

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

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor Councillor K. Hartley (in the Chair)

Councillors

G. Adam
M. Adams
N. Ahmed
Z. Ali
M. Ammer
E. Ansar
Mohammed Arshad
N. H. Ashraf
M. Aslam
N. Butterworth
R. E. Carroll
D. Clegg
S. E. Cockburn-Price
L. M. Crossley
M. S. Foxley
P. J. Foxley
A. R. Greaves
M. Hanif
J. M. P. Henderson
M. Iqbal
Y. Iqbal

C. Lioni
D. E. Lord
N. T. McCollum
N. McEvoy
N. McGowan
A. Mahmood
A. R. Mann
J. M. Mills
B. Newman
J. A. Nixon
M. Sakib
Q. Shazad
K. E. Shore
Y. M. Tennant
K. Turner
C. Wakeford
G. Waugh
D. M. Whipp
T. Whipp
S. Wicks

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Carter, T. A. Cooney, V. A. Fletcher, M. Goulthorp, S. Petty and J. Purcell).



25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

26. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th July, 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

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 in relation to minute numbers 33, 34, 35 and 38.

28. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Council observed a minutes silence following the recent death of former Mayor and Borough Councillor Tony Beckett and former Mayoress of Pendle, Rose Adam.

It was reported that the Council had been successful in obtaining the bronze award from the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. This was awarded to organisations that pledged, demonstrated or advocated support to defence and the armed forces community as well as aligning their values with the Armed Forces Covenant.

29. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER

David Penney, a resident from Colne, asked the Leader in the light of the Climate Emergency motion, with a target of zero carbon emissions by 2030, what urgent measures have the Council taken to meet this target?

The Leader referred to a motion at the June Council meeting and referred to work already undertaken by the Council in addressing this issue. The first meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group was scheduled for 1st October. This Group would be asked to take the climate change agenda forward which would also include looking at some of the national policy issues which affected everyone.

30. 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 K. Turner asked the Leader, in view of comments made by him at the last Council meeting, could he please confirm how much the Council received for the development of the Nelson Masterplanning exercise; when was it submitted; what was the planned structure; and when did he anticipate a response and commencement of the project.

In response the Leader referred to the funding opportunities that the Council had bid into to secure funding for this project. The first draft submission date was 15th January, 2020 with a full business case required by end of April, 2020. An announcement would be made in Spring/Summer of next year. The Working Group set up by the Policy and Resources Committee had not yet met.

Councillor K. Turner said that in response to questions in respect of Barrowford Memorial Park and Pendle Heritage Centre the Leader had assured everyone that this would be completed by 1st September, 2019 and that everyone was aware of his failure. Councillor Turner asked what the present position was and could Members receive substantive and reasonable assurance as to its completion.

The Leader confirmed that the aim was to complete this transfer by 1st September, 2019 but all that remained was for the new least to the Heritage Trust to be signed and then the transfer would be completed. In response to a supplementary question from Councillor D. M. Whipp the Leader acknowledged the issues there had been between the Heritage Trust for the North West and Barrowford Parish Council. He also congratulated officers on the work done to get to this stage and welcomed the transfer.

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Councillor K. Turner asked the Leader if he recalled at the last Council meeting supporting a motion in respect of “Climate Emergency” currently expanding at an uncontrollable rate. He asked what action, in respect of this Council, had been taken since.

The Leader referred to his earlier comments to Mr. Penney with regards to the Climate Emergency.

Councillor C. Wakeford said given that the Council was only appointing an Older Person’s Champion this evening, could the Leader advise what actions his administration had taken in regards to older persons and the work expected from a Member Champion of this Council.

In response the Leader referred to work undertaken by officers on a daily basis with regards to this issue. He acknowledged that this was an important role and explained that only the Council could make this appointment and that this meeting was the earliest opportunity to fill this vacancy.

31. 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.

32. MEMBER CHAMPIONS

Nominations were invited to fill the position of the Older Person’s Champion for the remainder of the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor N. Ashraf and –

RESOLVED

That Councillor M. Hanif be appointed the Older Person’s Champion for the remainder of the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

33. BUDGET SAVINGS OPTIONS 2020/21

At a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 19th September, 2019 it was resolved “that the budget savings proposals for 2020/21 outlined in the report be recommended to Council for consideration.”

A report from the Chief Executive was submitted for consideration along with further information regarding the proposed savings in relation to mechanical sweeping.

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

RESOLVED

(1) That the following budget savings proposals for 2020/21 be agreed:

	Ref.	£000
Staffing – Management of Vacant Posts	S1	177
Grounds Maintenance – Contribution from Local Councils	S2	90
Reduction in Funding for Citizens Advice Bureau	S5	10

- (2) That the budget savings proposals for changes to manual sweeping and changes to mechanical sweeping be deferred and considered further by Council on 17th December, 2019.

In accordance with Minute 27 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the Motion were Councillors:

G. Adam, M. Adams, N. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, D. Clegg, S. E. Cockburn-Price, L. M. Crossley, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, A. R. Greaves, M. Hanif, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, C. Lioni, D. E. Lord, N. T. McCollum, N. McEvoy, N. McGowan, A. Mahmood, A. R. Mann, J. M. Mills, B. Newman, J. A. Nixon, M. Sakib, Q. Shazad, K. E. Shore, Y. M. Tennant, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp and S. Wicks.

