

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 30 August 2011 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor S Hore (Chairman)

Councillors:

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| P Ainsworth | E M H Ranson |
| J E Alcock | L Rimmer |
| R Bennett | M Robinson |
| S Bibby | J Rogerson |
| S Brunskill | C Ross |
| S Carefoot | I Sayers |
| P Dowson | G Scott |
| J B Hill | R E Sherras |
| T Hill | D T Smith |
| B Hilton | R Swarbrick |
| S A Hirst | D Taylor |
| J Holgate | M Thomas |
| K Horkin | R J Thompson |
| S Knox | N C Walsh |
| R Newmark | A Yearling |

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

298 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Father J Scott, opened the meeting with prayers.

299 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Hargreaves, K Hind, A Knox, G Mirfin and J White.

300 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

301 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items of public participation.

302 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

303

MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on engagements attended since the last meeting. He had attended a wide range of school visits and the graduation ceremony at the University of Central Lancashire. The Mayor had been particularly impressed by the talent and enthusiasm of the young people he had met on these visits. The Mayor was also delighted at the success of the recent Ribble Valley Food Festival and wished to congratulate all who had been involved in the organisation of the event.

304

LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader began by reflecting on a range of outdoor events which had taken place over the summer and wished to thank the officers, volunteers and communities throughout the valley who had contributed to the success of those events. He believed such events served to bring people together and were a vital ingredient in the continuing success and development of communities across the borough.

The Leader also looked ahead to a bumper year for key events in 2012 with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Olympics, the Open Golf Championships, Preston Guild and the 500th Anniversary of the execution of the Pendle Witches. In addition, he was pleased to report that there would be another Clitheroe Food Festival and a Torchlight Procession in Clitheroe, on top of the normal annual shows and events. The Leader stressed that it was important that all events were successful and that they showcased the Ribble Valley as a key destination so all the valley's businesses could benefit from the year ahead.

The Leader went on to express his delight that a Ribble Valley Borough Council project aimed at tackling rural isolation and improving access to services had won a top award. The Council's Healthy Valley Project, which had been launched in conjunction with the Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership, Lancashire County Council and the East Lancashire Primary Care Trust, had won the government's 'Together we can' award. The Healthy Valley Project aimed to build bridges between different agencies and community members, and utilise village facilities more effectively. A system of 'village enablers' had been established and partner agencies co-ordinated their work in order to pool resources. The project had resulted in the refurbishment of a number of village facilities, the appointment of a community nurse and the launch of the mobile resource 'Stan the Van'. The award was testament to the hard work and enthusiasm of everyone involved in the Healthy Valley project and the Council had been delighted to receive it.

The Leader was also mindful that the Council still had some important decisions to make in the next few months. The next stage of the Council's reorganisation would have to be implemented, the Council would be participating in discussions on the changing face of government funding for local authorities and changes to the Council Tax Benefit system. Another key item that must be finalised was the Core Strategy. The Leader confirmed that the Council would continue to lobby the government in respect of their policy of increased development but could not

ignore the realities of the present law and practice. He acknowledged that Councillors had the difficult task of explaining to local residents the procedures that were mandatory in order to have an effective Core Strategy. The overall objective was to have a 'final' Core Strategy in place by the end of March with a public examination to take place in Summer 2012.

Next, Councillor Alcock asked a question relating to a member of the public who wanted to know why, as a resident of Darwen, she received copies of the Ribble Valley Newsletter by post. Councillor Alcock was also interested to know how many unsolicited and unwanted copies of the Newsletter were sent out at taxpayers' expense. The Leader thanked Councillor Alcock for her question and confirmed that Ribble Valley News was produced twice a year and delivered to 25,000 homes in the borough. The bulk of deliveries were made by Royal Mail using their direct mail service, the cost of which was 5p per copy. The direct mail delivery service was done using postcodes and as the Royal Mail postcode boundaries did not match those of the local authority, it resulted in a small number of residents in Darwen and other peripheral areas receiving copies of Ribble Valley News. The Leader confirmed that the Council was in discussions with Royal Mail to try and resolve the issue.

Next, Councillor J B Hill invited the Leader to reflect on arrangements being made by Lancashire County Council to replace Lancashire Locals with an alternative forum for Members to meet directly with County Council officers and planning officers on an occasional basis, and where highway issues were of significant importance in respect of major planning applications. The Leader thanked Councillor Hill for his question and reported that at the present time, there were no arrangements to replace Lancashire Locals. He noted that Lancashire County Council had devised a three tier forum that was due to be launched in November, however, this would not be a public forum and would not have a formal Committee structure, but would instead provide an opportunity for Members to come together in an informal setting to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern to their district.

305 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Planning and Development Committee – 14 July 2011

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

(ii) Community Committee – 19 July 2011

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

(iii) Health and Housing Committee – 21 July 2011

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

(iv) Policy and Finance Committee – 26 July 2011

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be approved with the exception of minute 232.

MINUTE 232

Members were asked to approve modifications to the Terms of References to Committees and the Officer Delegation Scheme.

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference to Committees and the Officer Delegation Scheme be approved.

(v) Planning and Development Committee – 11 August 2011

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

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

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