

PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 18 July 2018, when the following Members were present:-

Andrew Kay (Mayor)

June Ashworth

Stuart Bateson

Alan Biddulph

Carla Brayshaw

Tracy Brown

Nathan Burns

Ian Clift

Sheila Denwood

Charlie Edwards

Andrew Gardiner

Janet Hall

Janice Hanson

Brendan Hughes

Joan Jackson

Geoff Knight

Roger Mace

Abi Mills

Jean Parr

Robert Redfern

Peter Rivet

Sylvia Rogerson

Elizabeth Scott

Andrew Warriner

Anne Whitehead

Nicholas Wilkinson

Phillippa Williamson

Claire Cozler (Deputy Mayor)

Jon Barry

Amara Betts-Patel

Eileen Blamire

Dave Brookes

Abbott Bryning

Darren Clifford

Brett Cooper

Rob Devey

Kevin Frea

Mel Guilding

Tim Hamilton-Cox

Colin Hartley

Caroline Jackson

Ronnie Kershaw

James Leyshon

Terrie Metcalfe

Jane Parkinson

Margaret Pattison

John Reynolds

Oliver Robinson

Ron Sands

Malcolm Thomas

David Whitaker

John Wild

Peter Williamson

Peter Yates

WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

Before starting the meeting the Mayor welcomed Councillor Amara Betts-Patel, Councillor Oliver Robinson and Councillor Peter Rivet to their first Council meeting since being elected as a result of two by-elections held on 17 May 2018. Councillor Rivet was elected to represent Skerton West ward; Councillors Betts-Patel and Robinson were elected to represent University and Scotforth Rural Ward.

The Mayor then reminded Members of the need to show respect for each other during debate and to comply with the procedure rules and code of conduct to make the meeting as productive as possible.

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Susie Charles, Nigel Goodrich, Jane Parkinson, Susan Sykes and Oscar Thynne.

20 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 11 and 14 May 2018 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members advised of the following interests at this stage:

Councillors Cooper and Gardiner declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 22, Appointment to the Morecambe Business Improvement District (BID) as they each had a business in the Morecambe area. (Minute No. 40 refers.)

Councillor Edwards declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 18, the motion on notice regarding Children's Centres as a Member of the County Council. (Minute No. 36 refers.) The Mayor advised him that this motion had been withdrawn.

Councillor Hughes declared a declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 22, Appointment to the Morecambe Business Improvement District (BID) as the Chairman of the Morecambe BID. (Minute No. 40 refers.)

22 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

Councillor Peter Williamson expressed concern at the number of items on the agenda. He asked the Mayor if he would try and ensure that each full council agenda had a reasonable prospect of finishing before 10.00pm.

The Mayor replied that there was a lot of business to get through and this had been considered at his briefing session. He would explain how he intended to re-order the agenda under the next item.

23 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor invited Councillors to attend his charity BBQ on Saturday 4 August 2018. Tickets, priced £7, to include food and live music, could be purchased from the Mayor's Office.

Councillors were informed that the Mayor wished to re-order the agenda. The first item would be to hear two public speakers who had registered to speak about the Canal Quarter, followed by an adjournment to attend a briefing for Members in the upstairs Committee rooms. Following the Canal Quarter briefing, Members would consider the exemption issue before taking the Canal Quarter Progress Update report.

The Mayor announced that the motion on notice regarding Children's Centres (Item 18) would not be heard. It had been withdrawn by the Members who submitted it.

The Mayor was asked whether the briefing on the Canal Quarter would be open to the public. The advice was that this was not part of the Council meeting, therefore it would not be a public meeting.

Councillor Barry proposed:

"That the briefing session on the Canal Quarter be opened up to allow the members of the public present to attend."

Councillor Hamilton-Cox seconded the motion, which was clearly carried when put to the vote.

Resolved:

That the briefing session on the Canal Quarter be opened up to allow the members of the public present to attend.

24 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

The Mayor advised that no questions had been received from members of the public in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11.

25 PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES

Ms Desna MacKenzie addressed Council in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 13. A copy of her address, which related to consultation about the plans for the Canal Quarter, had been published with the agenda.

Mr. Barry Callaghan then addressed Council, also about consultation regarding the Canal Quarter. A copy of his address had been previously circulated.

