

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL BUDGET POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 13th FEBRUARY, 2020
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT –

Councillor M. Iqbal (Chairman – in the Chair)

Councillors

<i>N. Ahmed</i>	<i>M. Goulthorp</i>
<i>M. Aslam (Substitute)</i>	<i>Y. Iqbal</i>
<i>R. E. Carroll (Substitute)</i>	<i>A. Mahmood</i>
<i>D. Clegg</i>	<i>B. Newman</i>
<i>M. Foxley</i>	<i>D. M. Whipp</i>
<i>P. Foxley</i>	

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Musawar Arshad, J. Henderson and J. Nixon).

Also present:

*Councillor C. Carter
Councillor S. E. Cockburn-Price
Councillor D. E. Lord
Councillor N. McCollum
Councillor N. McGowan
Councillor J. Purcell
Councillor Y. Tennant
Councillor K. Turner*

Officers in attendance:

<i>Dean Langton</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>
<i>Philip Mousdale</i>	<i>Corporate Director</i>
<i>Craig Finn</i>	<i>Financial Services Manager</i>
<i>Neil Watson</i>	<i>Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager</i>
<i>Jane Watson</i>	<i>Head of Democratic Services</i>



The following people attended the meeting and spoke on the items indicated:

<i>Alison Simcock</i>	<i>19/0740/REM – Land at Further Clough Head,</i>	<i>Minute No. 137(a)</i>
<i>Robbie Atilgan</i>	<i>Nelson</i>	
<i>Craig McBeth</i>		
<i>County Councillor A. Ali</i>		

<i>Annette Brown</i>	<i>19/0620/FUL – Land to the west of the playing</i>	<i>Minute No. 137(b)</i>
<i>Kelvin Harvey</i>	<i>fields, Bailey Street, Earby</i>	
<i>Gary Parkinson</i>		
<i>John Cooper</i>		

<i>Emma Jane McDonald</i>	<i>District Enforcement</i>	<i>Minute No. 142</i>
---------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------

*Peter Smith
Sue Fairweather
Paul Rigby*



134. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct concerning the declaration of interests.

135. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Craig McBeth asked if PEARL was exempt from contributing to the NHS and school provision through the planning process, particularly at a time when there was under funding in these services. He referred to other planning applications where contributions to these services had been made. The Chairman said there were no exemptions.

John Cooper said the letter he had received in response to his question at the last meeting regarding PEARL was not satisfactory. The Chairman said that the letter advised that he would receive a full response by 17th February.

County Councillor Ali referred, again, to an unsatisfactory response he had received in relation to an FOI request regarding PEARL. The Chairman said he had been advised to contact Company's House who held the information he had requested. He also said he would send him a copy of the response that was to be sent to Mr. Cooper.

136. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings held on 16th and 30th January, 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

137. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (a) **19/0740/REM Reserved Matters: Major: Erection of 98 dwelling houses (phases 1-3) with open space provision, estate roads, landscaping and emergency access road with access from Marsden Hall Road (appearance, layout, landscaping and scale) of outline planning permission 17/0427/OUT on land at Further Clough Head, Bamford Street, Nelson for PEARL Together Ltd.**

This application was deferred at the last meeting for discussions with the applicant regarding design issues.

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report for consideration.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager be granted delegated authority to grant planning permission.

- (2) That the approval of materials under condition 3 be undertaken in consultation with Group Leaders and Ward Councillors.

REASON

To ensure the materials were appropriate for the design and the surrounding area.

- (b) **19/0620/FUL Full: Major: Erection of 12 semi-detached dwellings and associated hardstanding and landscaping on land to the west of the playing fields, Bailey Street, Earby for PEARL Together Ltd.**

At a meeting of the West Craven Committee on 4th February, 2020 the decision to refuse this application was referred as a recommendation to this Committee as this decision would lead to a significant risk of costs.

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report for consideration.

RESOLVED

That this application be deferred pending a site visit.

REASON

To have a better understanding of the site.

138. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/23

Management Team submitted a report on the proposed capital programme for 2020/21. The report also provided an overview of the Medium-Term Capital Programme for the period 2020/2023.

In accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Investment in Local Authorities, the report also provided various prudential indicators for consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council be recommended:

- (1) to note the forecast outturn position on the Council's Capital Programme for 2019/20 as shown in Appendix A and detailed in the report;
- (2) to consider the Capital Programme for 2020/21 as shown in Appendix C attached to the report;
- (3) to grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive, as the Council's Chief Finance Officer, to determine the most appropriate method of financing the Capital Programme for 2020/21 to ensure the use of resources is optimised by the Council;

- (4) to note the indicative programmes for 2021/22 and 2022/23 as shown in Appendix C attached to the report and acknowledge that these would be subject to further review as part of the development of future years Capital Programme.
- (5) to consider the Prudential Indicators as shown in Appendix D attached to the report.

REASON

To seek approval to the revised Capital Programme for 2019.20 and the Capital Programme for 2020/21.

139. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21

Management Team submitted a report which informed Committee of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2020/21 and the implications this would have for the Council.

The report also set out the proposed General Fund Revenue Budget and other related matters for 2020/21; the level of Council Tax to be set for the 2020/21 financial year; as well as providing details of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23 which highlighted the significant deficit and the need to take further action to reduce expenditure to a sustainable level.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council be recommended:

- (1) to note the proposal to maintain the General Fund Minimum Working Balance at £1.0m;
- (2) to note the projected outturn position in the current financial year;
- (3) to take into consideration the residual saving proposals for 2020/21 and consider allocating a grant of £1,442,360 to Pendle Leisure Trust for 2020/21;
- (4) to consider the General Fund Budget Requirement for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix H attached to the report;
- (5) to take into consideration the budget proposals, as set out in the report, a recommended Band D Council Tax for 2020/21 of £270.62, being an increase of £5.28 (1.99%) on the current level of council tax;
- (6) each service area be required to operate within its budget for 2019/20 once approved and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control;
- (7) in view of the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review, the Fair Funding Review and changes to the Business Rates Retention system the uncertainty attached to the current assumptions and financial modelling to 2022/23 be acknowledged;
- (8) a further report updating the Financial Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan for 2020/21 to 2022/23 be submitted to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

REASON

To comply with the statutory requirements to determine a balanced budget and council tax for the forthcoming financial year.

140. LOCALISATION OF SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX SCHEME FOR 2020/21

The Chief Executive submitted a report which sought approval of the Localised Scheme of Support for Council Tax for 2020/21.

Apart from the normal annual uprating of allowances and updates for changes to base and supporting legislation the proposed scheme for 2020/21 retained the same key policy principles as the existing scheme. These principles were summarised in the report by way of a reminder.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council be recommended to approve the Council Tax Support Scheme, attached to the report at Appendix B, for implementation from 1st April, 2020.

REASON

The Council was required to approve a local Council Tax Support Scheme on or before 11th March each year.

141. MATTERS REQUIRING FINANCIAL APPROVAL

The Chief Executive submitted a report following receipt of a request for financial support from Burnley Football Club in the Community towards the cost of providing Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioners in Pendle's High Schools.

The football club had worked with Burnley Council and schools in Burnley to pilot the provision of these Practitioners during 2019/20. The appendix attached to the report provided information on the scheme.

For a 2-year project the funding required to deliver the service was £326k. It was reported that £286k had already been secured and the Council were being asked to provide £40k towards the project.

RESOLVED

That £20,000 be allocated to the project over a 2-year period and Burnley Football Club in the Community be asked to approach the County Council for the remaining £20,000.

REASON

To support the provision of Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioners in Pendle's High Schools.

142. DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT

The Corporate Director submitted a report on whether or not to continue to engage with District Enforcement for a further 12 months. A decision had been made in November last year to give notice to terminate the agreement with a view to re-negotiating with them to focus more on the Council's requirements.

The report provided an update on the work they had undertaken over the past 12 months along with information relating to the number of fines and the costs.

Following discussions with District Enforcement a number of proposals were suggested which would focus more on the requirements of the Council. These were set out in the report.

The general feeling was that the contract with District Enforcement should continue.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the appointment of District Enforcement be agreed for a further 12 months subject to variation of the agreement to include the proposals in paragraph 23 in the report and that a further report be submitted to this Committee in December, 2020.
- (2) That the further exemption from Contract Procedure Rules be noted.

REASON

To continue the increase in enforcement activity, together with improved co-ordination, whilst achieving savings.

143. BARNOLDSWICK BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report on the findings of the Barnoldswick BID Feasibility Report.