34. INCOME REVIEW 2020/21 – BUDGET SETTING AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

At a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 19th September, 2019 it was resolved “that Council be recommended to introduce charges for missed pest control appointments and subject to some further information the hire of Council meeting rooms as set out in the report.”

An additional briefing note providing further information in relation to hiring out meeting rooms was circulated at the meeting.

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

RESOLVED

That charges be introduced for missed pest control appointments and the hiring of Council meeting rooms as set out in the report and the additional briefing note circulated at the meeting.

In accordance with Minute 27 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the Motion were Councillors:

G. Adam, M. Adams, N. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, D. Clegg, S. E. Cockburn-Price, L. M. Crossley, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, A. R. Greaves, M. Hanif, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, C. Lioni, D. E. Lord, N. T. McCollum, N. McEvoy, N. McGowan, A. Mahmood, A. R. Mann, J. M. Mills, B. Newman, J. A. Nixon, M. Sakib, Q. Shazad, K. E. Shore, Y. M. Tennant, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp and S. Wicks.

35. CHARGING FOR SUPPORT AND ADVICE TO FOOD BUSINESSES

At a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 25th July, 2019 it was resolved “that Council be recommended to:-

- (1) Agree to the Housing, Health and Engineering Service charging for bespoke food safety

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advice for new and existing food businesses.

(2) Agree a fee of £60 per hour plus VAT from 1st October, 2019.”

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report for consideration.

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor C. Wakeford and

RESOLVED

(1) That the Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager charge for bespoke Food Safety advice for new and existing food businesses.

(2) That a fee of £60 per hour plus VAT be set from 1st October, 2019.

In accordance with Minute 27 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the Motion were Councillors:

G. Adam, M. Adams, N. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, D. Clegg, S. E. Cockburn-Price, L. M. Crossley, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, A. R. Greaves, M. Hanif, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, C. Lioni, D. E. Lord, N. T. McCollum, N. McEvoy, N. McGowan, A. Mahmood, A. R. Mann, J. M. Mills, B. Newman, J. A. Nixon, M. Sakib, Q. Shazad, K. E. Shore, Y. M. Tennant, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp and S. Wicks.

36. ELECTORAL REVIEW

The Corporate Director submitted a report on the Boundary Commission’s draft proposals for new wards. Their draft recommendations were that Pendle should have 33 councillors in 11 wards which was 9 fewer than at present. All would have changed boundaries.

The public consultation on the Commission’s proposals would end on 7th October with their final recommendations published on 3rd December.

The Governance Working Group had met on two occasions to consider these proposals and made the following recommendations to Council:

- That the Old Laund Booth (OL) and Higham (HI) polling districts be taken out of the proposed Brierfield West, Fence and Higham ward to create an additional single member ward to be called Fence and Higham with a forecast 2024 electorate of 1956.
- That polling district RA2 be taken out of the proposed Brierfield East and Clover Hill ward and added to the remainder of the proposed Brierfield West ward to create a three member ward to be called Brierfield West with a forecast 2024 electorate of 1956.
- That 280 electors be moved out of the proposed new Bradley ward (leaving it with a forecast 2024 electors of 5632) and into the proposed new Whitefield and Walverden ward.
- That 1075 electors then be moved out of the proposed new Whitefield and Walverden ward (leaving it with a forecast 2024 electorate of 5632) and into the Brierfield East and Clover Hill ward (leaving it with a forecast 2024 electorate of 5694).
- That the proposals for the remaining new wards are acceptable.

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- That the proposed new ward names are acceptable with the exception of Waterside which should be renamed Waterside and Horsfield; West Craven East which should be renamed Coates and Earby and West Craven West which should be renamed Barnoldswick.

Council were also advised that a review of polling places and polling districts was required to be completed by 31st January, 2020. The Council may also wish to conduct a community governance review looking at the parish pattern across the Borough taking into account the new Borough wards. It was suggested that a further review be carried out starting in June, 2020.

It was noted from discussion that this was not a unanimous view of the Council and the Conservative Group made it clear that they did not support the recommendation, particularly with regard to the proposed single member ward. They also felt that West Craven East should be renamed Earby and Coates and not Coates and Earby.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Corporate Director makes the representations recommended to Council from the Governance Working Group as set out above.
- (2) That the requirements for a review of polling places and polling stations be noted and the Governance Working Group report on it to the Council meeting on 17th December, 2019.
- (3) That the Governance Working Group conducts a community governance review starting in June 2020.

In accordance with Rule 17.5 of the Procedure at Full Council and after the vote was taken, the following Members requested that their individual votes be recorded to show that they voted against the motion:

Councillors N. Ahmed, M. Aslam, N Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, S. E. Cockburn-Price, L. M. Crossley, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, C. Lioni, N. T. McCollum, N. McEvoy, N. McGowan, J. A. Nixon, K. Turner, C. Wakeford and G. Waugh.

