

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 17th SEPTEMBER, 2020
VIA TEAMS**

Councillor M. Iqbal (Chairman – in the Chair)

Councillors

<i>N. Ahmed</i>	<i>M. Gpulthorp</i>
<i>Musawar Arshad</i>	<i>J. Henderson</i>
<i>C. Carter (Substitute)</i>	<i>Y. Iqbal</i>
<i>D. Clegg</i>	<i>Y. Tennant (Substitute)</i>
<i>S. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>D. Whipp</i>
<i>T. Cooney</i>	<i>T. Whipp (Substitute)</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Mahmood, B. Newman and J. Nixon).

Also in attendance:

Councillor A. R. Greaves

Officers in attendance:

<i>Philip Mousdale</i>	<i>Corporate Director</i>
<i>Vince Green</i>	<i>Chief Financial Officer</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>Annette Brown</i>	<i>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</i>	<i>Minute No. 34</i>
<i>Raheela Iqbal</i>	<i>20/0369/FUL Full: Change of use of a social club (sui generis) to retail (Use Class A1) at the Palatine Working Men's Club, Norfolk Street, Nelson</i>	<i>Minute No. 34</i>

31. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

32. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

33. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th August, 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (a) 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 being awarded against the Council in the event of an appeal.

A decision was deferred at the July meeting of this Committee to enable an outstanding site visit to be carried out.

(A site visit was carried out prior to the meeting).

RESOLVED

That planning permission be **refused** for the following reasons:

1. The application site is located in an area that is prone to surface water drainage issues. The applicant has failed to demonstrate that the development would adequately deal with surface water run-off and that it would not exacerbate existing drainage problems elsewhere. The development is therefore contrary to Policy ENV7 of the Pendle Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework.
2. The development would be premature in coming forward ahead of adjacent brownfield sites.

- (b) 20/0369/FUL Full: Change of use of a social club (sui generis) to retail (Class E(a)) at the Palatine Working Mens Club, Norfolk Street, Nelson for Mr. Muhammad Iqbal**

At a meeting of Nelson Committee on 7th September, 2020 the decision to approve this application was a referred as a recommendation to this Committee as this decision was a significant departure from policy.

RESOLVED

That planning permission be **refused** for the following reason:

1. The applicant has failed to demonstrate that there is no suitable alternative site available within Nelson town centre, the development would therefore be detrimental to the vitality and viability of the town centre contrary to policy 25 of the Replacement Pendle Local Plan and WRK4 of the Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy and paragraph 90 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

35. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2019/20

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report on performance of the council's treasury management function for the 2019/20 financial year.

The Treasury Management Annual Report for 2019/20 was attached to the report at Appendix A. The report set out details of the Council's borrowing and investment activity for the year. It compared actual performance against estimates included in the approved 2019/20 Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy, assessing affordability and prudence in terms of the Council's Capital plans and its treasury management activity.

On behalf of the Committee the Chairman thanked the Chief Financial Officer for his services over the past the past six months and wished him well for the future.

RESOLVED

That the outturn position on the Council's treasury management activities for 2019/20.

REASON

For the Committee to receive details of the Council's treasury management activities for the financial year 2019/20 in compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy.

36. BUSINESS RECOVERY PLAN

The Council's Business Recovery Plan from the Coronavirus emergency was submitted for information. The Plan was also to be submitted to the next Full Council meeting.

37. TACKLING CONTAMINATION IN RECYCLING BINS

The Environmental Services Manager submitted a report which provided an update on plans to tackle the issue of contamination within the recycling materials collected via household and commercial schemes.

The County Council had set up a fund for district councils to bid for additional one-off funding to tackle contamination. The Council had successfully been awarded £17,250 to address this issue which included employing a dedicated officer full time for 6 months to work on this project.

It was proposed that this officer would revise the Contamination Action Plan and implement the actions which would hopefully result in an improved system for crews report contamination increasing the ability for business support to contact the residents hopefully lowering contamination levels. A communications campaign would help target issues within specific wards or which were generic across all wards.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That further reports be submitted to this Committee in due course.
- (3) That this report be circulated to Area Committees.

REASON

To ensure Members are aware of the actions we are taking to reduce the contamination of recycling in Pendle.

38. NATIONAL PLANNING REFORMS

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report on reforms made by the Government in July, 2020 to the General Permitted Development Order (2015) and Use Class Order (1987).

The Government were seeking views on changes to the planning system. There were two consultations out for comment. The first was the Changes to the Current Planning System which was the subject of this report. The second was the Planning White Paper which sought views on more structural changes to the whole planning system. A report on this would be submitted to the October meeting of this Committee.

