

Council

Wednesday, 22nd November, 2023, 6.00 pm

Shield Room, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1DH

Agenda

15 Questions to the Leader of the Council

(Pages 171 - 174)

16 Questions to Cabinet Members

(Pages 175 - 176)

Chris Sinnott
Chief Executive

Electronic agendas sent to Members of the Council

The minutes of this meeting will be available on the internet at
www.southribble.gov.uk

Forthcoming Meetings

6.00 pm Wednesday, 6 December 2023 - Shield Room, Civic Centre, West Paddock,
Leyland, PR25 1DH

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Agenda Item 15

A question has been received for the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Strategy and Reform) from a Member of the Public:

"In my email of the 26/10 I invited you to distance the Council from the sponsorship by Royal Flush Vapes of the lights on ceremony in Leyland.

I therefore have to ask you to justify the decision to associate SRBC and a vaping company in sponsoring what is the quintessential children's event ; the turning on of the Christmas lights?

Is the Council falling into the same trap as the Sports world when it succumbed to the tobacco industry?"

My daughter and many other teachers have had vaping problems within their schools and we are constantly hearing of children becoming addicted to and suffering ill health because of vaping."

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A question has been received for the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Strategy and Reform) from a Member of the Public:

Another question from a Member of the Public has been received for the Leader:

In November 2021 the council passed a motion to write to the Minister of State for Crime & Policing, and the Home Secretary calling for **Misogyny** to be made a hate crime.

On the 9th March 2023 BBC News reported that Broadcaster Pat Sharp has left his Greatest Hits Radio show after reportedly making an inappropriate comment to a woman at an event.

Sharp made a comment about a woman in attendance in front of around 400 people while hosting the event.

"For the day and age we live in, it was completely unacceptable," said one guest in the room. "It was inappropriate and disgusting... it was the talk of the evening and completely ruined the atmosphere."

A spokesman for Greatest Hits Radio said this issue has now been brought to our attention, we have agreed with Pat Sharp that he will not return to the station immediately."

Please could you explain how the council can hire Pat Sharp to front "Music in the Park?"

BBC News report_

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-64900345>

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Agenda Item 16

Question received for the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Property, Assets, Commercial Services and Major Developments) from Councillor David Howarth

Written question to the Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Property, Assets, Commercial Services and Major Developments, Councillor Anniela Bylinski-Gelder. On 21st of July this year, I wrote to the Head of Audit and Risk, the Director of Finance, and the Monitoring Officer to raise major concerns about both the lack of governance and the financial irregularities surrounding £15,000 of council tax payers' money in relation to the Middleforth Community Gardens project at Havelock Road, Penwortham.

To date I am still awaiting a response to my request for a thorough investigation. You, as the Cabinet Member responsible, allocated £15,000 of council tax payers' money under the Boost Fund Plus to the Penwortham Community Hub in relation to the Middleforth Community Gardens, despite the fact that Community Hubs were not eligible to apply.

The eligibility criteria clearly stated that to be considered for a boost fund plus award, applicants must have:

- Been based in South Ribble, or have demonstrable experience of delivering services in South Ribble.
- Been a registered charity, a not-for-profit organisation, or a constituted community group.
- Had a bank account registered to their group or organisation.

The Community Hub therefore was ineligible to submit any application. It then transpired that the sum of £15,000 was paid into a third-party bank account namely Penwortham Town Council unbeknown to them, to settle an invoice received on 20th April 2023 for works tendered for and ordered by South Ribble Borough Council. Could the Deputy Leader therefore explain how a sum of £15,000 of South Ribble Borough Council tax payers' money can be paid into a third-party bank account without the recipient's knowledge, for a grant they didn't apply for, to pay an invoice for work they didn't order?

Which further leads me to the questions - how does the award of £15,000 from the Boost Fund Plus to a Community Hub which is ineligible, meet with the requirements of the Local Code of Corporate Governance?

How does this attempt to circumvent financial regulations sit with public perception and the ethical standards set out in the Nolan Principles especially as the scheme was prominent in political literature during the recent local elections?

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