The Leader thanked both speakers and asked Councillor Hanson, Portfolio holder for Planning and Regeneration, to make a response.

Councillor Hanson thanked Ms MacKenzie and Mr Callaghan for their views. She advised that the project was still in its very early stages and she would expect public participation to take place. She invited Ms MacKenzie and Mr Callaghan to meet with her and the relevant Council officers in the near future to see how they could play a part going forward.

The Mayor then called for an adjournment of the public meeting for approximately 45 minutes to allow Councillors to receive a presentation relating to the Canal Quarter in the Committee rooms upstairs.

The meeting adjourned at 6.30pm and reconvened at 7.15pm.

26 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Mayor pointed out that the next item was a recommendation to exclude the press and public. However, the report had been prepared as a public report, and it would only be necessary to exclude the press and public if Councillors felt it necessary to refer to the contemplated financial and business affairs relating to the development contained in Appendix C of the report. He suggested that the majority of the report – those parts relating to recommendations 1 to 6 and 8 – be debated in public first; then that an exclusion resolution be proposed to allow questions and debate relating to the financial information in Appendix C of the report, relating to recommendation 7.

The Mayor asked Councillors whether there were any objections to dealing with the report in the manner he had just suggested.

Councillor Peter Williamson objected. He proposed that no exclusion resolution be passed, as he could see no reason for any exemption.

Advice was sought and received from the Monitoring Officer, who explained that information was contained within the exempt appendix which could adversely affect the position of the Council in future business negotiations. In view of this, Councillor Blamire proposed:

“That the majority of the report – those parts relating to recommendations 1-6 and 8 – be debated in public first; then that an exclusion resolution be proposed to allow questions and debate relating to the financial information in Appendix C of the report, relating to recommendation 7.”

Councillor Hanson seconded the proposition and, after a short debate, the Mayor called for a vote. The proposition was clearly carried.

Resolved:

That the majority of the report – those parts relating to recommendations 1-6 and 8 – be debated in public first; then that an exclusion resolution be proposed to allow questions and debate relating to the financial information in Appendix C of the report, relating to recommendation 7.

27 CANAL QUARTER PROGRESS UPDATE

Councillor Janice Hanson presented her report updating Council on progress with the Canal Quarter. The report was public, however Appendix C was exempt under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

She responded to a number of questions from Councillors, assisted by the Regeneration Manager and the Planning Manager.

Councillor Hanson proposed:

“That recommendations 1 to 6 and recommendation 8, as set out in the report, be approved.”

Councillor Hughes seconded the proposition.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox proposed an amendment, to remove recommendations 6 and 8

from the proposition.

Councillor Barry seconded the amendment.

A lengthy debate on the amendment followed before a vote was taken and the amendment was clearly lost.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Peter Williamson regarding recommendations 5 and 6:

“To refer decisions on recommendations 5 and 6 back to full council.”

This was not accepted as a friendly amendment by Councillor Hanson or her seconder. Councillor Edwards seconded Councillor Williamson’s amendment, which was put straight to the vote. The amendment was lost.

The Mayor called for a vote on the original proposition, which was clearly carried.

At this point Councillor Hanson proposed the exclusion of the press and public for discussion regarding recommendation 7 of the report. Councillor Pattison seconded the proposition. A vote was taken and the proposition was clearly carried.

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for remaining business on this item, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 Schedule 12A of that Act.”

The Chief Officer (Resources), the Regeneration Manager and the Assistant Chief Executive responded to a number of Members’ questions on Appendix C of the report.

Councillor Hanson proposed:

“That recommendation 7, as set out in the report, be approved.”

Councillor Hughes seconded the proposition.

Councillor Peter Williamson proposed an amendment, to delete bullet point four, which read: “Cabinet being granted delegated authority to acquire any land which is part of the Canal Quarter development, and to authorise any associated works.”

Councillor Cooper seconded the amendment. There was a short debate before a vote was taken and the amendment was lost.

Councillor Brookes then proposed an amendment, which was accepted as a friendly amendment by Councillor Hanson and Councillor Hughes. The amendment was to replace the words “any land” in bullet point 4 with the words “the two land holdings identified in Appendix C”.

