

COUNCIL MEETING

6 August 2019

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

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

Apologies – Councillors Barrett and Mercer.

Start: 7.00pm

Finish: 9pm

Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) – Councillor Mulligan Lead Member for Financial Resilience welcomed Richard Weigh to the Council and along with Council Members wished him well in his new role.

CL.1132

MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 21 May 2019 are confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CL.1133

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions received from members of the public.

CL.1134

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CL.1135

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A list of engagements attended by the Chair was included within the agenda pack.

CL.1136

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report asking Members to formally adopt amendments to the Craven District Council Constitution for the municipal year 2019/20.

The Council was required by law to prepare and keep up to date a constitution that explained how the Council operated; how decisions were made and the procedures to be followed to ensure decision making was transparent and accountable. The Monitoring Officer had undertaken a 'light touch' review and proposed a small number of minor changes to ensure the Constitution was accurate and fit for purpose.

Resolved – (1) That, the amendments to the Craven District Council Constitution 2019/2020 as summarised in the report now submitted, are adopted.

(2)That, the Monitoring Officer is authorised to make the amendments to the Constitution and to publish the Craven District Council Constitution 2019/2020.

CL.1137

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONFIRMATION

The following recommendation was submitted by Policy Committee at its meeting held 30 April 2019:

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

- POL.989 – Potential Tour de Yorkshire 2020 Start in Skipton

Members had a lengthy debate about whether the Council should submit an expression of interest in hosting the start of the Tour de Yorkshire in Skipton and they discussed the funding options that could be available to support the Council underwriting the event should the hosting bid be successful.

Resolved –That the recommendations at Minute POL.989 are confirmed.

(Members requested that their votes be recorded as follows: Councillors Brockbank, Brown, Foster, Harbron, Hull, Jaquin, Lis, Metcalfe, Myers, Noland, Place, Rose, Staveley, Wheeler and Whitaker voted for the recommendation and Councillors Handley, Heseltine, Ireton, Madeley, Moorby, Morrell, Mulligan, Pighills, Pringle, Shuttleworth, Solloway, Sutcliffe and Welch voted against the recommendation.)

The following recommendations were submitted by Policy Committee at its meeting held on 18 June 2019:

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

- POL.995 – Capital Programme Outturn 2018/19

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.995 are confirmed.

- POL.996 – Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief – Update to Policy

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.996 are confirmed.

- POL.997 – Empty Homes Strategy 2019 – 2024

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.997 are confirmed.

- POL.998 – Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019 – 2024

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.998 are confirmed.

- POL.999 – Developing the Natural Aire Project (DNAIRE)

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.999 are confirmed.

- POL.1000 – Leeds – Liverpool Canal – Strategy for Public Art and Heritage Interpretation.

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1000 are confirmed.

The following recommendations were submitted by Policy Committee at its meeting held on 23 July 2019:

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

- POL.1008 – Final Outturn Revenue Budget Monitoring Quarter 4 2018/2019

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1008 are confirmed.

- POL.1009 – Collaboration Agreement with North Yorkshire County Council for the Provision of Support for Homeless People

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1009 are confirmed.

CL.1138

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.1, the Council was asked to consider two motions on notice. The first had been moved by Councillor Andrew Brown and seconded by Councillor David Noland as follows:

1. *Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 410 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;*
2. *In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO₂eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible;¹*
3. *Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;*
4. *Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption;*
5. *Unfortunately, our current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C limit before 2050;^{2, 3}*
6. *The IPCC’s Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities³;*

7. *Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.*⁴

Full Council believes that:

1. *All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Craven that we commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;*
2. *The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority; and,*
3. *Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).*

Full Council resolves to:

1. *Declare a 'Climate Emergency';*
2. *Pledge to make the District of Craven carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3)*⁵;
3. *Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;*
4. *Work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;*
5. *Work with partners in Craven and across the region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;*
6. *Report within six months the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.*

Councillor Lis, Lead Member for Greener Craven responded, welcoming the motion and he set out recent Council initiatives including:

- Skipton Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Phasing out of single use plastic across our operations
- Running a RIBA competition to design carbon efficient affordable housing that could be rolled out across the District
- Installing electric charging points in Council car parks
- Increasing facilities in Council parks to encourage more visits to green open spaces
- EV charging points to be included on all homes built by the Council
- Development and delivery of a £2m project to improve the accessibility along the Leeds – Liverpool canal to provide a safer walking and cycling access into the Yorkshire Dales and making connections into neighbouring towns and villages.

