

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 12 July 2016, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor J Holgate (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	B Hilton
J E Alcock	K Hind
S Atkinson	S Hind
R Bennett	S A Hirst
S Bibby	S Hore
A Brown	A M Knox
S Brunskill	S Knox
S Carefoot	G Mirfin
P M Dobson	M Robinson
P Dowson	I Sayers
P Elms	G Scott
R J Elms	R E Sherras
M Fenton	D T Smith
M French	R Swarbrick
L Graves	D Taylor
R Hargreaves	N C Walsh
T Hill	J White

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Resources, Solicitor.

Councillor Geldard was not in attendance.

117 MINUTE'S SILENCE

The Mayor, Members and officers, stood in a minute's silence in memory of Frank Dyson, a past Councillor of the borough, who had died recently.

118 PRAYERS

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

119 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors I Brown, R Newmark, J Rogerson and R J Thompson.

120 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no pecuniary and non-pecuniary declarations of interest.

121 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

122 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 April 2016 and the Annual Council held on 10 May 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

123 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported upon the first two months of her mayoralty, which had been extremely busy. She referred to events associated with the Queen's 90th birthday and the anniversary of the Somme, in particular the raising of the flag on Armed Forces Day and standing on the plinth for the Somme Vigil on 1 July.

She was pleased to report that everywhere she visited she received a warm welcome and asked Members to support her at a fundraising coffee morning to be held on Saturday, 16 July 2016.

124 LEADER'S SPEECH

The Leader referred to the national context which had suddenly and completely changed in a short time and the changes which are now happening as a consequence.

Looking forward he referred to the national challenges and opportunities which would now follow in the wake of the Referendum vote with the only certainty to emerge being that of the immediate future being very uncertain and that clear leadership would be required to safeguard the economic prosperity and equally significantly the constitutional unity of the United Kingdom, the preservation of which must now be a priority of the utmost importance.

As far as this Council was concerned he reported that we must continue to focus our efforts on the business in hand in ensuring that we continue to operate in a competent and solvent manner but also be realistic in assessing the potential fallout consequences for us in local government. He reminded Members that the Chancellor had indicated clearly that we should expect a further tightening of the fiscal belt with further pressure on public expenditure to inevitably include local government. This potential added pressure, taken with the uncertainty of business rate retention; the abolition of central grants by 2020; an unpredictable level of new homes bonus and the impending loss of waste collection cost sharing from Lancashire County Council by 2018, means that more care and caution must be applied in framing the budget for next year.

The Leader identified clear policy priorities to be achieved within the civic year. These included approving a balanced budget for 2017/18 and approving budgetary arrangements in advance of the cessation of waste collection cost sharing arrangements in 2018. His aim was also to widen the scope of the budget process to achieve greater member involvement. This would be done by direct involvement through the input of various standing committees but also through extra budget seminars for Members as the budget process proceeds.

The Leader expressed his fears that the complex and difficult work involved in the EU exit negotiations would inevitably divert or at best delay government attention and resources away from announced policies which are impacting directly on local authorities; examples being business rates retention, new homes bonus and the combined authority timetable. He reassured Members that he would continue to ensure that our voice is clearly heard by and through all the organisations with whom he maintains active involvement.

In reference to the referendum itself, he reminded Councillors that whilst they might become consumed by the political consequences, it was easy to forget that in the background officers are working very hard to ensure that the mechanics of the process proceed flawlessly and he asked Members to join him in thanking the Chief Executive and all his staff for ensuring that Ribble Valley maintained the very highest standards, in particular with the way the Referendum was conducted.

125 LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Knox, asked what policies the Council have in regard to public houses being closed and converted to other uses. In his response, the Leader referred to the policies contained within the Core Strategy and in particular DMB1 – Supporting Business Growth and the Local Economy.

Next Councillor Knox asked about how the call-in procedure works and the Leader referred Councillor Knox to Standing Order 29 contained within the Council's Standing Orders. Councillor Knox asked if in future action sheets could be forwarded to Council Members by email.

Finally, Councillor Knox asked what actions the Council had taken in conjunction with the Forest of Bowland AONB Advisory Committee in the past year to prevent the continued decline of the Hen Harrier. The Leader referred to the formal partnership arrangement that the Council has with the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the way the Council supports its objectives and in particular the Biodiversity Delivery Plan. Councillor Knox requested that a detailed report be submitted to the Planning and Development Committee with regard to the demise of the Hen Harrier in this area.

126 NOTICE OF MOTION

A Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Alan Knox:

"We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. We, Ribble Valley Borough Council condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

Ribble Valley Borough Council will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support needed to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia.

We reassure all people living in Ribble Valley that they are valued members of our community."

The Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor T Hill and was then debated.

Members expressed their support for the motion and made reference to the recent Referendum.

RESOLVED: That the Notice of Motion be carried.

127 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Community Committee – 17 May 2016

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

(ii) Planning and Development Committee – 19 May 2016

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

(iii) Personnel Committee – 25 May 2016

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

(iv) Health and Housing Committee – 26 May 2016

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

(v) Policy and Finance Committee – 7 June 2016

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

(vi) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 9 June 2016

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

(vii) Licensing Committee – 14 June 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minutes 86 and 87.

Minute 86 – Review of Convictions Policy for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licences

Members were asked to approve the Convictions Policy that had been set out as an Appendix to the report and adopt it.

RESOLVED: That the Convictions Policy be adopted.

Minute 87 – Policy and Procedure for Film Classification

Members were asked to approve the Policy for Determining Film Classification as had been outlined in the report to the Licensing Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Policy for Determining Film Classification be adopted.

(viii) Accounts and Audit Committee – 29 June 2016

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

(ix) Planning and Development Committee – 30 June 2016

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).