A vote was then taken on the proposition to accept recommendation 7, complete with the friendly amendment, which was clearly carried.

Resolved:

That Council

Development Proposals

- (1) Notes progress on the emerging draft Development Framework and the draft Consultation / Engagement Plan including the work undertaken to date by Planit;
- (2) Authorises the necessary changes to the Local Development Scheme to produce a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) with responsibility delegated to Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group;

Legal

- (3) Notes the proposal that Cabinet agrees the creation of any legal entity as appropriate to facilitate the effective delivery of the overall project.
- (4) Notes the deed of termination of development agreement with British Land dated 19 June 2018.

Financial

- (5) Authorises the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council to conduct negotiations and further due diligence work in relation to the potential acquisition of land and buildings in the Canal Quarter area.
- (6) Authorises the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council to enter into negotiations with potential development partner(s) which may include any other property owner.
- (7) Approves the budgetary framework as set out in the exempt Appendix C of the report and authorises its use for progressing the scheme, providing for:
 - the renaming of the Canal Corridor Reserve to the Canal Quarter Reserve;
 - a £186K transfer from the Capital Support Reserve to the Canal Quarter Reserve;
 - an increase in the Council's underlying need to borrow (known as the Capital Financing Requirement) (as set out in the table at paragraph 1 of Appendix C);
 - Cabinet being granted delegated authority to acquire the two landholdings identified in Appendix C of the report which are part of the Canal Quarter development, and to authorise any associated works;
 - the Chief Executive, in consultation with the s151 and Monitoring Officers, being granted delegated authority to pursue relevant external funding bids, subject to any such opportunities being in line with the overall budget and development framework for the scheme; and
 - the Chief Executive being granted delegated authority for commissioning professional consultancy in support of progressing the scheme.

Future Reporting

- (8) Requires Cabinet to report progress on the progress of the scheme to full Council on 14 November 2018.

***The meeting adjourned at 8.55pm and reconvened at 9.10pm
in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1.***

28 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Mayor informed Councillors that it was likely to be necessary to refer to information in the exempt appendices to the Executive Team Structure report and, because of this, Council was recommended to exclude the press and public from the meeting.

Councillor Clifford proposed, seconded by Councillor Rivet:

“That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of that Act.”

The Mayor took a vote and the proposition was clearly carried.

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

29 EXECUTIVE TEAM STRUCTURE

Councillor Blamire presented a report of Cabinet seeking decisions regarding proposals developed by the Chief Executive in relation to changes to the structure of the Executive Team. The report was public, however some of the appendices were exempt under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Members asked a number of questions, which Councillor Blamire, the Chief Executive and the Interim HR Manager responded to.

Councillor Blamire, seconded by Councillor Clifford, proposed:

That Council agrees

- “(1) The implementation of the new structure as set out in the report and the Cabinet report of 3 July and to agree this includes the creation of a Legal Services Manager post.
- (2) The funding of the future operating model for the senior management team.
- (3) To authorise the Deputy Section 151 Officer to update the General Fund Revenue Budget accordingly, with upfront costs being met from the Restructuring Reserve and any continued engagement of the Interim Human Resources Manager beyond 31 July 2018 and up to 31 March 2019 be met from a combination of turnover savings and the Budget Support Reserve.”

Councillor Barry proposed an amendment, however the Mayor accepted the advice of the Monitoring Officer that the amendment negated the motion. Therefore, in accordance with Council procedure rule 17.6 (a) it could not be accepted or debated. The wording of the proposed amendment was:

Having considered the proposed restructure, council believes that the costs of directors are too high and has concerns that the Section 151 officer would not be in the management executive team (which would contradict CIPFA advice). Instead, Council instructs the chief executive to work up the details of the following proposal, bring back to Full Council and then conduct a further consultation. The new structure would be along the following lines:

Delete the legal Chief Officer post and replace with legal services manager (as proposed in original restructure)

Two Chief Officers (strategic and operational) of Communities and the Environment;

A Chief Officer of Sustainable Growth and Regeneration;

A Chief Officer of Resources and Governance. This would be the s151 officer;

The Deputy Chief Executive post to run until April 2019;

A further post to be considered if the Council decides to operate a Trading Company.

