

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 22nd MARCH, 2018**

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor David Whalley – in the Chair)

Councillors

G. Adam
M. Adams
Nadeem Ahmed
Nawaz Ahmed
M. Ammer
Mohammed Arshad
N. H. Ashraf
W. Blackburn
R. E. Carroll
D. Clegg
S. E. Cockburn-Price
T. A. Cooney
L. M. Crossley
M. S. Foxley
M. Goulthorp
A. R. Greaves
J. M. P. Henderson
M. Iqbal
Y. Iqbal
D. E. Lord

N. T. McCollum
P. A. McCormick
A. Mahmood
B. Newman
J. A. Nixon
S. Petty
J. Purcell
G. Roach
M. Sakib
K. E. Shore
J. K. Starkie
C. Teall
K. Turner
C. Wakeford
G. Waugh
D. M. Whipp
P. White
S. Wicks
N. Younis

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. Butterworth, J. Cooney, L. Davy, M. Horsfield and N. McEvoy).

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70. MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor P. White and –

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council meetings held on 21st December, 2017 and 22nd February, 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

72. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

No announcements were made.

73. MAYORALTY

(a) To consider the Mayoralty for 2018/19

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor L. Crossley and

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

That Councillor J. K. Starkie be invited to be Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

(b) To consider the Deputy Mayoralty for 2018/19

It was moved by Councillor D. M. Whipp, seconded by Councillor P. White and

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

That Councillor K. Hartley be invited to be Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

74. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER

There were no questions from members of the public.

**75. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS TO THE LEADER,
A COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OR A REPRESENTATIVE ON AN OUTSIDE BODY
ON MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor White said that in the light of the Liberal Democrat and Labour decision to oppose voter ID and other government measures to tackle voter fraud in this year's local elections, he asked what was the Council doing to tackle voter fraud.

In response the Leader said it had been a Council decision not to pursue voter ID and that there had not been a single proven case of voter personation in the Borough over the past 20 years. He commented that the introduction of voter ID could also prevent people who did not possess the required ID from voting.

Councillor White's supplementary question referred to incidents of alleged voter fraud in the Borough and he said by not introducing voter ID this gave the impression that the Council was not serious in tackling the problem. The Leader said the Council had a very good working relationship with the Police and encouraged anyone who came across voter fraud to report it to the Police. He also referred to the successful meeting held each year prior to the elections with party candidates, election agents, officers and the police.

Councillor Foxley said, following International Women's Day, it surely was regrettable that there were no female Asian Councillors on Pendle Council. She asked the Leader what he was doing to address this.

In response the Leader said every political party should encourage all people to come forward to stand as Councillors. It should not matter whether they were male, female, transgender or of a particular faith etc. One sector of the community should not be tarnished in this way.

Councillor Goulthorp asked if the Leader welcomed the recent reopening of Barrowford Library and the recently announced plans to reopen Earby and Trawden and did he agree that shutting these libraries was unnecessary and costly?

The Leader said Pendle Council had no involvement in the reopening of Barrowford Library but he welcomed any investment from the County Council that enabled the facility still to be used.

In a supplementary question Councillor White made reference to the poor condition of the roads in the vicinity of these libraries and asked the Leader if he would join in lobbying the County Council to allocate funding for the much needed repairs to these roads. Councillor Whipp also made reference to the length of time it was taking for the County Council to transfer the Library in Trawden to the Trawden Forest Community Group.

Councillor Nadeem Ahmed said following the closure of Burnley's A&E department under Labour in 2007 and the opening of a brand new £9M Urgent Care Centre in 2014 under the Conservatives, did the Leader welcome this month's announcement of a £15.6M investment at Burnley General Hospital using funds secured with the help of Pendle's MP?

In response the Leader said it was Gordon Birtwistle, a Burnley Councillor, who had worked hard to secure the funding for the urgent care centre and not Pendle's MP.

76. REPORT BY THE LEADER ON THE EXECUTIVE'S WORK

The Leader submitted, for information, a report on the work of the Executive since the last meeting.

77. REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Team submitted a report on Overview and Scrutiny activity since the last meeting of the Council.

78. MEMBER CHAMPIONS

Council received updates from the following Member Champions:

Councillor A. R. Greaves	Cycling Champion
Councillor D. Whalley	Dementia Champion
Councillor W. Blackburn	Disability and Mental Health Champion
Councillor D. E. Lord	Every Child Matters Champion
Councillor P. A. McCormick	Older People's Champion
Councillor Y. Iqbal	Young People's Champion

79. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2018/19

Council considered a report from the Financial Services Manager on the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2018/19.

This report had been considered by the Executive at its meeting on 15th March, 2018 where it was resolved:

“That Council be recommended to approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19, as detailed in Appendix A attached to the report along with:

- (a) The prudential indicators and limits referred to in Sections 2 and 3 of the Strategy document.
- (b) The statement by the Financial Services Manager, shown in paragraph 9 in the report indicating compliance with the requirement to keep borrowing below the council’s capital financing requirement over the medium-term.
- (c) The revised policy on the Minimum Revenue Provision for 2018/19 (Section 5.1.2 on page 19 of the Strategy) including the circumstances in which the Minimum Revenue Provision may not be required.”

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor A. Mahmood –

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19, as detailed in Appendix A attached to the report be approved, along with:

- (a) The prudential indicators and limits referred to in Sections 2 and 3 of the Strategy document.
- (b) The statement by the Financial Services Manager, shown in paragraph 9 in the report indicating compliance with the requirement to keep borrowing below the council’s capital financing requirement over the medium-term.
- (c) The revised policy on the Minimum Revenue Provision for 2018/19 (Section 5.1.2 on page 19 of the Strategy) including the circumstances in which the Minimum Revenue Provision may not be required.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor K. Turner, seconded by Councillor P. White –

That the proposed straight line percentage of 2.5% (giving rise to a repayment term of 40 years) be amended to 4%, adopting a shorter repayment term of 25 years for the pre-2008 debt.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST** and it was

RESOLVED

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19, as detailed in Appendix A attached to the report be approved, along with:

- (a) The prudential indicators and limits referred to in Sections 2 and 3 of the Strategy document.

- (b) The statement by the Financial Services Manager, shown in paragraph 9 in the report indicating compliance with the requirement to keep borrowing below the council's capital financing requirement over the medium-term.
- (c) The revised policy on the Minimum Revenue Provision for 2018/19 (Section 5.1.2 on page 19 of the Strategy) including the circumstances in which the Minimum Revenue Provision may not be required.

80.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Planning Reforms

It was moved by Councillor Y. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor A. Mahmood –

This Council notes the recent announcement by the Housing Secretary, Sajid Javid MP to overhaul planning laws. This Council also notes with great concern that the government is threatening local authorities of “breathing down your neck every day and night” to ensure home-building targets are met.

This Council is concerned that local authorities will be stripped of the right to decide on planning decisions if housing targets are not met.

This Council supports and welcomes the building of affordable and quality houses. However, this Council considers that planning applications should be determined by local authorities and not independent inspectors as proposed under the new plans.

This Council therefore resolves to respond to the consultation arguing against the change to planning laws. The Council also resolves to write to Andrew Stephenson MP and ask him to use his influence in government to campaign against these plans.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor P. White, seconded by Councillor G. Waugh –

This Council notes the recent announcement by the Housing Secretary, Sajid Javid MP to overhaul planning laws.

This Council welcomes the fact that these overhauls will see the draft National Planning Policy Framework launched for consultation and welcomes the reforms around housing targets set out in the Housing White Paper as part of that.

This Council notes that the figures for Pendle would reduce by 45% from 298 to 159 units per year.

Furthermore, this Council resolves, subject to the outcome of the consultation, to reflect these figures in the Core Strategy at the earliest possible point by overlaying an addendum to the Core Strategy accompanied by a justifying evidence base.

In accordance with rule 17.4 of the constitution and at the request of two Councillors a recorded vote was taken.

