

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 26th MARCH, 2019**

PRESENT –

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

Councillors

<i>G. Adam</i>	<i>M. Iqbal</i>
<i>M. Adams</i>	<i>Y. Iqbal</i>
<i>Nadeem Ahmed</i>	<i>N. T. McCollum</i>
<i>Nawaz Ahmed</i>	<i>P. A. McCormick</i>
<i>M. Ammer</i>	<i>N. McEvoy</i>
<i>E. Ansar</i>	<i>N. McGowan</i>
<i>Mohammed Arshad</i>	<i>A. Mahmood</i>
<i>Musawar Arshad</i>	<i>B. Newman</i>
<i>N. H. Ashraf</i>	<i>J. A. Nixon</i>
<i>N. Butterworth</i>	<i>S. Petty</i>
<i>R. E. Carroll</i>	<i>M. Sakib</i>
<i>J. Cooney</i>	<i>K. E. Shore</i>
<i>T. A. Cooney</i>	<i>K. Turner</i>
<i>L. M. Crossley</i>	<i>C. Wakeford</i>
<i>V. A. Fletcher</i>	<i>G. Waugh</i>
<i>M. S. Foxley</i>	<i>D. Whalley</i>
<i>P. J. Foxley</i>	<i>D. M. Whipp</i>
<i>M. Goulthorp</i>	<i>T. Whipp</i>
<i>A. R. Greaves</i>	<i>P. White</i>
<i>K. Hartley</i>	<i>S. Wicks</i>
<i>J. M. P. Henderson</i>	<i>N. Younis</i>
<i>M. Horsfield</i>	

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W. Blackburn, D. E. Lord, J. Purcell, G. Roach and C. Teall).



77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

78. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th December, 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

79. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor informed Council that to support the Mayoress' Charities he would be walking up Pendle Hill on 11th May and invited all Members to join him. The money raised would support young people with swimming lessons at the leisure centres in Barnoldswick, Colne and Nelson.

The Mayor also invited Members who were retiring or up for election in May into the Mayor's Parlour after the meeting for refreshments.

80. MAYORALTY

(a) To consider the Mayoralty for 2019/20

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

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

That Councillor K. Hartley be invited to be Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

(b) To consider the Deputy Mayoralty for 2019/20

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

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

That Councillor N. Butterworth be invited to be Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

81. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER

There were no questions from members of the public.

82. 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 A. R. Greaves asked in what capacity did the Leader attend the visit by the Secretary of State for Transport to Colne station on 3rd February; who else was invited; and why no representatives of other groups on the Council or Council officers were informed of the visit or invited? The Leader said he had been invited to the visit as Leader of the Council, he only knew who had been invited when he attended the visit. In a supplementary question Councillor Greaves asked the Leader if he thought the Chief Executive, other senior officers or other Group Leaders should also have been invited bearing in mind the importance of the reinstatement of the rail link from Colne to Skipton. The Leader said maybe but he was not involved in who was invited to the visit.

Councillor A. R. Greaves asked the Leader why a meeting to consider the extension of the Northern Forest to Pendle and other parts of Lancashire had not yet been held and when would it take place. In response the Leader apologised for the delay but there had been difficulties in arranging the meeting. It was envisaged the meeting would be held in June.

Councillor D. M. Whipp asked if minutes or other records had been taken of the meetings of Leaders of East Lancashire Councils in connection with a proposal for an East Lancashire Unitary Authority; if so, will they be presented for information to the Policy and Resources Committee; if not, will a note of the meetings and contents of discussions be so reported. The Leader said no minutes had been taken of the meetings but the letter from the Secretary of State was an accurate record of those discussions and he referred Members to that letter. In a supplementary question Councillor M. Iqbal asked if there had been further discussions with the Minister since the letter had been shared. The Leader said the Council had not received any further correspondence from the Minister since his last letter. A further meeting with Leaders and MPs was to be held shortly. He said it would be up to the next Leader of the Council to bring this forward for decision.

