

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 27 September 2016 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor J Holgate (Chairman)

Councillors:

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

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

Councillor Geldard was not in attendance.

266 MINUTE'S SILENCE

The Mayor, Members and Officers, stood in a minute's silence in memory of Monica Carefoot, a past Deputy Mayoress of the Borough and Kathleen Hill, a past Mayoress of the Borough, who had both died recently.

267 PRAYERS

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

268 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Atkinson, R Bennett, P Elms, R Elms, M French, T Hill, S Hore and J Rogerson.

269 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

270 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items of public participation.

271 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council and the Special Council held on 12 July 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

272 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on a number of events that she had attended in a very busy period over the last three months. These events included visits to two agricultural shows; she had opened new homes in Whalley and Ribchester and had attended Women's Institute events. She had also been a guest at Yorkshire Day in Halifax and had recently opened the Business Awards event at Mytton Fold. She also thanked all who had attended recent fund raising events.

273 LEADER'S SPEECH

The Leader highlighted some of the financial challenges that the Council would face in the future. He noted that the Council already knew that the central Government grant would be phased out by 2020 but the introduction of the new business rate retention scheme that would replace it still lacked detail, which made accurate budgeting difficult. The New Homes bonus proposals were equally obscure and County Council cuts continued to impact on residents. The Leader assured Members that the Council would continue to focus its efforts on providing high quality services within a framework of sound and prudent financial management.

The Leader reported on the ongoing work that had been carried out in respect of the Clitheroe Market development. He was hopeful that the refreshed and enlarged cross party working group that had been established would set the framework for serious and meaningful consultation, which would achieve an outcome that was acceptable to both stakeholders and residents.

The Leader then updated Members on progress with the Lancashire Combined Authority proposals. He reported that earlier in the month, the first meeting in shadow form, of the Lancashire Combined Authority had taken place and the working group which had been established at Policy and Finance Committee to monitor progress, would be meeting in the next few weeks. He did note however, that following the appointment of the new Prime Minister and government, progress had slowed and it was uncertain that full incorporation of a combined authority would be achieved by the Spring of 2017.

Finally, the Leader extended his congratulations to the Ribble Valley athletes who had represented the County at the recent Rio Olympics.

274 LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the opposition, Councillor A Knox, asked what action the Council was taking to achieve the government's target of producing 50% of energy from renewable sources.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and explained that the Council's approach to the government target was supported through the application of relevant Core Strategy policies, namely DMG1 and DME5. Policy

DMG1 related to use of sustainable construction techniques where possible to provide evidence that energy efficiency had been incorporated into schemes. Policy DME5 recognised that the Council would support the development of renewable energy schemes providing it could be shown that such developments would not cause unacceptable harm to the local environment or local amenity. The Leader confirmed that the implementation of these policies was part of the monitoring framework for the Core Strategy.

Next Councillor Knox asked which sports the Council had supported over the past 5 years and asked for a breakdown in percentage terms by sport per year. The Leader provided a breakdown of sporting excellence grants given to individuals and recreation grants made to clubs since 2011. This list covered some 22 sports. He also outlined other actions taken by the Council to support a range of sports within the borough, including football, cricket, cycling and swimming.

Finally, Councillor Knox asked how much revenue had accrued to the Council through car parking fines in each of the past 5 years. The Leader provided figures for income from car parking for the last 5 years as follows:

2012/2013	£28,594.00
2013/2014	£24,437.00
2014/2015	£18,070.47
2015/2016	£14,702.00
2016/2017 to date	£ 8,604.60
Total	<u>£94,408.07</u>

275 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Planning and Development Committee – 21 July 2016

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

(ii) Accounts and Audit Committee – 17 August 2016

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

(iii) Planning and Development Committee – 18 August 2016

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

(iv) Community Committee – 23 August 2016

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

(v) Personnel Committee – 31 August 2016

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

(vi) Health and Housing Committee – 1 September 2016

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

(vii) Policy and Finance Committee – 6 September 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting (with the exception of Minute number 217) be received.

Minute 217 – Local Government Boundary Commission for England Review – Council Size

Members were asked to approve Policy and Finance Committee's recommendations to:

1. approve a submission to retain 40 Elected Members to the Boundary Commission; and
2. form a Working Group comprised of 7 Members including all party representatives to work on the response to the Warding Consultation.

Councillor K Hind proposed an amendment to the resolution that added the following:

"Ribble Valley Borough Council support the need to reduce the House of Commons 600 MPs and create constituencies of equal size in the interests of democracy and accountability.

Notes the recommendations of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission to divide the Ribble Valley Parliamentary Constituency into three parts and divide the Borough between two new constituencies (1) Clitheroe and Colne and (2) North Lancashire and abandon the name Ribble Valley.

The Council submit proposals that:

1. reject the Boundary Commission Parliamentary proposal for the Ribble Valley;
2. urge counter proposals upon the Boundary Commission which keep the Ribble Valley Borough in one parliamentary constituency, to be called Ribble Valley;
3. direct the Chief Executive to write on behalf of the Council to the Boundary Commission setting out the Council's position and to submit the Council's views in writing to the Assistant Commissioner appointed to share the public hearings on the future, shape and size of Lancashire parliamentary seats before the first public hearing on 11 October 2016 in Manchester; and
4. submit proposals that:
 - (i) base the Council's proposals on community interest keeping the new constituency within the borough;
 - (ii) avoid the new constituency covering more than two local authority areas;

- (iii) keep the numbers in the new constituency within the tolerance level of 71,507 and 78,507;
- (iv) minimise the amount of change and voter movement from the existing Ribble Valley parliamentary constituency to the proposed new one;
- (v) send every Town and Parish Council, and other voluntary cultural and business organisation in the Ribble Valley a copy of the Council's views and urge them to support the Council's proposals for the Ribble Valley constituency and to send their views to the Boundary Commission; and
- (vi) ask the working group established by Policy and Finance Committee along with the Chief Executive to finalise the Council's proposals.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor S Hirst.

Councillor A Knox proposed an adjournment to consider the amendment. The meeting was adjourned at 7.20pm.

The meeting reconvened at 7.30pm. The matter was then debated. A vote was taken in favour of the amendment.

RESOLVED: That the amended resolution as submitted by Councillor K Hind be approved.

(viii) Parish Council Liaisons Committee – 8 September 2016

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

(ix) Licensing Committee – 13 September 2016

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

(x) Planning and Development Committee – 15 September 2016

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

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

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