

Minutes of Meeting of Full Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 5 October 2010 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor L Rimmer (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	A Knox
J E Alcock	E M H Ranson
D A Berryman	C Ross
S Brunskill	I Sayers
R J Elms	G Scott
G Geldard	R E Sherras
A Gridley	D T Smith
R Hargreaves	J S Sutcliffe
J B Hill	M E Sutcliffe
T Hill	D Taylor
B Hilton	R J Thompson
K Hind	J Waddington
S A Hirst	N C Walsh
J Holgate	J White
S Hore	A Yearing
B Jones	

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Commercial Services, Director of Development Services, Director of Resources, Human Resources Manager, Legal Services Manager

371 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Canon Norman Atty, opened the meeting with prayers.

372 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors D Eccleston, C Punchard, M Robinson, J Rogerson and M Thomas.

373 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

374 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no items of public participation.

375 MAYORAL PRESENTATIONS

The Mayor made a presentation to representatives of Rimington Football Club who had won the East Lancashire Football League and the Craven Cup during the last season. In addition the Mayor also welcomed representatives of Hurst

Green Football Club who had won the Lancashire Amateur Cup – they were the first football club from the Ribble Valley to do so. The Mayor presented certificates to both team’s representatives in recognition of their marvellous achievements.

Next, the Mayor made a presentation to Graham Jagger who had recently retired from the Council after more than 30 years service. She also referred to Peter Hothersall who had recently retired after 23 years service who, because of leave commitments, could not attend the meeting. The Leader of the Council, Councillor M Ranson, put on record Members’ thanks to both Peter and Graham for the excellent service they had given to the Council over the years.

376 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 July 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor J Hill asked a question of the Mayor under Standing Order 9 regarding the work of Clitheroe Youth Forum and, in particular, its initiative to create a remembrance book, Braille book and website to remember forgotten heroes of World War II. The Mayor thanked Councillor Hill for bringing the matter to the attention of the Council and supported Councillor Hill’s statement that the dedication, energy and commitment displayed by the Clitheroe Youth Forum was truly inspirational and was an example of the excellent work which had been undertaken by a wide range of voluntary interest groups, across all ages, throughout the Borough. All such work served to build and strengthen Ribble Valley communities and enrich the lives of its residents and the Mayor wished to put on record the Council’s appreciation of all the excellent work done by the Clitheroe Youth Forum.

377 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported that she had attended some 70 engagements since the last meeting which had encompassed many different aspects of life in the Borough, for example the Clitheroe WI Show, The Fine Food Street Market, a range of Mayoral tours and the launch of a new fleet of Transdev buses for the Clitheroe to Bolton route. She had recently opened the Calderstones Woodland Play Area and wished to congratulate all Members and Officers who had helped to bring such an excellent scheme to fruition. The Mayor had also attended a visit by the Duke of Gloucester to open a residential block at Stonyhurst at which very favourable comments had been passed regarding the Borough. Finally, on Sunday last the Mayor had attended a very moving remembrance and reunion service for the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment at Warrington.

378 LEADER’S REPORT

The Leader of the Council, Councillor M Ranson, reported on a recent meeting that he had hosted for the twelve district councils in Lancashire with Dr Ruth Hussey, the Director of Strategic Health in the North West, regarding the changes to the NHS and specifically the role that district councils could play in the area of public health provision. He assured residents of Ribble Valley that

the Council would continue to strive to achieve good health care provision for the Borough despite the likelihood that a new Clitheroe Hospital would not now be built in the foreseeable future.

The Leader was pleased to report that there had been a number of constructive comments concerning the publication of the recent consultation on the Core Strategy. The Strategy reflected the challenge faced by councils to balance many conflicting demands of its residents within the requirements of planning law and Government directives. The Leader went on to confirm that the Council was already in discussions with the County Council concerning how increased development would affect schools and the transport network and was also working closely with the Ribble Valley MP, Nigel Evans, to ensure that the Government fully understood the situation in the Borough.