Councillor D. M. Whipp asked what the cost of demolishing was and removing the Urban Altitude structures and where the finance had come from; and what was the outstanding liability for unrepaid debt held by Pendle Leisure Trust. In response the Leader said that following a process seeking expressions of interests in using the structures, the demolition and removal of the Urban Altitude structures had been commissioned by Burnley Football Club in the Community at no cost to Pendle Council or the Pendle Leisure Trust. Subject to the necessary consents, it was Burnley Football Club in the Community's intention to install the structures at Whitehough, Barley to provide a complementary activity on that site. The balance of the outstanding debt was £147,000.

In a supplementary question Councillor Whipp asked the Leader if he agreed that Urban Altitude was no more than a vanity project and a waste of public money given there was £147,000 of outstanding debt and that this should never be repeated. In response the Leader said he disagreed with the comments from Councillor Whipp. He said the facility was to be relocated within the Borough where it would be used by thousands of children. He added that the facility had been opened by a Labour and Conservative administration and closed by a Labour and Liberal Democrat administration.

Councillor A. R. Greaves asked the Leader when were the proposals for the change of use of the Lesser Municipal Hall to a pub and its allocation for the exclusive use by a commercial company first communicated by Pendle Leisure Trust to the Council and why had they not been reported to the Council and the agreement of the Council been sought. The Leader said this was a question for Pendle Leisure Trust but having sought legal advice they had been advised that a management agreement could be put in place. In a supplementary question Councillor M. Iqbal asked when the Leader had known that the transfer of Colne Municipal Hall to Colne Town Council was not progressing and had he used his position to influence this outcome. In response the Leader said there had been communications with the Council but he would find out and let Members know; this issue had been before the Pendle Leisure Trust Board on more than one occasion; the Trust had a range of other management agreements with other companies; and he was not taking over Colne Municipal Hall.

Councillor B. Newman asked what was the nature of the agreement for the change of use of the Lesser Municipal Hall to a pub and its allocation for the exclusive use by a commercial company; how long the agreement was for and what were the terms for its termination in the meantime; and whether a copy of the agreement would be provided to Councillors. The Leader said it was up to Pendle Leisure Trust and its Directors to decide if they wished to share this with anyone.

In a supplementary question Councillor D. M. Whipp asked if the Leader was acting in his capacity as Leader of the Council or in his capacity as Director/Shareholder of Live Lounge Bar Ltd., and should he have declared a prejudicial and pecuniary interest in this matter. He also asked if Pendle Leisure Trust thought the opportunity of running a pub from the Lesser Muni was lucrative, why they had not decided to do this instead. Councillor M. Iqbal also asked the Leader if he thought he had crossed

the threshold as Leader and Director of this Company and also by saying that he did not have a lease for the premises. The Leader was asked if he would share the arrangements for the company and the legal advice he had received. He was also asked at what stage was he aware that this advice had been given by officers of this Council. In response the Leader said he had answered the questions in no other way than in his capacity as Leader of the Council. He said he had spoken with the Monitoring Officer earlier in the day and didn't feel he had crossed any thresholds. He added it was not his role as Leader to provide a copy of the agreement; Pendle Leisure Trust should be approached about this.

Councillor B. Newman asked the Leader if the proposals for the change of use of the Lesser Municipal Hall to a pub and its allocation for the exclusive use by a commercial company expected to significantly affect the financial position of Pendle Leisure Trust and if so why this had not been reported to the Council in the usual way when the Council's Management Fee to the Trust was calculated and agreed during the budget-making process for 2019/20. The Leader said this was a question for Pendle Leisure Trust rather than the Council. In a supplementary question Councillor Iqbal asked if the effect of the Trust entering into an agreement with Live Lounge Bar Ltd., what effects would this have on their budget. Councillor Greaves referred to the Council's £1.3m contribution to the Leisure Trust and asked if the Leader was in discussion with the Trust or declared an interest at the time this was being discussed during the budget process. In response the Leader said this issue had been in front of the Pendle Leisure Trust Board but no agreement was in place at the budget setting stage. Next year the Council's contribution to the Leisure Trust could be reduced accordingly depending on the budget proposals put forward.

Councillor D. M. Whipp asked if the proposed change of use of the Lesser Municipal Hall to a pub required planning permission and if so had assurances been sought from Pendle Leisure Trust that they would not permit the Live Lounge Bars Ltd., or any other person to operate it as such until such time as a valid planning permission had been obtained; and whether they had received similar assurances that the premises would not be used without the benefit of the appropriate licences. In response the Leader said a retrospective planning application would be submitted but the Bar would not be operating until this permission had been obtained.