Financial implications

On 2019/20 figures, three of the Chief Officer posts above would result in savings of (£39k = £13k per post);

The discontinuation of the Deputy Chief Executive post in April 2019 would result in a saving of £100k on the proposed restructure.

The legal services manager post would cost the same as in the proposed restructure (£13k).

The new structure is less likely to result in redundancy payments.

There was a long debate on Councillor Blamire's proposition before a vote was taken and it was clearly carried.

Resolved:

- (1) The implementation of the new structure as set out in the report and the Cabinet report of 3 July and to agree this includes the creation of a Legal Services Manager post.
- (2) The funding of the future operating model for the senior management team.
- (3) To authorise the Deputy Section 151 Officer to update the General Fund Revenue Budget accordingly, with upfront costs being met from the Restructuring Reserve and any continued engagement of the Interim Human Resources Manager beyond 31 July 2018 and up to 31 March 2019 be met from a combination of turnover savings and the Budget Support Reserve.

30 MOTION ON NOTICE - CLIMATE CHANGE

The following motion of which notice had been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15 was moved by Councillor Frea and seconded by Councillor Clifford:-

“This Council acknowledges;

- the historic commitments made at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris toward the future of renewable energy;
- our responsibility to help secure an environmentally sustainable future for our residents and in relation to the global effects of anthropogenic climate change.

This Council subsequently notes that;

- despite the Paris Agreement placing no binding commitments upon Local Government institutions, we as a Council can still play our part in the global movement towards a sustainable energy future;
- additional benefits of the development of green industries include the potential for create well-paid, high-skilled employment locally, regionally and nationally;
- the UK100 Agreement pledge outlines the ambition for the UK regions to exceed the Paris Climate targets through achieving 100% ‘clean energy’ usage by 2050.

In light of this, this Council, therefore, resolves to;

- match the ambitions of the UK100 Agreement by pledging to achieve 100% clean energy across Lancaster City Council’s Council’s full range of functions by 2050.
- work in partnership with our residents and business community to deliver against the commitments made nationally and internationally at the 2015 Paris Summit;
- turn these commitments into reality through developing a ‘route map’ to a sustainable future, working together with the business, educational and residential communities of Lancaster and Morecambe as part of an integrated approach to a shared sustainable future”.

An officer briefing note had been prepared to accompany the motion.

After a short debate, an amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Hamilton-Cox, to change the date of 2050 to 2030. He asked that this be considered as a friendly amendment. Councillor Frea was happy to accept this as a friendly amendment, however Councillor Clifford, his seconder, was not.

A vote was taken on the motion, which was clearly carried.

Resolved:-

This Council acknowledges;

- the historic commitments made at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris toward the future of renewable energy;

- our responsibility to help secure an environmentally sustainable future for our residents and in relation to the global effects of anthropogenic climate change.

This Council subsequently notes that;

- despite the Paris Agreement placing no binding commitments upon Local Government institutions, we as a Council can still play our part in the global movement towards a sustainable energy future;
- additional benefits of the development of green industries include the potential for create well-paid, high-skilled employment locally, regionally and nationally;
- the UK100 Agreement pledge outlines the ambition for the UK regions to exceed the Paris Climate targets through achieving 100% 'clean energy' usage by 2050.

In light of this, this Council, therefore, resolves to;

- match the ambitions of the UK100 Agreement by pledging to achieve 100% clean energy across Lancaster City Council's Council's full range of functions by 2050.
- work in partnership with our residents and business community to deliver against the commitments made nationally and internationally at the 2015 Paris Summit;
- turn these commitments into reality through developing a 'route map' to a sustainable future, working together with the business, educational and residential communities of Lancaster and Morecambe as part of an integrated approach to a shared sustainable future.

At this point in the meeting, with the time at 10.20pm, the Mayor called for an adjournment until Wednesday 25th July at 6pm, when the rest of the business on the agenda would be considered.

The meeting adjourned at 10.20pm on 18 July 2018 and

re-convened at 6pm on 25 July 2018 with the Deputy Mayor in the Chair.

The Deputy Mayor informed Members that a number of Councillors had contacted Democratic Services to give their apologies for the reconvened meeting. Councillors Brown, Cooper, Kershaw, Knight, Mills, Reynolds, Warriner, Wild and Wilkinson were not able to attend.

