

## Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 26 April 2011, starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor L Rimmer (Chairman)

### Councillors:

R Adamson	E M H Ranson
P Ainsworth	M Robinson
J E Alcock	J Rogerson
D A Berryman	C Ross
S Brunskill	I Sayers
D C Eccleston	G Scott
R Hargreaves	R E Sherras
J B Hill	D T Smith
T Hill	J S Sutcliffe
B Hilton	M E Sutcliffe
K Hind	D Taylor
S A Hirst	M Thomas
J Holgate	R J Thompson
S Hore	N C Walsh
B Jones	J White
A M Knox	A Yearling

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

### 856 PRAYERS

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

### 857 APOLOGIES

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

### 858 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 859 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items of public participation.

### 860 MAYORAL PRESENTATIONS

The Mayor made a presentation to Stewart Bailey who had retired from the Council at the end of March after 36 years service in Local Government and 25

years service with the Council. The Mayor thanked Stewart for this service and presented him with a gift on behalf of the Council.

The Chairman of Planning and Development Committee, Councillor Richard Sherras, also thanked Stewart for the excellent service he had given to the Authority over the years.

861 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8 March 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

862 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported that she attended some 40 engagements since the last Council, the highlight of which had been the Freedom of the Borough Ceremony and celebrations. It had been a huge success and the Mayor wished to thank all who had been involved.

Other key events had been a visit to an outdoor gym at a Preston Park, a Civic tour of County Hall and the opening of the Old Station Buildings facility in Longridge.

The Mayor ended by thanking all who had supported her during her Mayoral year.

863 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader began by thanking the Mayor for her work during her Mayoral year. He then went on to highlight some of the key achievements of the Council over the last 4 years, including the transfer of the Council's housing stock which had been supported by over 81% of Tenants, the rollout of the recycling scheme (which had been achieved in a cost effective manner and had seen an increase in recycling rates), and the successful completion of the Job Evaluation exercise.

The last 4 years had also seen the retirement of the previous Chief Executive, D Morris and the successful appointment of a new Chief Executive.

The Council had also completed a Senior Management restructure in order to generate cost savings.

The Council had invested substantially in the borough through schemes such as the Castle refurbishment, the Ribble Valley Food Trail and in Longridge at the Station Buildings and the Civic Hall.

There had been four sets of elections during the last 4 years and the Leader congratulated officers and staff on the organisation of those elections.

The Leader was proud of what the Council had achieved during its term and believed that whilst borough residents were generally satisfied with living in the

Ribble Valley, there was still much to do with different challenges on the horizon for the newly elected Council in the months and years ahead.

The Leader thanked all the Council staff who had worked so hard and diligently during the last 4 years. He also wished to give special thanks to all retiring Councillors who had decided not to stand in the current elections and to those who might not be successful in the forthcoming election but whose contribution to the work of the Council during the time of office had been of great value.

Finally, the Leader wished to highlight the significant contribution of Councillors Stephen and Margaret Sutcliffe who had served on the Council for 21 years and 17 years respectively. He thanked them for their loyal and dedicated service to the Council and the residents of the borough and asked the Mayor to make a presentation to them in recognition of their long service.

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#### LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Shadow Leader of the Council, Councillor A Knox, asked if the Leader could confirm how many dog-fouling prosecutions there had been in each year since 2004. The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and reported that since 2004, the Council had issued 46 penalty notices and implemented 2 prosecutions with the breakdown being:

2004/5	-	6
2005/6	-	3
2006/7	-	7
2007/8	-	8
2008/9	-	8
2009/10	-	7
2010/11	-	1

He also pointed out that this had been supported by informal enforcement, advisory and proactive efforts that were undertaken by both the Council's Dog Warden and Amenity Cleansing Services to keep the valley clean.

Next Councillor Knox asked if the Leader would agree that one of the first actions of the new Council should be set up a working group to look at the implications of the Localism Bill. The Leader confirmed that the new Council would obviously decide what it wished to do as and when it was elected and that it would no doubt consider the implications of the Bill at the appropriate time.

Finally, Councillor Knox asked if the Leader could say whether there were any plans to replace the current Committee system. The Leader reported that as far as the Conservative Group was concerned there were no plans to replace the Committee system. Councillor Knox confirmed that the Liberal Democrats shared this view.