In a supplementary question Councillor Whipp asked if the Leader was aware that given a change of use had not been approved the licenses in place were not legal. Reference was also made to the number of retrospective planning applications that the Area Committees were required to deal with and that the Leader should have known better. The Leader acknowledged the comments from Councillor Whipp and said that Pendle Leisure Trust did not realise planning permission was required but he reaffirmed that this was to be rectified.

83. REPORT BY 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.

84. ELECTORAL REVIEW – SUBMISSION TO THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION ON A NEW WARDING PATTERN

The Corporate Director submitted a report on recommendations from the Governance Working Group on a new warding pattern. On 27th January the Commission announced that it was minded to recommend a council size of 33 councillors. The Stage Two process had begun with a consultation

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exercise inviting comments to help the Commission produce a new warding pattern based on 33 councillors. This consultation would run until 6th May.

Recommendations from the Governance Working Group were attached to the report at Appendix 1 along with a discussion note from the last meeting. It was noted that the recommendations would need further work particularly on the splitting of polling districts and also to tidy up minor anomalies and make sensible minor adjustments to ward and polling district boundaries. The new wards were made up of 11 x 3 member wards.

It was moved by Councillor D. M. Whipp and seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal –

- (1) That the warding pattern attached to the minutes at Appendix 1 be agreed and sent to the Boundary Commission as its Stage Two submission.
- (2) That the Corporate Director, in consultation with Group Leaders, be authorised to finalise the submission and submit it to the Boundary Commission.
- (3) That a report be submitted to the Council meeting in September on the Boundary Commission's draft recommendations.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor C. Wakeford and seconded by Councillor L. Crossley –

- (1) That, subject to the renaming of the Rural Colne Ward to Colne East, Foulridge and Winewall the warding pattern attached to the minutes at Appendix 2 be agreed and sent to the Boundary Commission as its Stage Two submission.
- (2) That the Corporate Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to finalise the submission and submit it to the Boundary Commission.
- (3) That a report be submitted to the Council meeting in September on the Boundary Commission's draft recommendations.

A copy of the amendment was circulated at the meeting.



At this point His Worship the Mayor adjourned the meeting for a period of twenty minutes.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.35 p.m.



When the meeting reconvened His Worship the Mayor put forward the amendment.

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

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors –

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Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, Musawar Arshad, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, J. Cooney, T. A. Cooney, L. M. Crossley, V. A. Fletcher, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, M. Horsfield, N. T. McCollum, P. A. McCormick, N. McEvoy, N. McGowan, J. Nixon, S. Petty, J. K. Starkie, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh and P. White.

Those Members voting against the motion were Councillors –

G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment became the substantive motion.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor D. M. Whipp and seconded by Councillor T. Whipp –

That the proposed West Craven Wards (Barnoldswick Central and Earby and Barnoldswick Rural) be replaced with the submissions from the Governance Working Group recommendations (West Craven West and West Craven East).

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

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

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors –

G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors –

Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, Musawar Arshad, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, J. Cooney, T. A. Cooney, L. M. Crossley, V. A. Fletcher, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, M. Horsfield, N. T. McCollum, P. A. McCormick, N. McGowan, J. Nixon, S. Petty, J. K. Starkie, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh and P. White.

Councillor K. Turner abstained.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor A. R. Greaves and seconded by Councillor D. M. Whipp –

That the proposals for Colne and Foulridge be deleted and replaced by the submission from the Governance Working Group recommendations.

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

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

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors –

G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors –

Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, Musawar Arshad, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, J. Cooney, T. A. Cooney, L. M. Crossley, V. A. Fletcher, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, M. Horsfield, N. T. McCollum, P. A. McCormick, N. McGowan, J. Nixon, S. Petty, J. K. Starkie, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh and P. White.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

That Wards 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 be deleted and replaced by Wards 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in the submission from the Governance Working Group recommendations.

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

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

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors –

G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors –

Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, Musawar Arshad, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, J. Cooney, T. A. Cooney, L. M. Crossley, V. A. Fletcher, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, M. Horsfield, N. T. McCollum, P. A. McCormick, N. McGowan, J. Nixon, S. Petty, J. K. Starkie, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh and P. White.