At this point, the Deputy Mayor permitted Councillor Mace to make a personal statement to Council. Councillor Mace said:

"Some of you may know, following an interview last week, I have been advised that my application to be placed on the approved list of Conservative Local Government candidates for the City Council elections next May was not successful.

I am submitting an appeal against this decision.

In the meantime, I can assure my electorate that this unexpected decision does not affect my duty as a Councillor to serve the local electorate of my ward. My Conservative principles are unchanged: I remain a member of the Conservative party and I intend to continue to represent the electorate in my ward to the best of my ability."

31 EXECUTIVE ANNUAL REPORT

In accordance with Article 7.06(k), Councillor Leyshon, former Cabinet Member and portfolio holder with responsibility for Property Services, Car Parking, ICT, digital strategy and Customer Services had produced a written progress report for 2016/17 and submitted it to the April meeting of Council. The report had been deferred from that meeting, as Councillor Leyshon was unable to attend.

Councillor Leyshon presented his annual report and answered a number of questions.

Resolved:

That the annual report of former Cabinet Member Councillor Leyshon be received.

32 CABINET MINUTES

Council considered the Cabinet minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2018. The Leader responded to Members' questions.

Councillor Edwards asked what efforts would be made to help tenants in receipt of Universal Credit make direct payments to their landlords to avoid rent arrears. The Chief Executive said she would provide a written answer.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox asked Councillor Hanson about the effect of the amendment she had proposed regarding the review of housing allocation policy (Cabinet Minute 86 refers). Councillor Hanson said she would provide an answer in writing.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

33 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader presented her report updating Members on various issues since her last report to Council. She then responded to a number of questions from Councillors, assisted by relevant portfolio holders.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

34 AMBITIONS: OUR COUNCIL PLAN 2018-22

Council considered a report of Cabinet seeking approval from Council for "Ambitions: Our Council Plan 2018-22".

After presenting the report, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance Management, Councillor Whitehead, responded to Members' questions.

Councillor Whitehead, seconded by Councillor Clifford, proposed:

"(1) That the Council Plan 2018-22 be approved, subject to the following amendments:

- a) That the word “key” be inserted before the word “parks” on page 4 of the plan under the heading “Clean, Green and Safe Neighbourhoods” in the second bullet point (to read ‘Work towards key parks and public spaces...’).
- b) That, on the same page under the same heading, the word “beaches” be inserted in the first bullet point after the word “parks” (to read ‘...neighbourhoods, parks, beaches and open space...’) and that the same amendment be made on page 9 on the first bullet point under the first heading “Our Priorities|We want to”.
- c) That on page 8 under “What success will look like by 2022”, under “Regeneration”, the bullet point “Regenerated Lancaster City and Morecambe Town Centre” be amended to read “Regenerated Lancaster City, Carnforth and Morecambe Town Centres.”

Councillor Barry proposed an amendment, which was accepted as a friendly amendment by Councillors Whitehead and Clifford:

“That, on page 11, under the heading “Clean and Green” a fifth bullet point be added to read: “A detailed plan for achieving the aims of the Climate Change motion adopted in July 2018 will be in place and initial action will have been taken to progress it.”

After a short debate, a vote was then taken on the proposition, complete with friendly amendment, which was clearly carried.

Resolved:

“(1) That the Council Plan 2018-22 be approved, subject to the following amendments:

- a) That the word “key” be inserted before the word “parks” on page 4 of the plan under the heading “Clean, Green and Safe Neighbourhoods” in the second bullet point (to read ‘Work towards key parks and public spaces...’).
- b) That, on the same page under the same heading, the word “beaches” be inserted in the first bullet point after the word “parks” (to read ‘...neighbourhoods, parks, beaches and open space...’) and that the same amendment be made on page 9 on the first bullet point under the first heading “Our Priorities|We want to”.
- c) That on page 8 under “What success will look like by 2022”, under “Regeneration”, the bullet point “Regenerated Lancaster City and Morecambe Town Centre” be amended to read “Regenerated Lancaster City, Carnforth and Morecambe Town Centres.”
- d) “That, on page 11, under the heading “Clean and Green” a fifth bullet point be added to read: “A detailed plan for achieving the aims of the Climate Change motion adopted in July 2018 will be in place and initial action will have been taken to progress it.”

