

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 29 April 2014, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R Sherras (Chairman)

Councillors:

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

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

736 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend D Isaacs, opened the meeting with prayers.

737 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of R J Elms, R Hargreaves, S Hore, M Robinson, J Shervey, R J Thompson and A Yearling.

738 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

739 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items of public participation.

740 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4 March 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on some 30 events that he had attended since the last Full Council. The main highlight of which had been his attendance along with the Leader at the Maundy Money presentations by Her Majesty the Queen at Blackburn Cathedral followed by lunch on 17 April.

He had attended a service at Bradford Cathedral to mark the end of the Bradford Diocese after 95 years and also a service of welcome by the Bishop and Area Dean into the Whalley Deanery of Blackburn Diocese to the parishes that had originally been in the old West Riding.

The Mayor also highlighted his participation, along with a local Police Officer, in a debate on “Graffiti – Art or Vandalism?” at Balderstone Primary School.

In reviewing his year in Office, the Mayor noted that he had attended a total of 191 events comprising a mixture of civic, business and charity events, award ceremonies and opening/unveilings, to which could be added those that had been attended by the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress.

Finally the Mayor thanked the Mayoress for her support and dedicated work on behalf of the Mayoral charities throughout the year. He also thanked the Mayor’s “PA” and Attendant for their assistance throughout the year and all Officers and Members who had supported himself and the Mayoress during their Mayoralty.

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LONG SERVICE AWARDS

The Mayor made presentations to staff who had achieved 25 years’ service with the Council. He presented gifts to:

Lynne Calver – Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive;
Steve Clarkson – Building Control Officer;
Dave Haslam – Grounds Maintenance Operative;
Kevin Rushton – Transport Manager;
John Heap – Director of Community Services; and
Marshal Scott – Chief Executive.

The Mayor thanked staff for their loyalty and commitment to the Council and for all their dedicated work over the years.

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LEADER’S REPORT

The Leader began by reflecting on the work of the Council over the last 12 months. He reminded Members of the two key priorities which he had set at the start of the municipal year, namely, the setting of a balanced budget and the completion of the Core Strategy. He was pleased that a balanced budget had been successfully achieved and approved at last month’s Council, and that despite continuing central grant cuts the Council had been able to safeguard core services and staff jobs whilst continuing to freeze Council Tax and protect and strengthen the corporate balance sheet.

In respect of the Core Strategy, the Leader confirmed that it was now moving into its final pre-adoption stage. The final submission would be approved next month for submission to the Inspector. The Leader congratulated all Members and Officers who continued to drive the process forward to what he believed would be a successful conclusion.

The Leader highlighted that this year the Council also celebrated the 40th anniversary of the administrative creation of the Ribble Valley in 1974. The new district of Ribble Valley had grown and prospered ever since and he believed that the borough was now a great success and that a genuine sense of civic pride and belonging had grown and developed and resonated with the people of the valley.

The Leader noted that since the last Full Council meeting the Council had received the news of the borough's MP Nigel Evans' acquittal, in relation to charges of which he had been accused almost 12 months ago. He passed on Mr Evans thanks to all Members who had supported him throughout the period.

The Leader ended by thanking the Mayor, on behalf of all Councillors, for his hard work and commitment throughout the year. He also paid tribute to the Mayor's Consort, who had been a huge asset to the Mayor throughout the Mayoralty. He passed on the sincere thanks of all Members to both the Mayor and Mayoress.

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LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the opposition, Councillor A Knox, asked if the Leader could confirm what performance data was available regarding the number of listed building applications and conservation area planning applications that had been made, against the numbers that had been overturned at appeal. He also asked if the Leader could advise on what the average length of time taken to determine applications had been from 2007 to date.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and confirmed that there had been 409 Listed Building Consent applications with 284 being approved and 124 refused. In addition there had been 13 appeals of which 10 had been dismissed, 2 allowed and 1 that had resulted in a split decision. The percentage of appeals allowed was 0.5% of all applications, or 15% of appeals. The Leader did not have information available on the average time taken to determine listed building applications, but confirmed that he would ask Officers to report the information to Planning and Development Committee as soon as possible.

Next Councillor Knox asked if the Leader would confirm how many scrap dealers were registered in Clitheroe and in the Borough as a whole.

The Leader noted that there were two types of Scrap Metal Licence – a Site Licence and a Mobile Collector Licence. He confirmed that there was one Site Licence in Clitheroe and one Site Licence and five Mobile Collector Licences in the Borough.

Finally Councillor Knox asked if the Leader would confirm how many fly tips had been recorded in the Ribble Valley between 2010/11 and the present.

The Leader confirmed that since 2007, the following number of fly tips had been recorded:

April 10 – March 11	:	434
April 11 – March 12	:	567
April 12 – March 13	:	794
April 13 – March 14	:	724

This had result in an overall tonnage of 128.57 tonnes for the period outlined.

745 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Community Committee – 11 March 2014

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

(ii) Licensing Committee – 18 March 2014

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

(iii) Personnel Committee – 19 March 2014

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

(iv) Health and Housing Committee – 20 March 2014

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

(v) Policy and Finance Committee – 25 March 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute numbers 678, 679, 685 and 686.

MINUTE 678 – DIVISION OF WISWELL PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That the Council authorise officers to make an Order in respect of the division of the Parish of Wiswell.

MINUTE 679 – AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS (PART 4 OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION)

RESOLVED: That the amendments to Standing Orders (Part 4 of the Council's Constitution) be approved.

MINUTE 685 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management Strategy 2014/2015 be approved.

MINUTE 686 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
2014/2015

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management Policies and Procedures 2014/2015 be approved.

(vi) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 27 March 2014

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

(vii) Accounts and Audit Committee – 22 April 2014

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

(viii) Planning and Development Committee – 10 April 2014

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

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

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