Changes to the Use Classes Order, standard methodology and permission in principle were discussed.

It was felt that some of the changes would take away residents ability to influence the decision making process; and that there should be some consideration given for low viability areas.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the changes to the Use Classes Order and General Permitted Development Order 2015 be noted.
- (2) That an additional comment be added to the response to Government in relation to affordability of housing in areas of low land values.
- (3) That the comments to the consultation set out in the appendix attached to the report and referred to in (2) above be agreed and form the response to Government.
- (4) That Andrew Stephenson MP be requested to lobby within Government and highlight the need for exceptions for areas of low viability within the proposed changes outlined in the consultation document.
- (5) That a report be circulated to Area Committees to inform them of the legislative changes.

REASON

- (1) ***To ensure compliance with Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2020, Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 2020, Town and Country Planning (Permitted Development and Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) (Coronavirus) Order 2020 and Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Amendments) (England) Regulations 2020.***
- (2) ***To represent the interests of the Council by responding to consultations regarding proposed national planning reforms.***

39. TREE PLANTING ON COUNCIL OWNED LAND

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report on proposals to increase the Council's efforts in planting trees on Council owned land; to inform the Committee of funding opportunities; to discuss and propose the need for a Tree and Woodland Strategy for Pendle and to agree the proposed tree planting annual target.

RESOLVED

(1) That the following land be designated for tree planting:

Site	Size (ha)
Hard Platts	5.26
Land adjacent Park Lane, Brierfield	0.36
Chatburn Park Drive Open Space, Brierfield	0.10
Land adjacent Carr Hall Road, Nelson	2.58
Pasture Lane, Barrowford	2.20
Marsden Park, Nelson	0.68
Ringstone Crescent, Nelson	2.35
Land adjacent Alkincoats Park, Colne	5.38
Langroyd Sites, Colne	9.55
King George V, Colne	1.46

(2) That the Pendle Tree and Woodland Strategy be approved.

(3) That further updates and changes to the Pendle Tree and Woodland Strategy be delegated to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager.

(4) That a meeting be sought with representatives from Lancashire County Council to discuss tree planting opportunities on land within their ownership.

REASONS

(1) *To increase the amount of woodland and tree cover in the Borough.*

(2) *To develop a corporate approach to the management of the Councils trees and woodlands.*

(3) *To ensure that the Pendle Tree and Woodland Strategy remains relevant and can adapt to changes in policy at both local and national levels and current scientific knowledge.*

40. LAND ADJOINING 1 KIRBY ROAD, LOMESHAYE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, NELSON

The Chief Executive submitted a report following receipt of a request to extend the long lease of the land adjoining the above site and edged black on the plan attached to the report. The land had been unused for some time and an extension to the lease may result in a long term occupation and the Council receiving a premium.

RESOLVED

That the request for the extension of the 99 year lease to a 125 year term be agreed and the Chief Executive be authorised to negotiate terms for the lease extension.

REASON

To secure long term occupation of the land the Council would receive a premium.

41. ANNUAL EMISSIONS

The Chief Executive submitted the Council's Annual Emissions report for consideration.

Although significant reductions were achieved over 2019/20 the change to the Council's building stock have contributed to these reductions with staff vacating Elliott House and moving into the Town Hall.

It appeared that when considering the carbon reduction targets the building stock target had been exceeded by 2% with notable reductions in both gas and electricity (15% reduction). However, at just 1%, the transport fleet target had not been achieved.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Emissions Report be approved and published on the Council's website.

REASON

To enable publication of the Report and demonstrate progress towards the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration.

42. TENDERS

The Corporate Director submitted, for information, a report on tenders which had been received and accepted along with any exemptions from the requirements of the Contract Procedure Rules.

43. MATTERS REFERRED FROM AREA COMMITTEES

(a) Redundancies at Local Companies

At a meeting of the West Craven Committee on 8th September, 2020 it was noted that over the past few weeks more than 1,000 redundancies had been announced in the West Craven area alone. Most of these were very well paid skilled jobs. It was resolved "that this issue be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee to see if anything could be done to combat this huge impact on the local economy."

It was noted that Councillor T. Whipp would be moving a notice of motion on this matter at the next Full Council meeting on 24th September, 2020.

RESOLVED

That an informal discussion paper be prepared prior to next week's Full Council meeting outlining any measures the Council, partners and other agencies could do to aid economic recovery.

REASON

In response to the current economic climate.

Chairman _____