

Minutes of Council

Meeting date Wednesday, 28 April 2021

Members present: Councillors Jane Bell (Mayor), David Howarth (Deputy Mayor), Will Adams, Jacky Alty, Renee Blow, Damian Bretherton, Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Matt Campbell, Carol Chisholm, Colin Coulton, Malcolm Donoghue, Bill Evans, James Flannery, Derek Forrest, Paul Foster, Mary Green, Michael Green, Harry Hancock, Jon Hesketh, Mick Higgins, Cliff Hughes, Susan Jones, Chris Lomax, Jim Marsh, Keith Martin, Christine Melia, Caroline Moon, Jacqui Mort, Peter Mullineaux, Alan Ogilvie, John Rainsbury, Colin Sharples, David Shaw, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, David Suthers, Stephen Thurlbourn, Michael Titherington, Caleb Tomlinson, Matthew Tomlinson, Matthew Trafford, Angela Turner, Karen Walton, Gareth Watson, Carol Wooldridge and Barrie Yates

Officers: Gary Hall (Chief Executive), Chris Sinnott (Deputy Chief Executive), Louise Mattinson (Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer), James Thomson (Deputy Director of Finance), Dave Whelan (Shared Services Lead - Legal & Deputy Monitoring Officer), Andrew Daniels (Shared Service Lead - Communications and Visitor Economy) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader)

Other members: 0

Public: 0

98 Minute's silence

The Mayor invited Members to observe a minute's silence in memory of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Councillor Colin Clark, former Councillor Tony Kelly and all those families who have lost a loved one this year.

Councillors Paul Foster and Margaret Smith paid tribute and sent their condolences to the families.

99 Welcome

On behalf of members the Mayor welcome Louise Mattinson as the new Director of Finance and Section 151 officer.

The Mayor thanked James Tomson for standing in as Section 151 officer and noted he will return to his substantive role as Deputy Section 151 officer.

100 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Ian Watkinson.

101 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

102 Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 24 February 2021 of Council

Resolved (Unanimously) That the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 24 February 2021 be approved as a correct record.

103 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor gave an update on her recent duties, including virtual attendance at a meeting and engaging via Facebook.

She had also attended the Service of Thanksgiving at Blackburn Cathedral for HRH Prince Philip.

104 Cabinet

Members received a general report of the Cabinet meeting held on 24 March.

A typographical error within the report with regard to Provision of a Loan and Grant to facilitate a works project to the Hoole Village Memorial Hall was noted. The date in the second column, which states the date of the decision as 29 January 2021 should read 10 February 2021.

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Mick Titherington, and subsequently

Resolved (Unanimously) That the report be noted.

105 Urgent Executive Decisions

Members received a report which sets out of a number of urgent decisions taken by the Executive (i.e. Cabinet or Individual Executive Members) over the last three months in accordance with urgency procedures outlined in the Council's Constitution.

These include 'key' decisions (as defined in the Cabinet Forward Plan), decisions which include confidential or exempt information (and therefore must be taken in private), and urgent decisions for which the Mayor agreed to waive scrutiny call-in in.

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Mick Titherington, and subsequently

Resolved (Unanimously) That the report be noted.

106 Governance Committee

Members received a general report of the Governance Committee meeting held on 23 March.

It was noted that there is an amendment required to the report, namely under Risk Management Strategy, paragraph 18, second bullet point which refers to a question from Cllr Bretherton.

The report should state that “Councillor Bretherton made reference to how the Asset Allocation of the Employee Pension Fund was reported in the Statement of Accounts. The make up of the Assets indicated that the Pension Fund was invested in a high risk manner- 53% invested in Private Equity. The Auditor confirmed that the Asset Allocation was incorrectly reported.”

It was proposed by Vice-Chair, Councillor Colin Sharples, seconded by Councillor Christine Melia, and subsequently

Resolved (Unanimously) That the report be noted.

107 Changes to the Council's Constitution

Members considered the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer which seeks approval for changes to the financial regulations and terms of reference of the Governance Committee in the Council's constitution.

The changes were considered by the Governance Committee on 23 March.

It was proposed by Vice-Chair, Councillor Colin Sharples, seconded by Councillor Christine Melia, and subsequently

Resolved (Unanimously) To approve the proposed changes to the financial regulations and terms of reference of the Governance Committee in the Council's constitution as outlined in the report.

108 Scrutiny Committee

Members received a general report of the Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 18 March, Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel held on 22 March and associated Task Groups.

It was proposed by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor David Howarth, seconded by the Vice-Chair Councillor Michael Green, and subsequently

Resolved (Unanimously) That the report be noted.

109 Questions to the Leader of the Council

Councillor Matthew Trafford asked a question relating to transparency and accountability. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, gave his assurance that South Ribble Borough Council acts with transparency and accountability.

110 Questions to Cabinet Members

Questions for the Cabinet Member (Health and Wellbeing) - Councillor Mick Titherington

The Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group, Councillor David Howarth, asked if Councillor Titherington was pleased to see the flood lit multi-use games area at Penwortham leisure centre being used. Councillor Titherington confirmed he was pleased to see the facilities being used and residents participating in sports.

In response to a query the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, requested some training for members regarding purdah prior to the next election.

Questions for the Cabinet Member (Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building) - Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder

Councillor Matthew Trafford asked a question regarding the use of bailiffs during the pandemic. Councillor Bylinski Gelder explained that this was an issue she would be investigating with a view to alternative options. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, advised that a report will be presented to a future meeting on this issue.

Questions for the Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets) – Councillor Matthew Tomlinson

No questions were received.

Questions for the Cabinet Member (Planning, Business Support and Regeneration) - Councillor Bill Evans

No questions were received.

Chair

Date