

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 9 July 2019, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor S Brunskill (Chairman)

Councillors:

J E Alcock	S A Hirst
S Atkinson	B Holden
A Austin	S Hore
R Bennett	A Humphreys
D Berryman	A M Knox
S Bibby	S Knox
D Birtwhistle	G Mirfin
A Brown	R Newmark
I Brown	D O'Rourke
R Buller	S O'Rourke
S Carefoot	D Peat
J Clark	S Rainford
L Edge	M Robinson
R J Elms	J Rogerson
S Fletcher	J Schumann
M French	G Scott
J Hill	R E Sherras
B Hilton	R J Thompson
M Hindle	N C Walsh

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Economic Development and Planning, Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

124 PRAYERS

Councillor Stuart Hirst opened the meeting with prayers.

125 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor R Baxter.

126 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

127 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

128 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 April 2019 and the Annual Meeting held on 14 May 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

129 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on a wide range of events that she had attended since taking up this position at the Annual Meeting.

130 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader informed Council that it was a privilege to serve in this position and as such his priorities for the Council were to manage the finances, improve infrastructure and retain the independence of Ribble Valley Borough Council.

He referred to Ribble Valley Borough Council leading on the Business Rate Pilot Scheme; being appointed as Deputy Chair on Lancashire District Leaders' Group and joining the Board of the Lancashire Economic Partnership.

He informed Council of recent positive actions taken by the Council that included the purchase of 2 houses in Longridge; a one-off grant towards the 280 bus; the pursuing improved rail connections and a meeting with the Police about resources for Ribble Valley.

Disappointing outcomes were the appeal decision on Henthorn Road, Clitheroe and the unsuccessful expression of interest in the High Street Fund.

Finally, the Leader informed Council of an event to look forward to in 2020 was the Duke of Lancaster Regiment exercising their freedom in March in the Borough on 28 April 2020.

131 LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Allan Knox asked the Leader how much money Pendle Borough Council was giving to subsidise the 280 bus.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and confirmed that the latest information he had was that Pendle Borough Council had not contributed to the 280 bus.

Councillor Knox's supplementary comment was to ask the Leader to encourage Pendle Borough Council to make a contribution to this service.

Next Councillor Knox asked for statistics on the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting in the Ribble Valley over each of the last five years compared with the national mean and national maximum for English district councils.

The Leader reported upon the statistics which basically outlined that this figure had reduced for Ribble Valley Borough Council by 6.7% over five years from 2013/14 to 2017/18. Councillor Knox suggested that we should be doing more to increase the recycling rates. The Leader had requested officers to present a report to Community Committee on this subject.

Finally Councillor Knox asked for an update on the plight of the Hen Harrier in the Forest of Bowland. The Leader reported that Hen Harrier chicks had hatched in June this year for the second year running in Bowland the RSPB staff and volunteers had been monitoring them closely ever since.

Conservationists were now hoping that this positive step towards a second successful breeding season on the Bowland estate indicated its re-establishment as a Hen Harrier stronghold.

132 CHANGES TO COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee that as the Accounts and Audit Committee was the main scrutinising Committee of the Council, it was good practice for the Leader and Deputy Leader not to be Members of it. This meant that adjustments needed to be made to the Memberships agreed at the Annual Council meeting in May 2019.

The Leader proposed that himself and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Simon Hore, be replaced by Councillors Mark Hindle and Angeline Humphreys on the Accounts and Audit Committee and that Councillor Hore would take Councillor Humphreys place on Parish Council Liaison and he would take Councillor Hindle's place on Personnel Committee.

The proposal was seconded and a vote was taken.

RESOLVED: That the changes suggested by the Leader be approved.

133 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Community Committee – 28 May 2019

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

(ii) Planning and Development Committee – 30 May 2019

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

(iii) Licensing Sub-Committee – 4 June 2019

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

(iv) Licensing Committee – 4 June 2019

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

(v) Health and Housing Committee – 6 June 2019

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

(vi) Personnel Committee – 12 June 2019

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

(vii) Economic Development Committee – 13 June 2019

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

(viii) Policy and Finance Committee – 18 June 2019

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

(ix) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 20 June 2019

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

(x) Planning and Development Committee – 27 June 2019

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

134 NOTICE OF MOTION

A Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Stephen Atkinson:

“That this Council objects to the creation of a Pennine Lancashire Unitary Authority and firmly believes the residents of Ribble Valley are best served by an improved two tier system of local government in Lancashire.”

The Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Simon Hore and was then debated.

RESOLVED: The following Notice of Motion be carried:

“That this Council objects to the creation of a Pennine Lancashire Unitary Authority and firmly believes the residents of Ribble Valley are best served by an improved two tier system of local government in Lancashire.”

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

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