

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 4th JULY, 2018**

PRESENT –

His Worship the mayor (Councillor J. K. Starkie – in the Chair)

Councillors

G. Adam
M. Adams
Nadeem Ahmed
Nawaz Ahmed
M. Ammer
Musawar Arshad
N. H. Ashraf
W. Blackburn
N. Butterworth
R. E. Carroll
J. Cooney
T. A. Cooney
L. M. Crossley
V. A. Fletcher
M. S. Foxley
P. J. Foxley
M. Goulthorp
A. R. Greaves
K. Hartley
J. M. P. Henderson

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

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, N. McEvoy and A. Mahmood)



18. MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor J. K. Starkie, seconded by Councillor P White and –

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 17th May, 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

20. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor gave an update on a number of the Mayoresses charity events which included the Buy a Bag Scheme, 'Together' Positive Emotional Health and Wellbeing Schools Event and a Charity Walk to the Sculpture Trail in Barley.

21. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER

There were no questions from members of the public.

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

There were no questions from Members.

23. REPORT FROM THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Leader submitted, for information, a report on the work of the Policy and Resources Committee since the last meeting. The report outlined the process, the work involved and the decisions required.

24. COUNCIL SIZE AND FREQUENCY OF ELECTIONS

The Corporate Director submitted a report on proposals to reduce the number of Borough Councillors and the possibility of reducing the frequency of Borough elections.

The stages of an electoral review; the Councillor/elector ratios (as at May 2018) and comparisons with the Council's "nearest neighbours" as identified by CIPFA were also presented to Council.

The last electoral review was completed in 2000 where the number of Councillors in Pendle was reduced from 51 to 49 along with significant changes made to existing wards. Currently there were 13 three-Member, 3 two-Member and 4 one-Member wards. In the past there had been a suggested reduction of around 4 and 15 councillors.

The Boundary Commission would publish draft recommendations for consultation and then final recommendations. It was estimated the review would take about 12 months. The start date would be dependent on the Commission's review programme. The implementation of changes would be at the next elections following the making of the Statutory Order, likely to be May 2020. An all-out election would be needed.

The report acknowledged the work already carried out by the Governance Working Group. Work on possible submissions based on fifteen x three and seventeen x two Member wards had been done. The outcome of both was a worsening of electoral equality with considerable changes required to many of the existing wards. Further work would therefore be required including work on population projections.

Reference was made to moving to whole elections and the procedure for this was set out in the report.

It was moved by Councillor P. White, seconded by Councillor J. Cooney and –

RESOLVED

- (1) That Council reaffirms its decision to carry out an electoral review and the Boundary Commission be informed of this.

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- (2) That Council wishes to move to no more than 30 Councillors.
- (3) That a report from the Governance Working Group (membership of 2:2:2) be reconvened as soon as practicable to consider options for a pattern of wards represented by no more than 30 Councillors and a further report be submitted as soon as possible.
- (4) That the Corporate Director start the procedure for consideration of a move to whole elections, as set out in paragraph 26 of the report, by undertaking the required consultation exercise with the intention of a special meeting being convened on the date of the next ordinary meeting of the Council, 25th September, 2018.

25. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Corporate Director submitted a report which set out recommendations from the Council's Community Governance Review.

The Review looked at the parishing of the Borough including the number and areas of town and parish councils and their electoral arrangements including wards and numbers of Councillors. The findings were detailed in the report.

It was moved by Councillor P. White, seconded by Councillor J. Cooney and

RESOLVED

That no further action be taken on the Community Governance Review.

26. STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2020

The Chief Executive submitted the Council's Strategic Plan for 2018-2020. The Plan had been referred to the Policy and Resources Committee in June where they resolved "that Council be recommended to agree the Strategic Plan for 2018/20."

The Plan had been discussed with the Leader of the Council in the light of the new Conservative administration's manifesto priorities.

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

RESOLVED

That the Council's Strategic Plan for 2018/20 be approved.

REASON

To ensure the Council focuses on its priorities and delivers high quality, accessible services.

27. RECORDED VOTES

Members were reminded that in accordance with Rule 17 of the Procedure at Full Council all votes on budget issues would be recorded. This included all motions and amendments.

28. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW RECYCLING ARRANGEMENTS

The Corporate Director submitted a report which provided an update on the implementation of the new waste and recycling arrangements, in particular the delivery of the blue bins for recycling; and recommended approval of a capital virement of £90,000 for the acquisition of the remaining bins required.

This report had been considered by the Policy and Resources Committee on 26th June where they resolved “that Council be recommended to approve a supplementary virement of £90,000 from the capital provision for Property Health and Safety to cover the purchase of a further 2,000 bins to fulfil remaining demand for the bins and to cover the annual demand for replacement and new other bins.”