The Leader confirmed that the Council had been working on the reorganisation of its Senior Management Team for some time in order to ensure that the Council was as effective and efficient as possible and he reported that a new structure had been announced recently. The Budget Working Group continued to meet and would be ready to prepare the Council's budget for the coming year. At this point in time he was able to confirm that the Policy and Finance Committee had agreed to freeze Member allowances for the second year running.

The Leader was pleased to congratulate the Chamber of Trade and Council Officers who had worked hard to make the Clitheroe Street Market such a huge success. He gave particular praise to Sam Turner and Pearl Mina from the Chamber of Trade and Ribble Valley Officers Chris Hughes and Rebecca Webster together with many volunteers who had made the day such a success with an estimated 15,000 people in attendance. He was also pleased that the launch of the Longridge Team had been another success and hoped that the forthcoming Longridge Big Weekend would be successful at attracting people into the town.

The Leader was pleased to report that Ribble Valley had recently been named as the third safest place in the UK, a jump of two places on the previous year and noted that all the agencies involved in the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership were to be congratulated for their outstanding commitment to reducing crime in the Ribble Valley. He expressed his disappointment at suggestions that this Community Safety Partnership might be merged with those of neighbouring councils.

Finally, the Leader praised staff who had achieved recent success in qualifications. The Leader congratulated all staff concerned for their excellent achievement and reaffirmed the Council's commitment to developing all its staff.

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LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Shadow Leader, Councillor A Knox, asked if the Leader would welcome the Government's announcement regarding lifting of restrictions on local authorities generating renewable power.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question. He confirmed that the Council was already looking for opportunities to assist others in their efforts to establish renewable energy generation, specifically small hydroelectric schemes.

Next Councillor Knox asked what advance planning the Council was to put in place in the case of extreme weather in the forthcoming winter. The Leader confirmed and reminded Members that many of the problems of last winter had arisen from the County Council being unable to adequately clear and salt the road network for the duration of the extreme weather. He confirmed that officers were currently working with colleagues at County Hall to ensure, as far as possible, that everyone was better prepared for this year.

Finally, Councillor Knox noted that the Scottish Government had recently estimated that the 2010 Open Golf Championship at St Andrews was worth some £70m to the Scottish economy and asked what plans Ribble Valley was putting in place to reap some of the benefits that would occur when the Open Championship was staged in Lancashire in 2012. The Leader replied that, together with colleagues in the Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board, the Council was currently developing a Visitor's Strategy to ensure that information regarding Ribble Valley and its facilities was available as part of the advertising and promotional work surrounding the Open in 2012. He confirmed that 2012 would be an exciting year with the Olympics, Preston Guild and a Torchlight Procession in Clitheroe.

Councillor Berryman then asked the Leader for information regarding the purpose of equipment which had been erected as part of the refurbishment at Salthill Park and particularly equipment that was on the fitness route. The Leader explained what the equipment was used for and that such items were in common use in play areas across the country. He confirmed that the draft design of the play area had been presented at a series of public meetings by the Tower Hill Youth Action Group in mid 2009 and that the group had been involved in the design and selection of equipment to be erected.

380 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Planning and Development Committee – 15 July 2010

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

(ii) Special Accounts and Audit Committee – 29 July 2010

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

(iii) Planning and Development Committee – 12 August 2010

Councillor T Hill wished to place on record his admiration and thanks for the conduct and role played by officers at the public meeting which had been held in Whalley to discuss the Core Strategy.

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

(iv) Licensing Committee – 31 August 2010

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

(v) Personnel Committee – 1 September 2010

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

(vi) Community Services Committee – 7 September 2010

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

(vii) Planning and Development Committee – 9 September 2010

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

(viii) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14 September 2010

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

(ix) Accounts and Audit Committee – 15 September 2010

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

(x) Health and Housing Committee – 16 September 2010

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

(xi) Policy and Finance Committee – 25 September 2010

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

(xii) Standards Committee – 22 September 2010

This meeting did not take place.

(xiii) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 23 September 2010

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

The meeting closed at 7.40pm

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