Councillor Lis stated that the Council wanted to be, and would be, at the heart of tackling climate change and whilst supporting the motion to declare a climate change emergency proposed some amendments to the recommendations aimed at giving a very clear commitment on the way forward and it was,

Resolved – (1) That a climate emergency is declared.

(2) That, the Council pledges to continue to work towards making the District of Craven carbon neutral by 2023, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3)⁵.

(3) That the Council call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.

(4) That, the Council works with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C.

(5) That, the Council works with partners in Craven and across the region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans.

(6) That, within six months, present to Members a Strategic Plan setting out how a carbon neutral district can be achieved.

(7) That, a supplementary revenue estimate of £10,000 is approved to commission independent expert advice to help develop our strategic approach to becoming carbon neutral and to undertake a feasibility assessment into the opportunities for anaerobic digestion facilities.

The second motion on notice had been moved by Councillor Simon Myers and seconded by Councillor Carl Lis as follows:

“That this Council adopts and endorses the aims and policies of the ‘Close the Door Campaign’ as part of its commitment to reduce carbon emissions in the District.

Resolved – That the Council supports the motion on notice as set out above.

CL.1139

STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council made a brief statement outlining the current position with regard to devolution. He reported that the new leadership across Yorkshire wanted to progress the One Yorkshire deal and discussions were ongoing. Further updates on developments would be brought to Council in due course.

CL.1140

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

Councillor Lis, Lead Member for Greener Craven reported on environmental issues particularly in relation to refuse collection points that were being introduced to satisfy the HSE and potential for refuse collectors to suffer from RSI. Discussions were also taking place regarding establishing an anaerobic digester in the District and in doing so, he thanked members of the public for efforts to recycle waste which had been tremendous. In relation to dog fouling, hot spots had been identified with the help of parish councils and information leaflets were being prepared to ensure that dog owners were aware of their obligations.

Councillor Mulligan, Lead Member for Financial Resilience reported on progress made with the development of the Council’s affordable housing project which whilst providing

homes for local people and helping them get on the property ladder, brought in a much needed income stream for the Council.

Councillor Staveley, Chairman of Select Committee reported that the Committee sitting as the Crime and Disorder Committee had received a very interesting presentation from the North Yorkshire Police Rural Task Force on crimes against birds of prey. The Committee had also undertaken a review of Development Control and their report would be presented to the next meeting of the Policy Committee. As part of their work programme they would be reviewing lane ends refuse collections.

CL.1141

GENERAL QUESTION / STATEMENT TIME

Councillor Solloway made a brief statement highlighting 'Incredible Edible' a community project whereby neglected or underused areas were turned into mini allotments. The idea was to develop community food growing spaces across Skipton particularly in areas where people didn't have gardens. Two sites were currently being used to pilot the scheme. Councillor Solloway considered it to be an excellent project that brought communities together in the pursuit of growing their own vegetables, herbs and wild flowers.

CL.1142

APPOINTMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S SECTION 151 OFFICER

The Chief Executive submitted a report updating Members on the appointment of the Council's Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer). The Council's Recruitment and Appeals Panel interviewed applicants on 12th April 2019 and unanimously agreed to offer the post to Mr Richard Weigh. Mr Weigh began his new role with the Council on 15th July 2019.

Resolved – That, the appointment of Mr Richard Weigh as the Council's Chief Finance Officer is noted and his appointment as the Section 151 Officer from 15th July 2019 is confirmed.

Chairman