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

RESOLVED

That a supplementary virement of £90,000 be approved from the capital provision for Property Health and Safety to cover the purchase of a further 2,000 bins to fulfil remaining demand for the bins and to cover the annual demand for replacement and new other bins.

REASON

To complete the implementation of the new collection arrangements.

In accordance with Rule 17 of the Council’s Constitution, a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion:

Councillors G. Adam, M. Adams, Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, M. Ammer, Musawar Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, W. Blackburn, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, J. Cooney, T. A. Cooney, L. M. Crossley, V. A. Fletcher, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Horsfield, N. T. McCollum, P. A. McCormick, N. McGowan, B. Newman, J. Nixon, S. Petty, J. Purcell, G. Roach, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, J. K. Starkie, C. Teall, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Wauch, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp, P. White and S. Wicks.

No Councillors voted against or abstained.

29. REVIEW OF REVENUE RESERVES AS AT 31st MARCH, 2018

The Chief Financial Officer submitted a report on the outcome of a review of the Council’s revenue reserves following completion of the draft accounts for 2017/18. Approval was also sought to transfer amounts from specific reserves to the Budget Strategy Reserve to support the ongoing development of the Council’s challenging Medium Term Financial Plan position.

This report had been considered by the Policy and Resources Committee on 26th June where they resolved “that the transfer in 2017/18 of £0.466m from specific reserves to the Budget Support Reserve be recommended to Council for approval.”

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

RESOLVED

That the transfer in 2017/18 of £0.466m from specific reserves to the Budget Support Reserve be approved.

REASON

To inform the Council of it's out-turn position on revenue budgets for 2017/18.

In accordance with Rule 17 of the Council's Constitution, a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion:

Councillors G. Adam, M. Adams, Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, M. Ammer, Musawar Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, W. Blackburn, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, J. Cooney, T. A. Cooney, L. M. Crossley, V. A. Fletcher, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Horsfield, N. T. McCollum, P. A. McCormick, N. McGowan, B. Newman, J. Nixon, S. Petty, J. Purcell, G. Roach, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, J. K. Starkie, C. Teall, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Wauch, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp, P. White and S. Wicks.

No Councillors voted against or abstained.

30. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Accessible Pendle

It was moved by Councillor W. Blackburn, seconded by Councillor D. Whalley –

This Council acknowledges the potential difficulties that can be posed for disabled people in accessing town centre services and premises.

This Council is keen to highlight these inherent issues, to promote accessibility and ensure both Members and the wider community are aware of the issue and the small changes that can be made to ensure full accessibility for all.

This Council, through the work of the Disability and Mental Health Champion, agrees to work with local businesses, Pendle Disability Forum and other organisations to promote an “Accessible Pendle” campaign and work towards an “Accessible Pendle” event to highlight these issues.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(b) Rolls Royce, Barnoldswick

It was moved by Councillor C. Teal, seconded by Councillor T. Whipp –

Council notes with grave concern the announcement of job losses at Rolls Royce, Barnoldswick together with a nationwide reduction in the company's workforce of thousands of people.

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Council also notes the statements of major multi-national manufacturing companies Airbus, Siemens and BMW about the impact of Brexit on their presence in Britain. Council further notes that the proportion of people employed in manufacturing in Pendle is the highest in the country.

Council therefore resolves to urge Pendle's MP, other North West MPs and Members of the House of Lords to do all that they can to ensure that further jobs in manufacturing are not lost due to Brexit and instructs the Chief Executive to write to them accordingly.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor P. White, seconded by Councillor J. Cooney –

Council notes with concern 162 job losses at Rolls Royce, Barnoldswick which were announced in April of this year.

It also notes the most recent announcement of job losses, mainly in back office functions, across their national workforce, but predominantly in Derby.

Council notes that these job losses are part of their plan to simplify the business and save money and are not connected to Brexit.

Council resolves to write to Andrew Stephenson MP and thank him for the work he has done in continuing to support the workers at Rolls Royce and for championing manufacturing in Pendle.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED

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It also notes the most recent announcement of job losses, mainly in back office functions, across their national workforce, but predominantly in Derby.

Council notes that these job losses are part of their plan to simplify the business and save money and are not connected to Brexit.

Council resolves to write to Andrew Stephenson MP and thank him for the work he has done in continuing to support the workers at Rolls Royce and for championing manufacturing in Pendle.

(c) “Together an Active Future” Programme

It was moved by Councillor T. Whipp, seconded by Councillor M. Adams –

Council notes that the Health and Wellbeing Partnership in Pennine Lancashire has identified the need to work together with residents to help them become more active and improve physical and mental health.