The report advised that a BID based on the town centre would attract a relatively small levy and with the cost of operating a BID it was unlikely that the levy would be sufficient to deliver a comprehensive action plan.

The whole town option, however, provided the opportunity to realise levy payments that were comparable with other BIDs. The disadvantage of this was that there would be a more diverse range of business needs and therefore there could be a lack of focus and common goals.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the BID based on the town centre not be pursued further.
- (2) That further feasibility work be undertaken to consider if a whole town BID was feasible.
- (3) That a further report on this matter be presented to the June meeting of this Committee.

REASON

- (1) ***To progress the consideration of a BID on the basis of the only workable footprint.***
- (2) ***In recognition that a BID based on the town centre would not be financially viable.***

144. PERFORMANCE INDICATOR UPDATE 1st APRIL to 31st DECEMBER, 2019

The Chief Executive submitted a report on performance monitoring information on the key performance indicators delivered by and on behalf of the Council.

It was noted that performance was broadly in line with targets set and had improved on previous performance.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and staff be congratulated on performance to date.

REASON

To keep the Committee informed on performance.

145. PENDLE DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY AND WHITE RIBBON ACTION PLAN

The Chief Executive submitted a report which provided an update on the Council's work to raise awareness of domestic abuse and progress on the White Ribbon Action Plan.

The Domestic Abuse Policy set out the Council's approach to supporting employees who experienced or were affected by domestic abuse.

The Council's White Ribbon accreditation was in 2017 and was currently seeking re-accreditation. One of the actions of the White Ribbon Action Plan was to increase the number of Ambassadors (male) and Champions (women) within the Council. Members of the Committee were encouraged to take part in this.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Domestic Abuse Policy for employees be approved.
- (2) That staff and Councillors be encouraged to become White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions.

REASON

To raise awareness of and encourage commitment to tackling domestic abuse both within and outside of the workplace.

146. SELF-BUILD PLOTS AT MANSFIELD CRESCENT, BRIERFIELD

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report on bids received for the two self-build plots at Mansfield Crescent, Brierfield:

Plot 1 £12,500

Plot 2 £12,500

Both bids were supported by suitable and adequate proof of funds.

RESOLVED

That the bids received for each of the two self-build plots on Mansfield Crescent, Brierfield be accepted.

REASON

To achieve a capital receipt, fulfil the aims of the self-build scheme and reduce liabilities for the Council.

147. SELF-BUILD PLOTS AT WICKWORTH STREET, NELSON

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report on bids received for the two self-build plots at Wickworth Street, Nelson:

Plot Number	Bid 1	Bid 2	Bid 3	Bid 4
Plot 1	£26,100	£25,500	£25,000	
Plot 2	£29,000	£26,100	£25,500	£25,000

All of the bids were supported by suitable and adequate proof of funds.

RESOLVED

That the highest bids received for each of the four self-build plots on Wickworth Street, Nelson be accepted.

REASON

To achieve a capital receipt, fulfil the aims of the self-build scheme and reduce liabilities for the Council.

148. TENDERS

The Corporate Director submitted, for information, a report on tenders which had been received and accepted.

149. 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 as soon as possible to help residents who had been subjected to flood damage recently.

150.

FLOODING

Reference was made to the recent bad weather which had resulted in flooding in various parts of the Borough. In previous years the Government had provided funding by way of a Property Level Resilience Grant for residents to help with the immediate impact of flooding. It was suggested that the Government be asked to re-introduce this grant as a matter of urgency.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive writes to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government requesting that the Property Level Resilience Grant be re-instated as a matter of urgency.

REASON

To provide additional funding to residents.

151.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the next item of business on the grounds that if a member of the public and press were present during consideration of the item, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

152.

POTENTIAL HOUSING COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report on options available for the possible compulsory purchase of a property in Nelson.

RESOLVED

- (1) That officers begin to prepare the necessary documentation for the compulsory purchase of the property referred to in the report.
- (2) That further reports to agree the compulsory purchase of the property be submitted to future meetings of this Committee.
- (3) That it be agreed that the empty homes fund be used for the compulsory purchase of this mixed use property.

REASONS

- (1) *To bring an unoccupied and decaying property back into commercial and residential use and to improve the amenity of the area.*
- (2) *To enable the previously agreed funding to be used to acquire this property.*

Chairman _____