

COUNCIL MEETING

12 October 2021

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

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

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 7.45pm

Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mercer, Handley, Wheeler and Pighills.

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

CL. 1235

MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 May 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

CL. 1236

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CL.1237

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman, Councillor Sutcliffe, reported that a list of civic engagements between June 2021 and October 2021 was included within the agenda pack. He spoke about the Harrogate Mayor's Civic Luncheon at the Great Yorkshire Show, and a Civic and Community Leaders event at Memwith Hill where he learnt that Memwith Hill is very keen to support local communities and villages. They would like to work with organisations and funding is available, but take up from Craven is low.

CL.1238

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONFIRMATION

Recommendations of Policy Committee held on 14 September 2021 were submitted.

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

- POL.1147 – Outturn Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 4 2020/21

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1147 are confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM 2

- POL.1148 – Capital Programme Outturn Report -2020/21

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1148 are confirmed.

- POL.1149 – Review of Council Priority Actions

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1149 are confirmed.

Councillor Heseltine wished to point out that the recommendations have been fully debated at Policy Committee. As tonight's meeting was being video recorded, he did not want to give viewers the impression that decisions have been made without being fully informed.

CL.1239

DISPENSATION OF THE SIX MONTH RULE

The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer submitted a report at the request of Councillor Solloway which sought to approve a dispensation of the "Six Month Rule".

Councillor Solloway pointed out that the pandemic is still having an impact on individuals, and some Members have been unable to meet the Council's Six Month Rule of attending meetings in person. He proposed the motion and it was seconded by Councillor Barrett.

Councillor Foster regrettably opposed the motion, as this dispensation is set out in statute and not granted by the Council. He pointed out that special dispensation still continues to be available to Members. It is even more important that Members attend meetings in person as the Local Government Restructure (LGR) progresses and if the Six Month Rule Dispensation was approved, there could be a risk of meetings being non-quotate.

The Chairman asked Members to vote:

For the recommendations - 9

Against the recommendations - 14

Resolved – (1) That the Dispensation of the Six Month Rule is rejected. This dispensation is set out in statute and not granted by the Council.

(2) That Members are reminded about the special dispensation process that is currently in place and will be positively viewed if some Members are finding it difficult to attend meetings in person.

CL.1240

STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Foster informed Members that the Local Government Restructure (LGR) is progressing well and workstreams are now up and running. Craven will be focussing on Localism, working with residents and parishes. New Ward arrangements are currently being designed and comments around this can still be submitted. It is too early to say how Craven residents will be affected and Councillor Foster will continue to provide updates.

AGENDA ITEM 2

There was a concern amongst Members that decisions on planning and licensing applications may be made by committees who lack local knowledge. It was pointed out that future arrangements on this have still not been determined. Councillor Mulligan informed Members that the LGR is proposing 90 wards which will be proportionately represented, with 9 County Councillors as opposed to the current 7.

CL.1241

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

Councillor Lis provided an update on Greener Craven, which includes: installation of solar panels at Skipton Town Hall and Skipton Crematorium; additional electric vehicle charging points in Settle and Skipton, with decisions pending on a further 4 village carparks; Better Homes Yorkshire improving 10 homes in Grassington; bike parking stands in Skipton Town Centre; and improved facilities for Skipton and Settle market traders. Public Awareness Week was well attended. There are currently 4 ongoing feasibility projects, though not all of these may be approved before the new Council structure is in place. Waste Management is still slightly lower than that 50% target for recycling and an education strategy is being planned to address this. One Member expressed concern at the high levels of contaminated recycling materials and felt that an education programme may not completely solve the problem as staffing is seen to be a significant factor. Councillor Lis explained that officers are visiting problem areas to clarify what can/cannot be recycled and there is also an online campaign to inform people. He fully agreed with Councillor Solloway's comment that local volunteers play a significant part in keeping some areas tidy. Other areas of focus includes officers working with food establishments to meet requirements under Natasha's Law; reducing noise nuisance in problem areas; and designs for a new exit route from the Crematorium. A Member asked that additional parking facilities should also be considered at the Crematorium. Councillor Lis will liaise with officers on this.

Councillor Myers reported that the Planning Improvement Board (PIB) continues to meet and a working group is being set up with the Planning Committee. Additional staff are addressing the backlog and procedures are being put in place to improve processes. One Member referred to the Prime Minister's recent comment about no future homes being built on greenfields, and asked if developers who have currently submitted planning applications and are waiting on a decision will be compensated. Councillor Myers pointed out that the Prime Minister has not stipulated this as being a definite policy, and even if it does become one, there would be no retrospective compensations.

Councillor Mulligan explained he is due to meet Graham Soulsby, CDC's new Chief Finance Officer next week.

Councillor Staveley informed Members that the Select Committee is focussing on a project that addresses the impact of tourism on the Craven District, and a report of their findings will be presented to the Committee in January 2022.

Councillor Brockbank reminded Members about the Affordable Housing SPD workshop on 19th October (via Zoom).

AGENDA ITEM 2

Councillor Myers spoke about CDC's new policy on mandatory CCTV in taxis which is being introduced from 1st January 2022. Taxi drivers can apply to a Discretionary Hardship Fund.

Councillor Mulligan informed Members that he is attending the Police, Fire and Crime Panel this week so he would not be taking part in any discussion tonight regarding the current PFC Commissioner. Councillor Brockbank proposed a motion that "this Council has no confidence in the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner". This was seconded by Councillor Moorby.

Resolved – That the motion is confirmed and adopted.

For the Motion: 24

Against the Motion: None

Abstain: Councillor Mulligan

(Councillor Heseltine had to leave the meeting during the consideration of this item)

CL.1242

GENERAL QUESTION / STATEMENT TIME

Councillor Rose provided a statement about the activities taking place at Broughton Road Community Centre. It is a registered charity, originally set up by Councillor Madeley and is run by volunteers. The aim is to provide a safe and inclusive space for all communities. They have successfully applied for grants and provide holiday clubs and activities based around sports, health and wellbeing. They are currently setting up a youth group and are fundraising to refurbish the kitchen so that they can provide community lunches working in partnership with Age UK.

CL.1243

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 14 December 2021 at 6.30pm.

Chairman