There were then three written questions to the Leader presented by Councillor D Berryman. Firstly Councillor Berryman reported that he had been approached by Clitheroe Cricket Club to locate a dog waste bin just inside the entrance gate

to the club on Chatburn Road. The club had been willing to fund the purchase of the bin themselves but had said that the Environmental Health Section had been unwilling to sanction collection of waste from the bin. Councillor Berryman asked if this meant that the Council's commitment to fighting dog fouling was waning.

The Leader thanked Councillor Berryman for his question and confirmed that the Council was highly committed to combating dog fouling and that in the past year alone the Council had provided a further 23 dog waste bins within the borough following full consultation with all Town and Parish Councils. He reported that the Cricket Club had been visited and assisted on a number of occasions with the issue of dog fouling and sourcing and erecting suitable notices. They had also been advised to approach the Town Council to have their site considered for support for future provision. However, it was unlikely that the site would meet the criteria and priority for future provision, as it was not a public open space maintained for community use. The Leader reminded Councillor Berryman that the site was private land and had not been registered by the Cricket Club for fouling controls when the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Order had been introduced in 1998.

Next Councillor Berryman reminded Members that in December last year he had asked the Leader about the football pitch and exercise equipment in Salthill Park, following which the Leader had confirmed that some minor work would be carried out at the park. Councillor Berryman thanked the Leader for getting the pitch marked out promptly but asked when signs would be erected to explain the trim trail equipment that was in place and thereby create more use of the facility.

The Leader thanked Councillor Berryman for his question and confirmed that the matter was currently in the hands of the equipment suppliers and that he understood the signs would be installed in the near future.

Finally, Councillor Berryman expressed concern that the Council's e-mail security screening appeared to be overly sensitive to non-existent profanities and large attachments. He believed short delays were acceptable but that Members should not have to wait days for e-mails to come through. He asked if the current policy could be reviewed to both ease the workload on the IT Section and make the system more efficient.

The Leader reported that the Council received and sent a total of approximately 3,500 e-mails every day which had to be monitored in order to ensure that the Council was not exposing itself to any undue risk in respect of computer viruses and other unsolicited and potentially malicious e-mails.

He also pointed out that the Council was controlled by the requirements of Central Government with regard to IT security which included the monitoring and control of e-mails. Under the Government Connect initiative, authorities had to act in compliance with the Code of Connection, which mandated specific IT controls for protective monitoring. Due to the high volume of communications that were made by e-mail, much of this monitoring process was automated. He confirmed that he would ask officers to undertake a review of the Council's

policies for the screening of e-mails in order to try and identify any improvements that could be made without compromising the integrity of the monitoring process.

865 PLACE JOINT COMMITTEE AND REGENERATE PENNINE LANCASHIRE

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive asking Members to consider whether the Council should continue to be a member of the PLACE Joint Committee and Regenerate Pennine Lancashire Ltd.

The report reminded Members that the Council had formally endorsed a proposal to join the PLACE Joint Committee and Regenerate Pennine Lancashire Ltd in August 2009.

The report highlighted that subsequent funding allocation had been disappointing and that the changes in Government had also had a significant impact on regional structures for the administration and allocation of future funding. In addition there had been a change of emphasis in the role of the private sector in relation to economic recovery at a local level.

The report asked Members to consider whether to give notice to terminate the Council's membership of the PLACE Joint Committee and Regeneration Pennine Lancashire Ltd.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Chief Executive give notice to terminate the Council's membership of the PLACE Joint Committee and Regenerate Pennine Lancashire;
2. the Chief Executive to have delegated authority, in consultation with the Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee as to how the Council's withdrawal should be conducted; and
3. the Chief Executive provide a progress report to the next meeting of Policy and Finance Committee.

866 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Community Committee – 15 March 2011

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

(ii) Planning and Development Committee – 17 March 2011

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

(iii) Licensing Committee – 22 March 2011

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

(iv) Personnel Committee – 23 March 2011

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

(v) Health and Housing Committee – 24 March 2011

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

(vi) Policy and Finance Committee – 29 March 2011

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute numbers 780 and 784.

MINUTE 780 – DELEGATION SCHEME

RESOLVED: That the changes to the Council's Constitution as set out in Appendix 3 of the main report be approved.

MINUTE 784 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management Strategy be approved.

(vii) Accounts and Audit Committee – 30 March 2011

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

(viii) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 31 March 2011

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

(ix) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 5 April 2011

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

(x) Planning and Development Committee – 7 April 2011

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

The Mayor closed the meeting by thanking Members for their support for the Mayoralty over the last 12 months and their contribution to the work of the Council over the last 4 years.

The meeting closed at 7.34pm.

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