Those Councillor voting in favour of the amendment were:

R. E. Carroll, S. E. Cockburn-Price, T. A. Cooney, L. M. Crossley, M. S. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, N. T. McCollum, P. A. McCormick, J. Nixon, S. Petty, J. Purcell, J. K. Starkie, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh and P. White.

Those Councillors voting against the amendment were:

G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, Mohammed Arshad, D. Clegg, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal D. E. Lord, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, G. Roach, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, C. Teall, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.

16 in favour and 21 against.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST**.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor A. R. Greaves, seconded by Councillor Y Iqbal –

This Council notes the recent announcement by the Housing Secretary, Sajid Javid MP to overhaul planning laws. This Council also notes with great concern that the government is threatening local authorities of “breathing down your neck every day and night” to ensure home-building targets are met.

This Council is concerned that local authorities will be stripped of the right to decide on planning decisions if housing targets are not met.

This Council supports and welcomes the building of affordable and quality houses, including social housing and housing for disabled people. However, this Council considers that planning applications should be determined by local authorities and not independent inspectors as proposed under the new plans.

This Council therefore resolves to respond to the consultation arguing against the change to planning laws. The Council also resolves to write to Andrew Stephenson MP and ask him to use his influence in government to campaign against these plans.

Council recalls that the government issued a new housing consultation in September 2017 “Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places” which included indicative new housing figures for each council area.

It notes that the government have not yet responded to this consultation or issued any new housing figures.

It further notes that in a reply to questions from Lord Greaves in the House of Lords, the government stated that the numbers set out in adopted local plans (such as the Pendle Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy) stand and have to be adhered to, until such time as the local plan is replaced or amended, a process which would take several years.

It finally notes that Pendle Council is currently developing its Local Plan Part 2 including the crucial matter of site allocations; that this is the opportunity to take out unsuitable sites such as those at

Greenberfield in Barnoldswick and The Lidgett Triangle in Colne; and that diverting Pendle's limited planning resources from this work could be disastrous for the sites concerned.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED

That the motion as amended be agreed.

(b) Volunteers

It was moved by Councillor B. Newman, seconded by Councillor D. E. Lord –

That this Council notes with appreciation the efforts of volunteers, together with staff of Lancashire County and Pendle Borough Councils and other agencies during the recent harsh winter conditions.

This Council places on record its thanks to all such volunteers, emergency workers, farmers, contractors and staff for helping to maintain vital services, helping vulnerable people in need and helping to keep Pendle moving.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(c) Road Warden Schemes

It was moved by Councillor D. Clegg, seconded by Councillor D. M. Whipp –

Council notes the success of volunteer based road warden schemes, such as Devon County Council's which allowed local people to organise and carry out work on the highway.

Council also notes the very poor condition of local highways this winter and the risks that this had posed to road and pavement users.

Therefore, Council resolves to request Lancashire County Council to adopt and promote a volunteer road warden scheme in order to help deal with problems and carry out improvements on our highways.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(d) Blue Light Services

It was moved by Councillor D. M. Whipp, seconded by Councillor B. Newman –

Council reaffirms its resolution on 21st December, 2017 regarding 'blue light' services.

Council (22.03.2018)

Council notes the continued reductions in local policing evidenced by the loss of more opening hours of police station front counters, the loss of County Council funded PCSO's and abstraction of local officers to police fracking sites etc.

Council also notes the recent HMIC inspection report which was critical of Lancashire Constabulary and other agencies with regard to child protection issues and the continued increases in crime rates.

Council once again resolves to request the Member of Parliament for Pendle to take effective action within government to secure sufficient funding for police and community safety services to adequately protect residents in the borough.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(e) Women's Refuges

It was moved by Councillor D. E. Lord, seconded by Councillor M. Adams –

Council notes possible changes to the welfare system which would jeopardise the future of women's refuges and other short-term supported housing accommodation.

Council believes this would put vulnerable people at risk and accordingly resolves that Pendle's MP be requested to use his influence in government to ensure that such services retain adequate funding for them to continue to provide sanctuary in future.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

His Worship the Mayor _____