37. VOTER ID PILOT MAY, 2019

The Corporate Director and Returning Officer submitted, for information, a report on the outcome of the pilot carried out at the May, 2019 local elections.

38. PROPERTY INVESTMENT STRATEGY – THE PROPERTY INVESTMENT FUND

At a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 22nd August, 2019 it was resolved “that Council be recommended to:-

- (1) Approve the Property Investment Strategy at Appendix A to the report.
- (2) Establish the Property Investment Fund with an initial allocation of £10m (5m for 2019/20 and £5m for 2020/21).
- (3) Approve a supplementary capital scheme for 2020/21 of £5m which would be funded by way

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of an equivalent amount of borrowing, such borrowing to be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer, used in accordance with the Property Investment Strategy and taken in compliance with the Council's annually agreed Treasury Management Strategy.

- (4) Approve the revised Capital Strategy 2019/22 provided at Appendix B to the report.
- (5) Approve the updated Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 provided at Appendix C to the report."

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

RESOLVED

- (1) Approve the Property Investment Strategy at Appendix A to the report.
- (2) Establish the Property Investment Fund with an initial allocation of £10m (5m for 2019/20 and £5m for 2020/21).
- (3) Approve a supplementary capital scheme for 2020/21 of £5m which would be funded by way of an equivalent amount of borrowing, such borrowing to be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer, used in accordance with the Property Investment Strategy and taken in compliance with the Council's annually agreed Treasury Management Strategy.
- (4) Approve the revised Capital Strategy 2019/22 provided at Appendix B to the report.
- (5) Approve the updated Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 provided at Appendix C to the report.

In accordance with Minute 27 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the Motion were Councillors:

G. Adam, M. Adams, N. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, D. Clegg, S. E. Cockburn-Price, L. M. Crossley, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, A. R. Greaves, M. Hanif, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, C. Lioni, D. E. Lord, N. T. McCollum, N. McEvoy, N. McGowan, A. Mahmood, A. R. Mann, J. M. Mills, B. Newman, J. A. Nixon, M. Sakib, Q. Shazad, K. E. Shore, Y. M. Tennant, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp and S. Wicks.

Councillor R. E. Carrol abstained from voting.

39. HOUSING RENEWAL POLICY – MEANS TESTING OF DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS

At a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 19th September, 2019 it was resolved "that Council be recommended to agree a revision to the Housing Renewal Policy to remove the requirement for means testing of Disabled Facilities Grants below £10,000."

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

RESOLVED

That a revision to the Housing Renewal Policy to remove the requirement for means testing of Disabled Facilities Grants below £10,000 be agreed.

40.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Kashmir

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal and seconded by Councillor N. Ahmed –

Council acknowledges the large number of Pendle residents who hail from the disputed Kashmir region and shares their concern at the decision of the Indian Government to unilaterally revoke articles 370 and 35a from their constitution which gives the state power to define permanent residents and their privileges.

Council notes the real risk of war breaking out between both India and Pakistan and appeals to both governments to seek a resolution through dialogue with the interests of the Kashmiri people first and foremost.

Council resolves to write to Andrew Stephenson MP, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary to ask that HM Government act and demand a stop to the human right abuses in Kashmir being carried out by agents of the Indian government.

Council resolves to ask HM Government to seek international sanctions against the Indian government until the blockade against the Kashmiri people is lifted and international agencies are permitted to enter Indian occupied Kashmir.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(b) Unitary Authority

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

Council notes changes to the criteria for the creation of Unitary Authorities used by the Department of Communities and Local Government which means proposals for new ones no longer need the support of all the Councils affected.

Council also notes the strong indications that a unilateral proposal for an authority is likely to be submitted covering the Pennine area of Lancashire and that the Member of Parliament for Pendle supports such a body.

This Council believes abolishing existing local councils and imposing a Unitary Authority centred on Blackburn will lead to the loss of any true local control on local matters by local residents and their representatives.

Therefore, Council resolves to oppose proposals for such a Pennine Lancashire Unitary Authority.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor C. Wakeford and seconded by Councillor N. Ahmed –

Council notes changes to the criteria for the creation of Unitary Authorities used by the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government which means proposals for new ones no longer need the support of all the Councils affected.

Council also notes the strong indications that a unilateral proposal for an authority is likely to be submitted covering the Pennine area of Lancashire and that the Member of Parliament for Pendle supports such a body.

Whilst this council may have reservations in regards to the introduction of a Unitary Authority, Council awaits any firm proposals before taking a stance on the matter with the main aim of ensuring what was best for the residents of Pendle.

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

RESOLVED

Council notes changes to the criteria for the creation of Unitary Authorities used by the Department of Communities and Local Government which means proposals for new ones no longer need the support of all the Councils affected.

Council also notes the strong indications that a unilateral proposal for an authority is likely to be submitted covering the Pennine area of Lancashire and that the Member of Parliament for Pendle supports such a body.

This Council believes abolishing existing local councils and imposing a Unitary Authority centred on Blackburn will lead to the loss of any true local control on local matters by local residents and their representatives.

Therefore, Council resolves to oppose proposals for such a Pennine Lancashire Unitary Authority.

His Worship the Mayor _____