

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

Councillor M. Iqbal (Chairman – in the Chair)

Councillors

*N. Ahmed
Z. Ali (Substitute)
M. Aslam (Substitute)
D. Clegg
S. E. Cockburn-Price
P. Foxley (Substitute)*

*M Goulthorp
Y. Iqbal
A. Mahmood
J. Nixon
D. Whipp
T. Whipp (Substitute)*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Musawar Arshad, T. Cooney, J. Henderson and B. Newman).

Also in attendance:

Councillor A. R. Greaves

Officers in attendance:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| <i>Dean Langton</i> | <i>Chief Executive</i> |
| <i>Neil Watson</i> | <i>Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager</i> |
| <i>Jane Watson</i> | <i>Head of Democratic Services</i> |

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

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|---------------------|--|-------------------------|
| <i>Brian Sumner</i> | <i>20/0524/PIP Permission in Principle: Erection of up to 6 dwelling houses on land to the north of Rockwood, Halifax Road, Nelson</i> | <i>Minute No. 83(b)</i> |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------|

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| <i>Shazia Shaheen</i> | <i>Land at 21 Sefton Street, Nelson</i> | <i>Minute No. 89(a)</i> |
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79. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

81. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

82. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th November, 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

83. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (a) 20/0572/FUL Full: Change of use from dwelling (Use Class C3) to retail (Use Class A1) (resubmission) at 174 Railway Street, Nelson for Mrs. Asia Parveen**

At a meeting of Nelson Committee on 30th November, 2020 the decision to grant planning permission was referred as a recommendation to this Committee as this decision would represent a significant departure from policy.

RESOLVED

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

****PLANNING TO ADD****

- (b) 20/0524/PIP Permission in Principle: Erection of up to 6 dwelling houses on land to the north of Rockwood, Halifax Road, Nelson for The Mill Company Ltd.**

At a meeting of Brierfield and Reedley Committee on 2nd December, 2020 the decision to refuse this permission was referred as a recommendation to this Committee as this decision would represent a significant risk of costs.

RESOLVED

That Permission in Principle be **refused** for the following reasons:

****PLANNING TO ADD** (visual impact)**

84. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2021/22

The Chief Executive submitted a report which sought approval of the Council Tax Base for 2021/22 (this included the tax base for each part of the area to which parish precepts relate).

Committee were advised that the 'Class C' discount for dwellings that were empty and substantially unfurnished had cost the Council, by the end of November 2020, a total of £86k in the current financial year across all preceptors. A discount of 100% had been approved by the Executive in August 2016 and applied for a maximum period of 4 weeks from the date that the dwelling first became empty.

It was recommended that this discount be removed for 2021/22. This had been assumed in the tax base calculation detailed in the report.

RESOLVED

- (1) That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 agree that the amount calculated by the Borough of Pendle as its Council tax base for the year 2021/22 shall be 23,898.0.
- (2) That the tax base for parished areas be agreed as:

Town and Parish Council

Tax base

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Barley | 131.2 |
| Barnoldswick | 2,980.3 |
| Barrowford | 2,090.3 |
| Blacko | 292.5 |
| Bracewell and Brogden | 120.9 |
| Brierfield | 2,059.3 |
| Colne | 4,636.3 |
| Earby | 1,238.5 |
| Foulridge | 576.7 |
| Goldshaw Booth | 110.8 |
| Higham with West Close Booth | 345.7 |
| Kelbrook and Sough | 342.4 |
| Laneshaw Bridge | 304.9 |
| Nelson | 5,967.7 |
| Old Laund Booth | 634.9 |
| Reedley Hallows | 714.6 |
| Roughlee Booth | 159.6 |
| Salterforth | 309.7 |
| Trawden Forest | 881.7 |
| Total Tax Base | 23,898.00 |

REASON FOR DECISION

To agree the Council's Tax Base for 2021/22 for Council Tax setting purposes.

85. COLNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report on the draft Colne Neighbourhood Plan which was currently being consulted on by Colne Town Council.

A draft response to the consultation was attached to the report. The response raised a number of issues which officers advised needed further consideration or evidence. The two main issues were Policy CNDP6 – Future Housing Growth and CNDP 07 – Protecting Local Green Spaces.

RESOLVED

That the final response be delegated to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager in consultation with the three Group Leaders.

REASON FOR DECISION

To comply with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012, as amended and to suggest alterations to the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure it meets the basic conditions.

86. ACQUISITION OF TRAFALGAR HOUSE, BOOTH STREET, NELSON

The Chief Executive submitted a report on proposals to acquire Trafalgar House for demolition and subsequent construction of a town centre car park.