Councillor K. Turner abstained from voting.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor A. R. Greaves and seconded by Councillor D. M. Whipp –

That with regards to Ward 3 – Rural Colne the 298 electorate from BK be replaced with the 150 electorate from BI.

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

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

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors –

G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors –

Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, Musawar Arshad, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, J. Cooney, T. A. Cooney, L. M. Crossley, V. A. Fletcher, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, M. Horsfield, N. T. McCollum, P. A. McCormick, N. McGowan, J. Nixon, S. Petty, J. K. Starkie, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh and P. White.

Councillor K. Turner abstained from voting.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor A. R. Greaves and seconded by Councillor D. M. Whipp –

That the recommendation from the Governance Working Group with regards to Ward 6 – Barrowford and Pendleside be included in the submission to the Boundary Commission.

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

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

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors –

G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors –

Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, Musawar Arshad, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, J. Cooney, T. A. Cooney, L. M. Crossley, V. A. Fletcher, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, M. Horsfield, N. T. McCollum, P. A. McCormick, N. McGowan, J. Nixon, S. Petty, J. K. Starkie, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh and P. White.

Councillor K. Turner abstained from voting.

RESOLVED

- (1) That, subject to the renaming of the Rural Colne Ward to Colne East, Foulridge and Winewall the warding pattern attached to the minutes at Appendix 2 be agreed and sent to the Boundary Commission as its Stage Two submission.

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- (2) That the Corporate Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to finalise the submission and submit it to the Boundary Commission.
- (3) That a report be submitted to the Council meeting in September on the Boundary Commission's draft recommendations.

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

Those Members voting in favour were Councillors –

Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, Musawar Arshad, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, J. Cooney, T. A. Cooney, L. M. Crossley, V. A. Fletcher, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, M. Horsfield, N. T. McCollum, P. A. McCormick, N. McGowan, J. Nixon, S. Petty, J. K. Starkie, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh and P. White.

Those Members voting against were Councillors –

G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.

Councillor K. Turner abstained from voting.

85. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2019/20

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2019/20. The Strategy Statement set out how the investment and borrowing operations of the Council were managed within the framework established by the Treasury Management Policy Statement.

The report also included information on the Minimum Revenue Provision, Statement of Prudential Limits and Investment in Non-Financial Investments.

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

RESOLVED

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement incorporating the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2019/20, attached to the report at Appendix A, be approved and in particular:-

- (a) The prudential indicators and limits referred to in Sections 2 and 3 of the Strategy document.
- (b) The statement by the Chief Financial Officer, shown in paragraph 10 of the report, indicating compliance with the requirement to keep borrowing below the Council's Capital Financing requirement over the medium-term.
- (c) The policy on the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2019/20 (Section 5.2 page 21 of the Strategy) including the circumstances in which the MRP may not be required.

86. PENDLE SPORT AND LEISURE STRATEGY

The Chief Executive submitted a report on Pendle’s Sport and Leisure Strategy “Together an Active Pendle.” The Strategy had been developed to support delivery of the Council’s strategic objectives as well as providing a framework to help inform future planning for sports/leisure provision across the Borough.

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

RESOLVED

That “Together an Active Pendle” Pendle’s Sport and Leisure Strategy 2019-2024 be approved.

87. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2019

In accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 the annual Pay Policy Statement for 2019 was submitted for approval.

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

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

That the Council’s Pay Policy Statement for the 2019/20 financial year be approved and that it be published on the Council’s website.

88. MEMBER CHAMPIONS

Council received updates from the following Member Champions:

Councillor N. Butterworth	Armed Forces Champion
Councillor Nawaz Ahmed	Cycling Champion
Councillor D. Whalley	Dementia Champion
Councillor P. White	Loneliness Champion
Councillor P. A. McCormick	Older People’s Champion
Councillor N. McCollum	Young People’s Champion

89. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Butts Clinic, Barnoldswick

It was moved by Councillor T. Whipp and seconded by Councillor K. Hartley –

Council notes that health care services are being withdrawn from Butts Clinic with patients to travel elsewhere to access clinics previously held at Butts.

