

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS
ON 25th MARCH, 2021**

PRESENT –

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

Councillors

<i>G. Adam</i>	<i>M. Iqbal</i>
<i>M. Adams</i>	<i>Y. Iqbal</i>
<i>N. Ahmed</i>	<i>C. Lioni</i>
<i>Z. Ali</i>	<i>D. Lord</i>
<i>M. Ammer</i>	<i>N. McCollum</i>
<i>E. Ansar</i>	<i>N. McEvoy</i>
<i>Musawar Arshad</i>	<i>N. McGowan</i>
<i>N. Ashraf</i>	<i>A. Mahmood</i>
<i>M. Aslam</i>	<i>A. Mann</i>
<i>N. Butterworth</i>	<i>J. Mills</i>
<i>R. Carroll</i>	<i>B. Newman</i>
<i>C. Carter</i>	<i>J. Nixon</i>
<i>D. Clegg</i>	<i>J. Purcell</i>
<i>S. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>M. Sakib</i>
<i>T. Cooney</i>	<i>K. Shore</i>
<i>L. Crossley</i>	<i>Y. Tennant</i>
<i>V. Fletcher</i>	<i>K. Turner</i>
<i>M. Foxley</i>	<i>G. Waugh</i>
<i>P. Foxley</i>	<i>D. Whipp</i>
<i>M. Goulthorp</i>	<i>T. Whipp</i>
<i>M. Hanif</i>	<i>S. Wicks</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J. Henderson).



35. COUNCILLOR TONY GREAVES

Council observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect following the recent death of Councillor Tony Greaves.

Following this it was moved by His Worship the Mayor Councillor K. Hartley and seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal –

It is with deep regret that this Council notes the sudden death of Councillor Tony Greaves.

His service to his adopted township of Colne and to the Borough of Pendle was beyond equal and his commitment to improving the lives of local people unsurpassed.

As a Borough and former Lancashire County Councillor he has served the local population for over half a century. With his own inimitable style, he championed the region and its development with a dedicated, persistent and dogged determination which has left an outlasting legacy.

Council (25.03.2021)

In his other capacity as a life peer and active member of the House of Lords, Baron Greaves of Pendle worked tirelessly to bring the concerns of local people to the attention of Her Majesty's Government to great effect.

This Council therefore:-

Wishes to record their appreciation for all the hard work, experience, expertise and creativity that Councillor Greaves brought to this council chamber.

To publicly express their gratitude to Councillor Greaves by communicating this gratitude to his family and to thank Heather, Vicky and Helen for sharing their lives with this Council.

This Council also requests that some other, more permanent and public recognition of this service be investigated and commissioned, which reflects the true magnitude of his contribution to our community.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

37. RECORDED VOTES

As the meeting was being conducted remotely and via Microsoft Office Teams it was agreed that a recorded vote would be taken on all motions and amendments where there was no overall agreement on a decision.

38. MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed and seconded by Councillor D. Whipp that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th February, 2021 did not have appended to them all of the budget options submitted for consideration at that meeting. Advice given was that the minutes were correct.

Following a vote on the motion it was:

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 10th December, 2020 and the Special Budget Council meeting held on 11th February, 2021 be agreed as a correct record and signed by His Worship the Mayor.

39. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

There were no announcements from either the Mayor or the Leader of the Council.

40. MAYORALTY

The Corporate Director submitted a report on the protocol for the appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The protocol had been used for over twenty years and had worked very satisfactorily and ensured a reasonable rotation of the Mayoralty across the groups based on their respective strengths over time. The Governance Working Group had recommended that the protocol continue to be used but that it be resented to take account in the reduction in the number of Councillors from 49 to 33 following the elections on 6th May.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That at the forthcoming Annual Council meeting the political group with the largest number of Councillors be entitled to nominate the Mayor for 2021/22; and that the group with the second largest number be entitled to nominate the Deputy Mayor.
- (2) That for future years the present protocol be retained.

41. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER

Liz Hurley a resident from Colne said she knew pressure had been placed on the Council to bear in mind the financial costs to Pendle Council of voting to protect Gib Hill. She asked if Council agreed with her that having committed yourselves to combatting climate change it would be going against your stated beliefs to support the destruction of that, or any other green space to meet an inflated housing target.

In response the Leader said that Gib Hill had been a point of conflict for the past 23 years. He said there was a general willingness with Councillors to protect as many, if not all of the green spaces in the Borough. However, there were consequences the public didn't see which could impact on this. He acknowledged issues around climate change and said the Council had signed up to the Climate Emergency and a lot of good work had been done by the Climate Emergency Working Group which the Council had established.