35 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2017/18

Cabinet submitted a report presenting the treasury management outturn for 2017/18, for Council’s information. Councillor Whitehead, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance Management presented the report.

Councillor Whitehead and the Chief Officer (Resources) responded to questions from

Members.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

36 MOTION ON NOTICE - CHILDREN'S CENTRES

The Deputy Mayor reminded Members that this motion had been withdrawn from the agenda by the Councillors who had submitted it.

37 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2018 - 2019

The Chief Executive submitted a report advising of progress revising the Pay Policy Statement 2018-2019.

Councillor Clifford, seconded by Councillor Pattison, proposed that the report be noted.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

38 ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

The Chief Executive presented a report which set out the calculation in accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Part 4 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, which had been carried out following by-elections in the Skerton West and University and Scotforth Rural wards in May 2018. The calculation did not require any changes to be made to the composition of the council's committees.

Councillor Clifford, seconded by Councillor Peter Williamson, proposed that the recommendation, as set out in the report, be approved.

A vote was taken and the Deputy Mayor declared the proposition clearly carried.

Resolved:-

- (1) That in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, and Part 4 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990, the City Council approves the calculations and allocation of seats set out in Appendices B and C of the report.

39 AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION - SCHEME OF DELEGATION FOR NON-EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report seeking approval for an amendment to the scheme of delegation for non-executive functions recommended by the Licensing Act Committee.

Councillor Metcalfe, seconded by Councillor Clift, proposed:

- “(1) That power to revoke a personal licence under Section 132A of the Licensing Act 2003 be delegated to the Licensing Manager where no representations have been

made by the licence holder within the 28-day statutory period.

- (2) That the Monitoring Officer be asked to amend the Constitution by adding this to the scheme of delegations from the Licensing Act Committee, as set out on Appendix 1 of the report."

A vote was then taken on the proposition, which was clearly carried.

Resolved:

- (1) That power to revoke a personal licence under Section 132A of the Licensing Act 2003 be delegated to the Licensing Manager where no representations have been made by the licence holder within the 28-day statutory period.
- (2) That the Monitoring Officer be asked to amend the Constitution by adding this to the scheme of delegations from the Licensing Act Committee, as set out on Appendix 1 of the report.

40 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES - MORECAMBE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

Council was asked to consider a report of the Chief Executive regarding the appointment of Councillor Hanson, the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration to the Morecambe Business Improvement District (BID). The report noted that Councillor Hanson had taken a seat on the BID from its inception. Due to an oversight, however, the appointment had never been formally approved by Council.

Councillor Clifford, seconded by Councillor Pattison, proposed that the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved.

There was no debate and the proposition was clearly carried when put to the vote.

Resolved:

- (1) That Members note that the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration has been unofficially appointed the Morecambe BID since the time it was established.
- (2) That Council ratifies Councillor Hanson's appointment to the Board of the Morecambe BID, as the appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder, until the date of the next elections in May 2019.

41 APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Deputy Mayor asked Group Administrators to propose any changes to Committee Memberships. It was noted that the changes proposed by Administrators had already been dealt with on Thursday 19 July at the meeting of Council Business Committee.

42 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Deputy Mayor advised that 4 questions had been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.

The first, from Councillor Barry to Councillor Blamire concerned a matter relating to an ex-employee of the Council and the Monitoring Officer advised that the question and answer

be taken in private as they might disclose exempt information under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

In view of the advice given, Councillor Clifford, seconded by Councillor Brayshaw, proposed that the press and public be excluded from the meeting whilst the question was dealt with. There was a short debate about the exclusion.

When the proposition was put to the vote it was clearly carried.

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the first question on notice, on the grounds that it might involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

Members of the public left the public gallery at this point.

43 QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

The first question on notice, from Councillor Barry to Councillor Blamire, and the reply, are contained in a minute exempt from publication under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The second question was from Councillor Caroline Jackson to Councillor Blamire:

“Could you explain why it takes 8 weeks to recruit new staff including casual staff for jobs such as serving in our cafes?”