Council further notes that Lancashire County Council has ceased funding for free primary pupil age swimming during school holidays; and that Government cuts are causing severe financial

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problems in the continued provision of leisure services such as sports centres, swimming pools and parks.

This Council therefore resolves:

- (1) To extend congratulations to Pendle Leisure Trust and Partners on their successful bid to secure funding from Sport England to support the “Together an Active Future” programme.
- (2) To support the “Together an Active Future” programme where it is possible to do so.
- (3) To call on central government to provide adequate funding to ensure sport and leisure facilities can continue to be affordable, accessible and available to Pendle residents.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to Pendle’s MP and the relevant government ministers requesting their support for the terms of this resolution.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor P. White, seconded by Councillor Nadeem Ahmed –

Council notes that the Health and Wellbeing Partnership in Pennine Lancashire has identified the need to work together with residents to help them become more active and improve physical and mental health.

Council further notes that Lancashire County Council has ceased funding for free primary pupil age swimming during school holidays; and that Government cuts are causing severe financial problems in the continued provision of leisure services such as sports centres, swimming pools and parks.

This Council therefore resolves:

- (1) To extend congratulations to Pendle Leisure Trust and Partners on their successful bid to secure funding from Sport England to support the “Together an Active Future” programme.
- (2) To support the “Together an Active Future” programme where it is possible to do so.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED

Council notes that the Health and Wellbeing Partnership in Pennine Lancashire has identified the need to work together with residents to help them become more active and improve physical and mental health.

Council further notes that Lancashire County Council has ceased funding for free primary pupil age swimming during school holidays; and that Government cuts are causing severe financial problems in the continued provision of leisure services such as sports centres, swimming pools and parks.

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This Council therefore resolves:

- (1) To extend congratulations to Pendle Leisure Trust and Partners on their successful bid to secure funding from Sport England to support the “Together an Active Future” programme.
- (2) To support the “Together an Active Future” programme where it is possible to do so.

(d) Road Repairs

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

This Council notes that there are still huge problems with wrecked roads in Pendle due to potholes and wider damage to road surfaces many months after severe deterioration was caused due to winter weather.

Council also notes that Lancashire County Council is spending hundreds of thousands of pounds taking up relatively good pavements on Venables Avenue in Colne, Reedyford Road in Nelson and that Greenberfield Lane in Barnoldswick is being resurfaced, despite three quarters of it being fully resurfaced in 2016.

Accordingly, Council resolves to write to County Council Leader Geoff Driver to ask his administration to reconsider their priorities for road repairs and invest in repairing the roads desperately needing doing in Pendle.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor P. White, seconded by Councillor J. Cooney –

Council notes that there has been some improvement in road conditions in Pendle over recent months and notes the additional funding that the County Council allocated for repairs in its budget.

Council also notes that road resurfacing amount to hundreds of thousands of pounds will soon begin on Skipton Old Road, Colne.

Accordingly, Council resolves to write to County Council Leader Geoff Driver and thank him and his administration for this much needed investment in the roads in Pendle and asks that this continues.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED

Council notes that there has been some improvement in road conditions in Pendle over recent months and notes the additional funding that the County Council allocated for repairs in its budget.

Council also notes that road resurfacing amount to hundreds of thousands of pounds will soon begin on Skipton Old Road, Colne.

Accordingly, Council resolves to write to County Council Leader Geoff Driver and thank him and his administration for this much needed investment in the roads in Pendle and asks that this continues.

(e) Grass Cutting

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

Council notes that Lancashire County Council is reported to have increased its budget for highway grass cutting but further notes that Old Laund Booth Parish Council has had to commission grass cutters to cut the verge on the A6068. It further notes that, for safety reasons along the A6068 from Barrowford to Padiham, the area that is cut should be increased and Council therefore resolves to request the County Council to change its grass cutting specification accordingly.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(f) Flooding

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

Council notes that it's now two and a half years since the devastating Boxing Day floods of 2015 in Pendle and that Earby has suffered further flooding in September 2016 and a 'near miss' more recently at the beginning of June.

With regard to Earby, Council welcomes the imminent commencement of work on repairs to the Victoria Clough culvert but notes with concern that the much anticipated and overdue flood alleviation study into Earby flooding has yet to be reported; and that match funding £425,000 of Government Grant in aid enabling £635,000 of European money to be invested in flood defences in Earby has yet to be approved.

At Ghyll Meadows, Council welcomes the scheduled commencement of work on a further length of larger culvert in September and thanks council staff who have secured funding and designed the new culvert scheme.