There was then a supplementary question from Ms Hurley. She asked if the Council's stated commitment to combating climate change would be followed by action tonight to guarantee to protect Gib Hill in perpetuity, with absolutely no dilution of that aim. As Leader, Councillor Iqbal said that he was not in a position to commit to this as he could not speak on behalf of other Members.

42. 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

There were no questions from Members.

43. REPORT BY THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Leader of the Council submitted a report on the work of the Policy and Resources Committee.

44. POST OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (s151 OFFICER)

At the meeting on 17th December, 2019 the Council appointed the Chief Executive as statutory s151 Officer for a temporary period of 12 months.

Following a recruitment exercise the Interview Panel recommended the Council to appoint Fiona Greenway as the Chief Finance Officer and statutory s151 Officer.

With the approval of Group Leaders she started work in the post on 8th March, 2021.

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

RESOLVED

That the appointment of Fiona Greenway as Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) be confirmed with effect from 8th March, 2021.

45. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2021/22

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report on the Council's draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2021/22. The document set out how the investment and borrowing operations of the Council were to be managed within the framework established by the Treasury Management Policy Statement. It was noted that the Statement should be read in conjunction with the Council's Capital Strategy which was approved by the Council on 25th February, 2021.

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

RESOLVED

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement incorporating the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/22 be approved and in particular –

- (i) The Prudential Indicators and limits referred to in Sections 2 and 3 of the Strategy document.
- (ii) The statement by the Chief Financial Officer, detailed 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.
- (iii) The policy on the Minimum Revenue Provision for 2021/22 (Section 2, page 8 of the Strategy) (including the circumstances in which the Minimum Revenue Provision may not be required.

46. CONSULTATION ON REORGANISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CUMBRIA AND NORTH YORKSHIRE

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the Council's response to the consultation on Local Government Reorganisation in both Cumbria and North Yorkshire. The consultation had been launched on 22nd February, 2021 and would end on 19th April, 2021.

Responses to the consultation would be considered by the Secretary of State against a set of criteria which was detailed in the report. If the proposals were to be implemented new Unitary Councils would be created with effect from April, 2023.

Council were asked to consider three options:

Council (25.03.2021)

Option 1 – do not respond to the consultation

Option 2 – oppose the creation of Unitary Authorities in either or both North Yorkshire and Cumbria

Option 3 – indicate support for one or more of the Unitary Council proposals

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

MOTION

That this Council reaffirms its position opposing the formation of Unitary Authorities and express a view that North Yorkshire and Cumbria be better served by remaining that position too.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed and seconded by Councillor S. Cockburn-Price –

That the report be noted and it be left to North Yorkshire and Cumbria to make their own responses.

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

In accordance with minute 37 above those Members voting in favour of the amendment were:

Councillors N. Ahmed, Musawar Arshad, N. Ashraf, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, C. Carter, S. Cockburn-Price, T. Cooney, L. Crossley, V. Fletcher, M. Foxley, P. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, N. McCollum, N. McEvoy, N. McGowan, J. Nixon, J. Purcell, K. Turner and G. Waugh.

Members voting against the amendment were:

Councillors G. Adam, M. Adams, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, D. Clegg, M. Hanif, K. Hartley, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. Lord, A. Mahmood, A. Mann, J. Mills, B. Newman, M. Sakib, K. Shore, Y. Tennant, D. Whipp, T. Whipp and S. Wicks.

47. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021

In accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 the annual Pay Policy Statement for 2021 was submitted for approval.

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

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

That the Council's Pay Policy Statement for the 2021/22 financial year be approved and that it be published on the Council's website.

48.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Levelling Up

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

Council notes Government's stated objective to 'level up' disadvantaged areas.

But notes that recent announcements offer little prospect of genuine levelling up deprived areas such as we have in Pendle. Council finance settlements continue to penalise areas with low valuations leading to Council Tax hitting those in the poorest areas hardest; the impact of austerity is still being felt for authorities like Pendle Council; one-off funding opportunities represent only a fraction of the funding lost to our area in recent years; and financial mechanisms such as New Homes Bonus rob the poor to pay the rich. Council therefore resolves to request the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to consider and implement effective changes to genuinely level up conditions for people in Pendle.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(b) Gib Hill Community Asset Transfer

It was moved by Councillor J. Nixon and seconded by Councillor N. McGowan –

The Council notes the formation of a community group to protect, promote, enhance and manage the natural upland environment in Pendle. This group, which has hundreds of supporters, has applied to the Charity Commission to register "Hillside Heroes" as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Furthermore, it has received pledges that would pay for a series of survey visits by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT) to Gib Hill, which straddles the Colne and Nelson border, to fully assess the ecological richness it is thought to host. Hillside Heroes has taken advice from LWT on the optimum land management strategy that would ensure that biodiversity is increased to form a green lung for the residents of Pendle and beyond.

Accordingly, the Council resolves to:

Begin discussions with the proto trustees of this Group prior to beginning a Community Asset Transfer process, so that this Pendle Council owned land is held in trust as a nature reserve for the community in perpetuity by Hillside Heroes.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor D. Lord –

The Council notes the need to protect, promote, enhance and manage the natural upland environment in Pendle, including areas such as Gib Hill.

Council also notes the resolution passed at Policy and Resources Committee that discussions be held with Colne Town Council, Nelson Town Council and any other interested community group to transfer the land at Gib Hill, Nelson as a community asset transfer and looked after in perpetuity.

Council (25.03.2021)

Council recognises that Gib Hill is a green lung for residents of Pendle and endorses consideration of the land at Gib Hill being enhanced ecologically and for the public good.

Council therefore resolves to support the resolution of the Policy and Resources Committee and instructs the Chief Executive to report accordingly at the earliest opportunity.

RESOLVED

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

In accordance with minute number 37 above a recorded vote was taken on the amendment.

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were:

Councillors G. Adam, M. Adams, N. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Musawar Arshad, N. Ashraf, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, C. Carter, D. Clegg, S. Cockburn-Price, T. Cooney, L. Crossley, V. Fletcher, M. Foxley, P. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, M. Hanif, K. Hartley, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, C. Lioni, D. Lord, N. McCollum, N. McEvoy, N. McGowan, A. Mahmood, A. Mann, J. Mills, J. Purcell, M. Sakib, K. Shore, Y. Tennant, K. Turner, G. Waugh, D. Whipp, T. Whipp and S. Wicks.



The time having reached 9.45 p.m. the Mayor declared the meeting be adjourned for a few minutes. The meeting reconvened at 9.50 p.m.



(c) Pandemic

It was moved by Councillor D. Lord and seconded by Councillor M. Adams –

Though Council notes that the Covid 19 epidemic is not over yet and that the lives and livelihoods of Pendle residents are still very much at risk, Council resolves that the pandemic should be commemorated in remembrance of all those who have passed away through the disease. Council requests that the Policy and Resources Committee considers appropriate ways in which this could be done.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(d) Covid 19

It was moved by Councillor J. Mills and seconded by Councillor T. Whipp –

Council reaffirms previous resolutions about Covid 19 in respect of the Find, Test, Trace, Isolate, Support system and vaccinations. Council notes that local Primary Care Networks (PCNs) together with hospital services, urgently need to resume diagnosis, treatment and management of health conditions other than Covid 19; that local GP services have been overwhelmingly dedicated to the vaccination programme in recent months, but that this is not a sustainable situation given

Council (25.03.2021)

the need to restart regular services. Council also notes the commitment of local GPs to provide first and second dose vaccinations to all those in the priority groups for whom they have been responsible.

Council recognises that vaccination centres at Colne Health Centre and Yarnspinners' Wharf, Nelson have provided an accessible local service that will be sorely missed if PCN staff are carrying out their day job.

Further Council notes that the first dose of vaccinations will be suspended in Lancashire in April due to vaccine rationing.

Council therefore resolves to make strong representations to the ICS for accessible vaccination centres to be set up in Pendle in advance of the PCN provided services becoming unavailable and that in light of the prevalence of Covid-19 in Pendle for an extended period of time, the first dose of vaccinations be resumed in the Borough at the earliest opportunity.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(e) Housing Numbers

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

That the housing number requirement in the Local Plan be set at 146.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(f) Community Safety

It was moved by Councillor A. Mann and seconded by Councillor D. Whipp –

This Council notes the extreme concern about the treatment of women and the feelings of safety following the recent tragic loss of life and subsequent events elsewhere in the country.

This Council also notes: the stated intent of Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner to provide more police officers through the increase in Council Tax for policing; local concerns about safety on our streets; a lack of visible police presence and inadequate street lighting.

Council therefore resolves:

- (1) To request the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable to ensure adequate and appropriate visible policing in Pendle with enhanced and effective neighbourhood policing teams.
- (2) To request Lancashire County Council to provide adequate street lighting and scrap their policy of deliberately dimming lamps.

Council (25.03.2021)

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

His Worship the Mayor _____