The building had been vacant for some time and had suffered from vandalism and damage. It appeared that it was uneconomical to retain and refurbish the building for use as office space (or an alternative use) where there was currently low demand for such in the town centre.

Reference was made to the Town Investment Plan. It was noted that funding was available from the Accelerated Funding (£750k) from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to immediately fund capital projects that were in line with the Towns Fund intervention framework. This funding could be used to acquire this building and similar properties requiring intervention by the Council to prevent further decline and allow for future development.

Some concerns were expressed that other options should be considered other than an end use for the site as a car park as well as the impact on the Conservation Area. It was reported that a planning application would be needed and these concerns would be considered at that time.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the acquisition of Trafalgar House, Booth Street, Nelson be approved.
- (2) That the Chief Executive be authorised to pursue options available for the demolition of the building and redevelopment of the site.

REASONS FOR DECISION

- (1) *To secure ownership for the Council to enable it to halt the long term deterioration of the building and blight on surrounding properties in the town centre.*
- (2) *To remove the risk of danger to passers-by and damage to vehicles and adjacent buildings from defective or damaged building fabric.*
- (3) *To consider options available in relation to retention, demolition and redevelopment of the building or cleared site (in part or whole).*

87. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the Community Engagement Framework for Pendle.

RESOLVED

That the Community Engagement Framework be approved.

REASON

To enable community engagement to be a part of everything we do as a local authority and in our partnership working; help deliver the Strategic Plan; and encourage residents to influence decision making.

88. TENDERS

The Corporate Director submitted, for information, a report on tenders which had been received and accepted and reported an exemption from Contract Procedure Rules in relation to Flexible Support Fund Partnership.

89. ITEMS REFERRED FROM AREA COMMITTEES

(a) Land at 21 Sefton Street, Brierfield

At a meeting of Brierfield and Reedley Committee on 2nd December, 2020 it was resolved that the Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to consider suspending the enforcement action at 21 Sefton Street, Brierfield.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the enforcement action not be suspended.
- (2) That the occupier be given a further six months (until the end of June 2021) to comply with the Enforcement Notice but if additional time is needed the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager be granted delegated authority to determine this.

REASON

To comply with the enforcement action.

90. THE CLIMATE ECOLOGY BILL

At the Council meeting on 10th December, 2020 it was resolved “that this item be referred to this Committee for consideration.”

A Notice of Motion was proposed which read:

“Pendle Council notes the work that is taking place following its declaration of a local climate emergency, through the Climate Emergency Working Group and elsewhere and thanks the staff who are involved in this work in these difficult times.

Council notes that a cross-party Private Members Bill – the Climate and Ecology Bill – will shortly have its Second Reading in the House of Commons and that it has wide support throughout the country.

Council further supports the principles and objectives of this Bill and calls on the House of Commons to give it a Second Reading and on the Government to provide sufficient parliamentary time for it to be thoroughly scrutinised and to progress through both Houses of Parliament.”

RESOLVED

- (1) That Pendle Council notes the work that was taking place following its declaration of a local climate emergency, through the Climate Emergency Working Group and elsewhere and thanks the staff who are involved in this work in these difficult times.

- (2) That it be noted that a cross-party Private Members Bill – the Climate and Ecology Bill – will shortly have its Second Reading in the House of Commons and that it has wide support throughout the country.
- (3) That Council further supports the principles and objectives of this Bill and calls on the House of Commons to give it a Second Reading and on the Government to provide sufficient parliamentary time for it to be thoroughly scrutinised and to progress through both Houses of Parliament.

REASON

To continue to raise awareness of the climate emergency agenda.

91. FIREWORKS

At the Council meeting on 10th December, 2020 it was resolved “that this item be referred to this Committee for consideration.”

A Notice of Motion was proposed which read:

“Pendle Council notes that nuisances caused by the inappropriate use of fireworks continue to result in complaints from residents.

It notes the report to the Policy and Resources Committee of 12th February, 2019 and the resolution of the Council of 17th December, 2019 and considers that the matter should be looked at again in the light of statements by the Government that further controls over the use of fireworks were a matter for local decision-making.”

RESOLVED

- (1) That the nuisances caused by the inappropriate use of fireworks be looked at again in the light of statements by the Government that further controls over the use of fireworks were a matter for local decision-making.
- (2) That a report be submitted to a future meeting setting out the Government Regulations and options available to the Council in relation to fireworks.

REASON

In response to concerns raised by local communities.

Chairman _____