Council also notes that the Senior Engineer for Drainage, Luke Edwards, has secured an engineering manager post elsewhere and will be leaving Pendle Council after 23 years. Council places on record its appreciation of Mr. Edwards work in alleviating flooding in the borough.

Council resolves:

- (1) Government Ministers are informed of the deep concern at the failure to produce the Earby flood alleviation report; to provide the match funding for the European money; and the timescale given for any progress on the major flood defence initiative.
- (2) The post of Drainage Engineer be filled at the earliest possible opportunity.

AMENDMENT

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

Council notes the news that its now two and half years since the devastating Boxing Day floods of 2015 in Pendle and that Earby has suffered further flooding in September 2016 and a 'near miss' more recently at the beginning of June. With regard to Earby, Council welcomes the imminent

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commencement of work on repairs to the Victoria Clough culvert. It notes with concern that the much anticipated and overdue flood alleviation study into Earby flooding has yet to be reported but notes that it is likely to do so in the very near future; and that match funding of £425,000 of Government Grant in aid enabling £635,000 of European money to be invested in flood defences in Earby has yet to be approved.

At Ghyll Meadows Council welcomes the scheduled commencement of work on a further length of larger culvert in September and thanks council staff that have secured funding and designed the new culvert scheme.

Council also welcomes the approval by Jake Berry MP for the use of the £125,000 unallocated Property Level Resilience Grant to fund Property Level Resilience Measures for 44 properties in Earby.

Council also notes that the Senior Engineer for Drainage, Luke Edwards, has secured an engineering manager post elsewhere and will be leaving Pendle Council after 23 years. Council places on record its appreciation of Mr. Edwards work in alleviating flooding in the borough.

Council resolves:

- (1) That Government Ministers are informed of the deep concern in the time taken by the Environment Agency to produce the Earby flood alleviation report; to provide the match funding for the European money; and the timescale given for any progress on the major flood defence initiative.
- (2) That this Council writes to Andrew Stephenson MP and Jake Berry MP and thanks them for the allocation of the Property Level Resilience Grant.
- (3) That a review of the requirement for the soon to be vacant post of Drainage Engineer be conducted by the Chief Executive.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED

Council notes the news that its now two and half years since the devastating Boxing Day floods of 2015 in Pendle and that Earby has suffered further flooding in September 2016 and a 'near miss' more recently at the beginning of June. With regard to Earby, Council welcomes the imminent commencement of work on repairs to the Victoria Clough culvert. It notes with concern that the much anticipated and overdue flood alleviation study into Earby flooding has yet to be reported but notes that it is likely to do so in the very near future; and that match funding of £425,000 of Government Grant in aid enabling £635,000 of European money to be invested in flood defences in Earby has yet to be approved.

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31. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

In accordance with the provisions of Section 100 (B)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended, the Chairman agreed that the following item should be considered as a matter of urgency, the ground being that a decision was required before the next Full Council meeting.

32. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

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

Pendle Council notes with great alarm the news that Neighbourhood Policing teams in Pendle are to suffer huge cuts with the number of Community Beat Manager posts reduced from 13 to 6.

Council believes that the latest round of cuts will mean the overstretched police officers won't be able to provide any meaningful neighbourhood policing.

Council resolves to make urgent representations to Lancashire's Chief Constable, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Pendle's MP and the Home Office calling for a review of these changes which effectively scrap the area's neighbourhood policing.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor P. White, seconded by Councillor Musawar Arshad –

Pendle Council notes that the size of Neighbourhood Policing teams in Pendle are to be reduced. There are currently 10 Community Beat Managers in post and these are to be reduced to 6.

Council notes that this is to enable a reallocation of resource and that there is no reduction in the funding allocated to policing roles. The reallocation will mean that there will be a permanent burglary team a permanent organised crime team and a permanent safeguarding team.

Council also notes that there will be a further 50 additional call handlers for 101 and welcomes this news.

Council further notes that the number PCSO's in Pendle will remain the same and the number of Response Officers based at Colne will also remain at 60.

Council resolves to make representations to Lancashire's Chief Constable, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Pendle's MP and the Home Office requesting that they review the reduction in neighbourhood teams.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED

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Council notes that this is to enable a reallocation of resource and that there is no reduction in the funding allocated to policing roles. The reallocation will mean that there will be a permanent burglary team a permanent organised crime team and a permanent safeguarding team.

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Council further notes that the number PCSO's in Pendle will remain the same and the number of Response Officers based at Colne will also remain at 60.

Council resolves to make representations to Lancashire's Chief Constable, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Pendle's MP and the Home Office requesting that they review the reduction in neighbourhood teams.

His Worship the Mayor _____