

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 28 April 2015 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor E M H Ranson (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	S Knox
J E Alcock	L Rimmer
S Bibby	M Robinson
I Brown	C Ross
S Brunskill	I Sayers
S Carefoot	G Scott
R J Elms	R E Sherras
R Hargreaves	D T Smith
T Hill	M Thomas
B Hilton	R J Thompson
S A Hirst	N C Walsh
J Holgate	J White
S Hore	A Yearling
A M Knox	

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

743 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Roger Wood, opened the meeting with prayers.

744 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Bennett, J Hill, K Hind, R Newmark, J Rogerson and R Swarbrick.

745 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

746 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items of public participation.

747 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 March 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

748 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor began by thanking his Chaplain for his service to the Mayoralty over the year. The Mayor then reflected on his role over the last 12 months and noted

the wide and varied range of events that he had attended including his boundary walk and various community events. In total he had attended nearly 300 events over the course of the year. The Mayor made particular reference to various events that had been held to commemorate World War 1 including a candlelit event at Waddington and the tree planting initiative that had taken place across the Parishes which had been a great success.

In respect of his 'Beating the Bounds' walks, the Mayor thanked the Walks Co-ordinator, Barrie Williams and Councillor Robert Thompson for their organisation and leadership in making the walks a success.

He reported that fundraising activities had gone very well over the year including events organised by the Mayoress and her Committee. The final total would be reported at the Annual Meeting.

The Mayor thanked the Administration Officer, the Town Hall Keeper and the Mayor's Attendant for all their hard work and support during the course of the year. He also thanked officers and staff for their contribution to the work of the Council, with final thanks to the Mayoress for her support throughout the mayoral year.

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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:

Trudy Holderness – Senior Accountant
Lawson Oddie – Head of Financial Services
Christine Speak – Administration Officer

Katharine Seed – Revenues Assistant had also received an award but had been unable to attend the meeting.

The Mayor also made presentations to:

Bill Alker – Community Development Officer
John Latter – Grounds Maintenance Operative

who were retiring after 40 and 50 years' service respectfully with the Council.

The Mayor thanked the 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 achievements of the Council over the last year. He reminded Members that at the beginning of the municipal year, he had identified three priorities, namely:

The setting of a balanced budget, the adoption of the Core Strategy and the conclusion of an agreement with the County on waste collection payments. He was pleased to report that these had all been successfully achieved.

The Leader then looked back at the work of the Council over the last 4 years of the Council term. He paid tribute to both Members and officers for their dedication, commitment and efforts in delivering first class effective and efficient services for the residents of the borough. He added his thanks and appreciation to the staff members who had received long service awards.

Finally, the Leader noted that seven members would be 'standing down' at the forthcoming elections. He reflected on their significant contribution to the Council during their terms of office and thanked them for their dedicated years of service.

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LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the opposition, Councillor A Knox, also added his congratulations and thanks to retiring members and the staff who had received long service awards.

Councillor Knox asked if the Leader could give an update on the roll out of Universal Credit.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and explained that the Universal Credit was a flagship programme under the Government's Welfare Reform programme. It had been introduced in Ribble Valley on 24 November 2014 and then was rolled out to the whole of the borough by the end of December 2014. Initially it had been restricted to single young claimants and as a result had had little impact on the work of the Council's Benefit section. The Leader reported that the scope of the programme had been extended to families on 2 March 2015 and claimant numbers were now increasing. However, due to the restricted qualifying criteria, it was not anticipated that numbers would increase significantly until 2016 at the earliest. The Leader reminded Members that the Council was assisting the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) with Universal Credit via the Delivery Partnership Agreement that the Council had signed last September, and that it would continue to assist with all issues arising as a result of the move to Universal Credit.

Next, Councillor Knox asked if the Leader would ensure that a report detailing the impact of continental markets on Clitheroe town centre parking would be submitted to Community Committee before any future continental market was allowed to proceed.

The Leader reminded Members that the development of the continental market had arisen from the work of the Economic Development Working Group and therefore he would expect that group to evaluate any impact on Clitheroe and the economy before approval was given for any future continental market. Whilst that working group reported to Policy and Finance Committee, the Leader was confident that the Chairman of the working group would forward the group's findings to the Chairman of Community Committee if any matters relating to impact on town centre parking were identified so that a decision could be taken as to whether any action involving the Community Committee was needed.

Finally, Councillor Knox asked the Leader to confirm how many planning applications had been rejected, now that the Core Strategy was in place that

would have been passed prior to its adoption. The Leader noted that although the Core Strategy was an important element against which applications were assessed, it was not the sole consideration in determinations and that prior to its adoption, significant weight had already been afforded to the Core Strategy in the decision making process. In that respect, it was difficult to give a precise number of refusals that could be attributed solely to the adoption of the Core Strategy. However, he could report that the Core Strategy had given officers and Planning and Development Committee more confidence in issuing refusals on at least 3 substantial residential schemes.

752 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Community Committee – 10 March 2015

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

(ii) Planning and Development Committee – 12 March 2015

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

(iii) Licensing Committee – 17 March 2015

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

(iv) Personnel Committee – 18 March 2015

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

(v) Health and Housing Committee – 19 March 2015

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

(vi) Policy and Finance Committee – 24 March 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of minute numbers 679, 683 and 684.

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

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

754 MINUTE 683 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2015/2016

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management Strategy 2015/2016 be approved.

755 MINUTE 684 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES 2015/2016

RESOLVED: That the treasury Management Policy and Procedures 2015/2016 be approved.

(vii) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 26 March 2015

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

(viii) Accounts and Audit Committee – 1 April 2015

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

(xi) Planning and Development Committee – 16 April 2015

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

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.

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