R J Thompson
M French	N C Walsh
J Hill	

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.

303 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, Father Heakin, opened the meeting with prayers.

304 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Hindle, D O'Rourke, S O'Rourke and S Rainford.

305 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

306 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

307 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

308 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on a wide range of events she had attended since the last meeting.

309 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader reported on the recent peer review which had been very positive and had shown that the Council had made progress since the original review in 2016. The key comments highlighted by the Review Team were that Member and officer relationships, respect for political and managerial leaders and strong cross-party engagement had improved. The Leader also confirmed that recommendations from the Peer Review would be taken on board and actions had already been taken to discuss changes to the way the Council budgeted, how it could improve communications and capacity.

The Leader informed Members of recent meetings that he had attended including with Network Rail, the Chief Officers of East Lancs and Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Groups, the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and a business rate pilot meeting with other Lancashire Councils. All of which had proved positive.

The Leader reminded Council that the amended Corporate Strategy that had been approved in September would now be taken forward. He particularly talked about the Council's environmental objectives.

In respect of disappointing outcomes that he had highlighted at the last meeting he reported that he had now received a written response to his letter regarding the Council's dissatisfaction with the Henthorn Appeal from the Housing Minister in which the Housing Minister had said that the Government did not require Council's to provide more houses than we needed. The Leader confirmed he would be writing back to the Minister to ask him to put that in to a ministerial statement.

The Leader had also written to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care outlining his concerns that Lancashire County Council would no longer fund the Home Improvement Agency.

Finally the Leader was pleased to report that an example of the Council's investment was now in evidence with the improvements that had been agreed to the market which should be completed by Christmas and the successful opening of the 3G sports pitches at Roefield.

310 LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Knox asked the Leader where Ribble Valley Borough Council ranked in the Friends of the Earth list of Council's and their efforts to tackle climate change.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and explained that the Friends of the Earth had analysed how different local authority areas across England and Wales were taking action to cut greenhouse gases. They had then produced league tables based upon a range of criteria. In the tables produced

Ribble Valley Borough Council had been joint bottom. Whilst the Leader was disappointed with the ranking he was keen to concentrate on the work the Council was doing to reduce greenhouse gases and the newly adopted Corporate Strategy where one of the key short-term priorities was to develop an action plan to work towards the borough being carbon neutral by 2030.

In a supplementary question Councillor Knox asked the Leader to bring forward a report to next Policy and Finance Committee meeting to set up a Climate Change working Group. The Leader believed this was an excellent idea and agreed to do so.

Next Councillor Knox asked if the Leader could provide a list of regular bookings at the new 3G pitch broken down into percentage occupancy by sport. The Leader confirmed that although the facility had only been open for 3 weeks, it had already had a range of bookings from clubs and groups based in the borough. At present all were for football as the contractor had not yet handed over the multi sports surface. The majority of use had been in the under 18's age category and included a recent schools football event that had seen 12 teams compete from local primary schools. The Leader provided Councillor Knox with a list of bookings.

Finally Councillor Knox asked what action the Council was taking to save the number 4 bus service between Longridge and Preston. The Leader reported that the bus service had originally been a part funded LCC and commercial service but following the cuts in April 2016 it had been taken on by Stagecoach as a fully commercial service. Stagecoach had now formally informed LCC that they were ceasing the service.

LCC were currently investigating a replacement service based around Section 106 monies from development around Preston and their transport officer was currently putting together a cabinet report on the matter that was due to be published in the coming week.

311 CHANGES TO COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS AND OUTSIDE BODIES FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive asking Members to make amendments to the Council's Committee membership following a request from the Leader to change membership on the Economic Development and Parish Council Liaison Committees.

He had also requested a change to the nominated representative of the Mersey Care NHS Trust (Calderstones). Councillor Knox asked for a separate vote to be taken on recommendations 5.1 and 5.2.

RESOLVED: That

1. the changes to the current Membership of Committees be as set out in Appendix A of the report;
2. the changes to representations on Outside Bodies be as set out in Appendix B of the report.

312 RIBBLE VALLEY HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT – ADOPTION

Consideration was given to the written report of the Director of Economic Development and Planning asking Council to agree to adopt the Housing and Economic Development (Development Plan) Document (HED DPD).

The Director reported that having received the Inspector's report with his recommendations Council were now asked to adopt the HED DPD with the recommended main modifications as set out in the Appendix to the Inspector's report.

RESOLVED: That Council

1. accept the Inspector's findings and recommendations and adopt the Housing and Economic Development, Development Plan Document with the main modifications recommended by the Inspector as set out in the Appendix to his report dated 10 September 2019;
2. authorise the Chief Executive to undertake the necessary steps for the adoption process to be completed and that any final modifications to correct typographical matters be designated to the Head of Regeneration and Housing; and
3. that the submitted proposals map as amended by the Inspector's recommended Main Modifications be adopted.

313 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Accounts and Audit Committee – 24 July 2019

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

(ii) Planning and Development Committee – 1 August 2019

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

(iii) Emergency Committee – 20 August 2019

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

(iv) Community Committee – 3 September 2019

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

(v) Planning and Development Committee – 5 September 2019

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

(vi) Licensing Committee – 10 September 2019

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

(vii) Health and Housing Committee – 12 September 2019

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

(viii) Licensing Sub-Committee – 17 September 2019

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

(ix) Personnel Committee – 18 September 2019

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

(x) Economic Development Committee – 19 September 2019

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

(xi) Policy and Finance Committee – 24 September 2019

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

(xii) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 26 September 2019

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

(xiii) Planning and Development Committee – 3 October 2019

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

The meeting closed at 7.13pm.

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