

COUNCIL MEETING

(Online Meeting)

27 April 2021

Present – The Chairman (Councillor Harbron) and Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Brown, Foster, Handley, Heseltine, Hull, Ireton, Jaquin, Lis, Metcalfe, Moorby, Mulligan, Myers, Noland, Place, Pringle, Rose, Shuttleworth, Solloway, Staveley, Sutcliffe, Wheeler and Whitaker.

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer), Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Democratic Services Manager and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 7.20pm

Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Madeley and Mercer.

Minutes –

Resolved – That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 April 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

Public Participation – There were no members of the public in attendance.

Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

CL.1215

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONFIRMATION

Recommendations of Standards Committee held on 10 March 2021 were submitted.

For each minute, the motion was proposed and seconded “That the recommendations in the minute are confirmed”.

- STN.381 – Members’ Code of Conduct.

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute STN. 381 are confirmed.

CL.1216

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS UNDER THE LOCALISM ACT 2011

The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer submitted a report which sought to extend the term of office of Independent Person John Boumphrey to Annual Council 2023.

Resolved – That the term of office of Independent Person John Boumphrey is extended to Annual Council 2023.

CL.1217

STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Foster reported that consultation on the proposals in relation to Local Government Reorganisation ended on 19 April 2021. He thanked all those that had responded to the consultation. It was advised that the outcome was expected at the end of July 2021.

He also reported on the forthcoming Local Elections on Thursday, 6 May 2021. The Council was welcoming two members onto the Council covering the wards of Barden Fell and Penyghent.

CL.1218

**STATEMENT FROM LEAD MEMBERS, CHAIRMEN OF
COMMITTEES AND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Mulligan reported an underspend for the last financial year. A budget monitoring report was to be submitted to the next Policy Committee meeting to provide an update on the latest position.

Councillor Myers reported that the Town Hall and Museum were scheduled to open on 21 June 2021. A number of Councillors had visited the Town Hall and Museum and the feedback received was extremely positive.

Councillor Myers paid tribute to Baroness Shirley Williams who sadly passed away on 11 April 2021. She was remembered for her service to politics, an inspiration to many and a tireless champion for the causes she believed in.

In his role as Chairman of Licensing Committee, Councillor Myers thanked members of Licensing Committee and the Licensing team for all their hard work in enforcing COVID regulations across the Craven area.

Councillor Metcalfe provided an update on recent Elected Member training that had taken place. It was reported that a further equality session was being arranged for later in the year. In addition, David Smurthwaite, Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration had agreed to provide a briefing session on the Heritage Action Zone.

Councillor Staveley reported that Select Committee had received a report on Cross Service Customer Standards. Some concerns had been identified in relation to the lack of consistency in response times across service areas. It was recommended that a Customer Charter was developed to address some of the issues.

CL.1219

GENERAL QUESTION / STATEMENT TIME

Councillor Brown submitted the following question to Councillor Foster, Leader of the Council:

'Given the sensitivities of the timescales and the costs of the Engine Shed Lane development could Council please have an update on whether any of the significant risks have materialised or reduced?'

The following response was provided by Councillor Foster, Leader of the Council:

'The redevelopment of Engine Shed Lane is progressing as planned with the flood defence works in Aireville Park expected to be completed in May and then the culverting on Ings Lane due to start in June.

In January, forecasts showed that we would not be able to spend £1.4m of the funding from the LEP on the project and Members were asked to underwrite this. I am pleased that £1.2m of this underspend has been spent so reducing the pressure on our finances. The project has some way to go and we are very conscious of the risk of cost overruns and so the Team and WSP are carefully monitoring the project and the contractors Galliford Try."

Work to develop the Engine Shed Lane depot site to provide modern and efficient accommodation for the Council's Waste Management Service is also progressing well and is on schedule for completion in April 2022, within the budget approved by Council. The service has successfully relocated to temporary accommodation on Airedale Business Park, the demolition of existing buildings has been completed, and tenders for the construction of the new depot have been received today and are currently being evaluated.'

CL.1220

ANY OTHER ITEMS – LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETINGS

The Chairman advised that a late item of business had been submitted in relation to Local Authority Meetings.

The Chief Executive submitted a report which sought to consider and review options for Council and Committee meetings beyond 7 May 2021 when the regulations that enable virtual meetings to take place were due to expire.

Resolved –

- (a) That the latest position following the decision by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 25 March 2021 not to extend the current regulations that enable virtual meetings to take place is noted.
- (b) That dependent on the outcome of proceedings by Lawyers in Local Government and the Association of Democratic Services Officers, the Council takes the following course of action:
 - i) If the proceedings are successful, then virtual meetings will continue and a further report will be submitted to consider and agree future meeting arrangements.
 - ii) If the proceedings are unsuccessful then face to face meetings will resume. Further information will be made available to consider and agree future meeting arrangements.

CL.1221

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Council Meeting on Tuesday, 25 May 2021 at 6.30pm.

Chairman