

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 17 December 2019, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor S Brunskill (Chairman)

Councillors:

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

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.

447 PRAYERS

Father Heakin opened the meeting with prayers.

448 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Baxter and R J Elms.

449 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

450 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

451 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

452 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

453 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader began by reflecting on the recent Parliamentary Election results and noted that there would now be political stability over the next 5 years, which would help with the funding review for Local Government finance that was due at the end of 2020.

The Leader reported that he would be writing to the Northern Power House Minister, Jake Berry and Secretary of State for Local Government, Robert Jenrick, to inform them that Ribble Valley Borough Council would continue to deliver Government policy to its local community properly and efficiently and looked forward to working with Central Government in that regard.

The Leader noted that following the Election the Chancellor had already confirmed that the national living wage would rise significantly over the term of the new Parliament and it was expected by 2020/2024 that the national living wage would be £10.50 per hour. The Leader fully supported such a policy but he was conscious that it would have a significant impact on the Council's budget over the next 4 years.

With regard to housing, the Leader was pleased to report that the Council had recently completed the purchase of 2 houses in Longridge which would be rented out in the new year.

Since the last meeting the Leader was pleased to report that a Climate Change Working Group had been established and meetings and conversations had already taken place to encourage tree planting across the borough.

The Council had also agreed to install 14 electrical charging points in the borough in addition to the 6 that had already been installed by the County Council. This meant that within the next few months the borough would have 20 charging points which was well ahead of the Friends of the Earth target to have 34 such points by the year 2030. Friends of the Earth had also stated, that the Council should increase the number of well insulated properties within the borough. The Leader could report that planning permission which had been granted to date would increase well insulated properties from 34% to 43% if built by 2030.

The Council's recycling performance had also improved significantly from the beginning of September to the end of October increasing by 25% to 37.6%.

The Leader concluded by thanking staff for their commitment and hard work on the recent election. He gave particular thanks to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services who would be retiring in February and wished her well in her retirement.

Finally the Leader thanked all staff and Members for their support over the year and wished everyone best wishes for the Christmas season.

454 LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor A Knox, asked if the Leader could state what involvement, including ownership, the Council had in Clitheroe Interchange.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and confirmed that the Council owned the land that the Interchange Office was built on. The Council had no involvement in the provision of the information and ticket service that was delivered at the office by Lancashire County Council (LCC). The Leader confirmed that LCC had given notice of their intention to cease the information and ticket service at Clitheroe Station.

The Leader confirmed that the Council had worked in partnership with the Community Rail Partnership and supported the work of the Partnership Officer to deliver an action plan which had sought to deliver improvements to rail services.

455 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Emergency Committee – 23 October 2019

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

(ii) Community Services Committee – 29 October 2019

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

(iii) Planning and Development Committee – 31 October 2019

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

(iv) Personnel Committee – 6 November 2019

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

(v) Health and Housing Committee – 7 November 2019

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

(vi) Licensing Committee – 12 November 2019

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

(vii) Economic Development Committee – 14 November 2019

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

(viii) Licensing Sub-Committee – 15 November 2019

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

(ix) Policy and Finance Committee – 19 November 2019

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute Number 390:

Minute 390 – Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2020/21

RESOLVED: That the Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2020/21 be approved.

(x) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 21 November 2019

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

(xi) Accounts and Audit Committee – 27 November 2019

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

(xii) Planning and Development Committee – 28 November 2019

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).