Councillor Blamire replied:

Recruitment is a key process for the Council, which needs to be carried out appropriately to ensure that the Council selects the right people for roles. Regardless of whether the Council is appointing into an established post or a casual vacancy, a number of steps need to be completed prior to the new appointee commencing work.

These include:

- Vacancies normally being advertised for a period of two weeks, to ensure a good number of applicants;
- Applicants being short listed and invited to attend an interview;
- Relevant pre-placement checks being completed prior to start date, to ensure that the selected applicant is able to carry out the role;
- The appointee serving notice with their existing employer (as applicable).

Councillor Jackson’s supplementary question was about two ice-cream vans belonging to the Council which were not being used during the current heatwave, because the council could not manage to recruit casual staff. She asked when Cabinet were going to set priorities.

Councillor Blamire told Councillor Jackson that she was a member of the Personnel Committee and could ask the question there. She then said Councillor Jackson should ask the questions of the HR department, not her.

At this point, Councillor Hughes asserted that the ice-cream vans had been in use, staffed by existing employees of the Council and had been in operation at both Regent Park and Williamson Park.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox asked a question of Councillor Whitehead:

As things stand, will the Ridge Community Centre be funded from either the general fund or housing revenue accounts in 2019/20?

Councillor Whitehead replied:

In terms of base budget projections for 2019/20, the Housing Revenue Account currently has provision for £29,700 regarding the Ridge Community Centre. It is worth remembering that this projection will be subject to consideration of any specific budget proposals from the upcoming budget process for 2019/20 where Members will decide on final budget provisions. It is also worth noting the planned Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of the commissioning framework, which may also have an impact.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox asked Councillor Clifford:

Can the portfolio holder please detail the progress made since budget council on realising the installation of solar PV arrays on council-owned land at Middleton and Salt Ayre landfill site?

Councillor Clifford replied:

Progress on the feasibility has been good .The services of APSE energy have been engaged to provide expert advice.

Due to the reduction in subsidies the economics of big solar projects stack up when there is a ready and direct use for the electricity, as opposed to simply putting it back in the grid. It is expected that reductions in costs of panels and inverters will reduce further to make the equation more favourable in the next year or two. Even so, having a private wire from the solar farm generates the best financial return. Ensuring a longer term arrangement for direct use takes some planning.

It is important that the Council moves forward on this, so besides solar farms, APSE were also asked to come up with an option that could quickly be delivered and would immediately stack up financially.

The potentially immediate plan is:

Increase the existing roof mounted solar array at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre from 50kw to at least 300kw. To be used directly in the building and reduce energy bills. This has been costed and the wider business case will be reported to Council in the autumn. If Council prioritised funding for this, detailed planning and design could begin in this financial year, which I hope will happen, followed by construction. In addition to the roof mounted array the business case for up to 600kw of car port mounted panels will be presented as well as further 200kw of ground mounted solar panels.

The building of solar farms is still being worked on as well. The key issues will be planning consent, grid connection and making the business case stack up by the sale of power. The 2 options being developed presently, but not exclusively, are:

- Build a solar farm on the Salt Ayre landfill site. Work is currently taking place to establish how this can fit in with the fact that the site is still being remediated, the current lease position, and how best to get the best return on investment from the electricity generated by the solar.
- The land at Middleton we already know can be used to locate a solar farm and we have previously detailed plans for this. The land falls within the boundary of the Heysham Gateway Masterplan. There are potentially other renewable energy schemes in the area coming forward as well as other land requirements. The best use of the land will need to be assessed to ensure the Council gets best value for money.

The funding of the solar farm will need to be prioritised/programmed against all the other ambitions. The report on the Leisure Centre array will provide more detailed information and seek Council's direction.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox said this was brilliant news. As his supplementary question he asked whether Councillor Clifford was aware of local community energy organisation "MORE Renewables" who could provide assistance with the projects.

Councillor Clifford replied that he was and that he would be willing to work with whoever could get the job done.

44 MINUTES OF CABINET

Council considered the Cabinet minutes of the meetings 24 April, 15 May, 26 June and 3 July 2018. Cabinet Members responded to Members' questions.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Mayor

(The meeting finished at 8.20 p.m. on 25 July 2018)

**Any queries regarding these minutes,
please contact Debbie Chambers, Democratic Services - telephone (01524) 582057 or email
dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk**