

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 19th AUGUST, 2021
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

Councillor N. Ahmed (Chairman – in the Chair)

Councillors

Z. Ali
D. Cockburn-Price
S. Cockburn-Price
M. Goulthorp

M. Hanif
K. Howarth
M. Iqbal
D. Whipp

Also in attendance:

Councillor J. Purcell
Councillor T. Whipp

Officers in attendance:

Philip Mousdale	Interim Chief Executive
Kathryn Hughes	Principal Development Management Officer
Lynne Rowland	Committee Administrator

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

Neil Stephenson Stephen Myers Stephen Morrissey Ann Daniels	21/0564/FUL: Full: Major: Erection of 67 dwelling houses with associated works including car parking and landscaping at fields to the west of Foster Road, Barnoldswick	Minute No.47(a)
Janet Pilkington	21/0154/FUL: Full: Erection of two semi-detached bungalows and two semi-detached two storey dwellings, with associated parking and landscaping on land adjacent to 30 Dixon Street, Barrowford	Minute No.47(b)

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44. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

45. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

46. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July, 2021 be agreed as a correct record and signed

by the Chairman.

47. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) For consideration

21/0564/FUL Full: Major: Erection of 67 dwelling houses with associated works including car parking and landscaping at fields to the west of Foster Road, Barnoldswick for McDermott Homes

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

This application had been considered by West Craven Committee on 3rd August, 2021 and their recommendation to refuse the application, with reasons, was included in the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager's report.

An update had been circulated prior to the meeting which reported comments from Barnoldswick Town Council and a number of additional responses objecting to the proposed development. United Utilities had confirmed that the proposals were acceptable in principle. The recommendation remained to delegate grant consent, to include any additional or revised conditions necessary.

RESOLVED

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

- Impact on the landscape and character of the area
- Severe impact on highway safety
- Inadequate drainage strategy

(b) Referred from Area Committees

21/0154/FUL Full: Erection of two semi-detached bungalows and two semi-detached two storey dwellings, with associated parking and landscaping on land adjacent to 30 Dixon Street, Barrowford for MFH Projects

At a meeting of the Barrowford and Western Parishes Committee on 7th July, 2021 the decision to refuse this application was referred as a recommendation to this Committee as the decision would have a significant risk of costs to the Council in the event of an appeal.

An update had been circulated prior to the meeting which corrected an error to the original report in relation to the windows at 30 Dixon Street. Notwithstanding, the recommendation to approve the application remained the same as there would be no unacceptable impact upon residential amenity as a result of the development.

RESOLVED

That planning permission be **refused** on the grounds of highway impact.

48. NELSON TOWN DEAL – HEADS OF TERMS OFFER

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report which provided an update on the offer of a £25m Town Deal for Nelson. This offer fell short of the £29.9m requested, therefore the Town Deal Board was looking at ways in which the required £4.9m saving could be achieved. This was to be considered further at a Board meeting next week.

The report outlined the next steps in the process and the associated timescales. To ensure that project confirmation tables could be completed and signed off within the timescales required, it was recommended that the Interim Chief Executive be delegated powers, in consultation with the Leader of the Council to agree the details.

The report also advised of the commissioning of additional expertise to assist with the next phase of work.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the signing of the Heads of Terms offer for a Town Deal for Nelson be noted.
- (2) That the next phases of work and associated timescales for bringing forward the deal and securing the release of funding be noted.
- (3) That the waiving of standing orders to appoint Hatch consultants to support the Town Deal Board and the Council through the next stage of the Town Deal process be noted.
- (4) That the request to delegate powers to the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be deferred pending the outcome of the Town Deal Board's deliberations.

REASONS

- (1) ***To update Committee regarding the Nelson Town Deal and to outline the next steps as set out in the Heads of Terms offer.***
- (2) ***To have the necessary expertise to support the Town Deal Board and the Council through the Stage 2 process.***
- (3) ***To allow for further information before delegating authority.***

49. COLNE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report following receipt of a request from Colne BID Ltd., that a portion of the overall BID levy be paid up front to allow the BID team to continue to deliver projects whilst the BID levy was collected from the businesses. An advance payment of £40,000 had been requested.

Members also made reference to proposals for BIDs in Nelson and Barnoldswick which had been put on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic. It was suggested that the process be resumed.

RESOLVED

- (1) That an advance payment of £40,000 to Colne BID Ltd., be agreed.
- (2) That the process for establishing potential BIDs in Nelson and Barnoldswick be resumed.

REASON

- (1) To allow Colne BID to deliver projects in accordance with the Colne BID prospectus, prior to the collection and transfer of the business levy fund by the Council.**
- (2) To assess the feasibility of establishing BIDs in Nelson and Barnoldswick.**

**50. UK RESETTLEMENT SCHEME (UKRS) AND
AFGHAN RELOCATION SCHEME (AFGHAN LES)**

The Interim Chief Executive submitted a report which provided an update on the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) and the Council's commitment to participate in this scheme; and also on the Afghan Locally Engaged Staff Relocation Scheme (Afghan LES).

Committee was asked to ratify approval for the Council's participation in accepting refugee families from February, 2022 under UKRS; and to consider the commitment to participate in Afghan LES.

Due to recent developments in Afghanistan, the Committee agreed that the acceptance of refugee families be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council's participation in accepting refugee families under UKRS be approved.**
- (2) That the Leader and Interim Chief Executive be requested to liaise with other Lancashire Councils in a joint commitment to accept Afghan refugee families and press Government for additional funding.**
- (3) In the meantime, the Leader and Interim Chief Executive be authorised to hold discussions with Calico and Together Housing and any similar bodies and in the light of the outcome of these discussions inform the County Council of the Council's commitment to support Afghan LES.**

REASON

To respond to requests from Government and the County Council to commit to supporting refugees.

51. MATTERS REQUIRING FINANCIAL APPROVAL

The Interim Chief Executive submitted a report following receipt of a request for financial support from Building Bridges.

Over the past four years, the Council had supported Building Bridges with a grant of £7.5kpa (a total of £30k) as match funding for their Good Neighbours Project. This was provided as match funding towards their successful bid to the Reaching Communities Fund where they received a further £425k.

The current project would come to an end in January, 2022 and Building Bridges were now targeting a three year continuation of the Project that required a budget of £440k. For this they were seeking £45k of match funding from the Council over a three year period (£15k pa).

RESOLVED

That funding of £45k to Building Bridges be agreed in principle subject to the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, being satisfied that the match funding is required.

REASON

To support the partnership working in helping deliver the Council's strategic objective of 'Strong Communities'.

52.

TENDERS

The Interim Chief Executive submitted a report on tenders which had been received and accepted. The report also referred to exemptions granted from the Contract Procedure Rules for the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders Scheme and the Domestic Abuse Bill.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the tenders which had been received and accepted be noted.
- (2) That the exemptions granted from Contract Procedure Rules for the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders Scheme and the Domestic Abuse Bill be noted.

REASON

To agree acceptance of tenders/offers in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules.

53.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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 the next items of business when it is likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings or the business to be transacted, that there will be disclosure of exempt information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

54.

POTENTIAL HOUSING COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER

The Housing, Health and Environmental Services Manager submitted a report which sought approval to start compulsory purchase proceedings on a long term empty property.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Committee accepts the principle of the compulsory purchase of the long term empty property detailed in the report.
- (2) That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to :
 - (i) take the initial steps in connection with making a Compulsory Purchase Order under Section 17 of the Housing Act 1985 including the services of preliminary notices and

preparation of a Statement of Case in connection with the proposed Order;

- (ii) report back to Committee seeking formal authority to proceed with the proposed Compulsory Purchase Order once the preliminary works have been completed.

- (3) That compulsory purchase of this property does not breach the Human Rights Act 1998 and is proportionate in all the circumstances.

REASON

To bring an unoccupied and decaying property back into residential use and to improve the amenity of the area.

55. NELSON TOWN DEAL – HEADS OF TERMS OFFER

The Draft Heads of Terms Offer for a Town Deal for Nelson (Appendix 1 to the report for Minute 48 above) was submitted for consideration. The report was noted.

CHAIRMAN _____