Council further notes that there has been no progress whatsoever towards providing a full health centre in Barnoldswick and access to all health care facilities remains woefully inadequate.

Council resolves to request an urgent meeting with the East Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group and health care providers to discuss the continued running down of services in Barnoldswick.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(b) Council Tax and Local Government Funding

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

Council notes the continued increase in Council Tax which outstrips inflation and has seen Band D Council Tax levels break through the £2,000 barrier in both Colne and Earby this year.

Council recognises that the primary cause of these increases is the loss of government funding which has affected residents in Pendle particularly badly.

Council also notes the so-called fair funding review of local government which is likely to lead to an even greater loss of resources to our local area.

Council believes that Council tax is fundamentally unfair and bears most heavily on people least able to afford repeated above inflation increases.

Therefore, this Council resolves to request Government to introduce truly fair funding for local councils based upon people's ability to pay and that relatively poor areas are no longer penalised in favour of more affluent areas.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor C. Wakeford and seconded by Councillor P White –

Council notes the continued increase in Council Tax across the Borough.

Council recognises that the primary cause of these increases is the loss of government funding brought about by the then Labour Government's mishandling of the financial crisis which has affected residents in Pendle particularly badly.

Council also notes the fair funding review of local government.

Therefore, this Council resolves to continue to lobby the Government to introduce truly fair funding for local councils and requires the active support of Andrew Stephenson MP in this endeavour.

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

RESOLVED

Council notes the continued increase in Council Tax across the Borough.

Council recognises that the primary cause of these increases is the loss of government funding brought about by the then Labour Government's mishandling of the financial crisis which has affected residents in Pendle particularly badly.

Council also notes the fair funding review of local government.

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Therefore, this Council resolves to continue to lobby the Government to introduce truly fair funding for local councils and requires the active support of Andrew Stephenson MP in this endeavour.

(c) Housing Sites in Colne

It was moved by Councillor A. R. Greaves and seconded by Councillor D. M. Whipp –

Pendle Council recognises that it will not be able to meet its required housing targets for the Borough or for Colne without using unacceptable amounts of greenfield land in unacceptable locations, unless it is able to use the large genuinely brownfield former mill sites in the South Valley for housing purposes.

Council commends Colne Town Council and the work it is doing to formulate a neighbourhood plan, including the allocation of housing sites. The emerging plan includes many brownfield sites within the South Valley and discussions with land owners are on-going.

Therefore, Council requests the Chief Executive to arrange an urgent meeting of representatives of Colne Town Council, Councillors and land owners to ensure these sites are brought forward for development.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(d) Colne to Skipton Rail Link

It was moved by Councillor A. R. Greaves and seconded by Councillor D. M. Whipp –

Pendle Council expresses its concern that the outcome of the Steer Group feasibility study into the Northern Link Project, including the reinstatement of the railway line between Colne and Skipton and a regular through passenger service between West Yorkshire cities and East Lancashire.

Council welcomes the announcement by the Secretary of State for Transport in February, that further feasibility work is being undertaken to ensure the scheme has the best chance of progressing to the next stage (Develop Stage 2).

Council further notes the work done to date by Andrew Stephenson MP in progressing the re-opening of the Colne to Skipton line. Therefore, Council resolves to write to Andrew Stephenson MP, thanking him for his work to date and requesting that he continues to work with the Department of Transport, SELRAP and other partners, on the re-opening of the Colne to Skipton line.

Council also urges the Government to decide upon the scope and timetable of the further Stage 1 feasibility study announced by the Secretary of State Chris Grayling and to commission the work, as a matter of urgency and priority.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(e) Drug Problems in Pendle

It was moved by Councillor D. M. Whipp and seconded by Councillor T. Whipp –

Pendle Council expresses its strong concern at the continuing and increasing evidence of drug-taking in public places in Pendle and with the public health aspects of drug-taking as well as drug dealing and resolves to set up a Scrutiny Working Group to consider, take evidence and produce recommendations for dealing with this problem. It also resolves to refer the matter to the Pendle Community Safety Partnership Steering Group and the Health and Social Care Working Group.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

His Worship the Mayor _____

Appendix 1 – New Ward Pattern (Governance Working Group)

Appendix 2 – New Ward Pattern (Conservative Group Amendment)