

PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 29 January 2020, when the following Members were present:

David Whitaker (Mayor)	Alan Biddulph (Deputy Mayor)
Tony Anderson	Paul Anderton
Richard Austen-Baker	Mandy Bannon
Stephie Barber	Phillip Black
Victoria Boyd-Power	Dave Brookes
Abbott Bryning	Keith Budden
Lucie Carrington	Roger Cleet
Darren Clifford	Tim Dant
Roger Dennison	Merv Evans
Jason Firth	Kevin Frea
Andrew Gardiner	Jake Goodwin
Mike Greenall	June Greenwell
Mel Guilding	Tim Hamilton-Cox
Janice Hanson	Colin Hartley
Caroline Jackson	Joan Jackson
Debbie Jenkins	Mandy King
Geoff Knight	Sarah Knight
Erica Lewis	Cary Matthews
Abi Mills	Jack O'Dwyer-Henry
Jean Parr	Faye Penny
Joyce Pritchard	Robert Redfern
John Reynolds	Oliver Robinson
Stewart Scothern	Alistair Sinclair
Paul Stubbins	Malcolm Thomas
Sandra Thornberry	Katie Whearty
Anne Whitehead	David Whitworth
John Wild	Jason Wood
Peter Yates	Joanna Young

109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gina Dowding, Adrian Duggan, Tricia Heath and Michael Mumford.

The Mayor advised the meeting that the report regarding Councillor Mumford's continued absence due to ill health had been withdrawn due to an error in the dates in the report. A revised report would be submitted to March Council if required.

110 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2019 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

111 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members advised of the following interests at this stage:

Councillor Clifford declared a personal interest in Item 13 in view of him being the subject of the report.

112 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised that he had several announcements to make. Firstly, it had been Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January and this year marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Councillors would also be aware of the outbreak of the coronavirus in China. The Mayor asked that Councillors stood with him for one minutes' silence to observe the holocaust anniversary and show support for the people of Wuhan, China.

Members stood for a minutes' silence.

The Mayor advised that he would be holding a Charity Beer tasting event on Thursday 27 February at 7.30pm in the Mayor's Parlour at Lancaster. Tickets were priced at £9.50 and available from the Mayor's secretary with all proceeds going to the Defying Dementia charity.

The Mayor confirmed that he intended to re-order the agenda, as there was a public speaker for Item 10, Mellishaw Traveller Site and that item would be considered directly after the speaker had finished her address for the convenience of members of the public.

Councillors were then advised of a further change to the order of the agenda with item 12, the Strategic Priorities Update being considered prior to Item 11, the Budget and Policy Framework report. A recorded vote would then be required for the decision regarding the Budget and Policy Framework, to comply with Regulations and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.7.

113 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.

114 PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES

Professor Imogen Tyler addressed Council on behalf of Morecambe Bay Poverty Truth Commission (MBPTC) in support of the proposal for Lancaster City Council to take ownership of Mellishaw Park Gypsy and Traveller site. A copy of her address had been published with the agenda. The Mayor thanked Professor Tyler and invited her to return to the public gallery.

115 MELLISHAW TRAVELLER SITE - FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

Having previously announced a revision to the order of the agenda the Mayor invited Councillor Caroline Jackson, the Cabinet Member for Housing, to introduce a report that sought approval to transfer Mellishaw Traveller site from Lancashire County Council to Lancaster City Council for a nominal fee.

Councillor Jackson responded to a number of questions from Councillors before proposing:

- (1) "That Council approves the transfer of ownership and subsequent management of Mellishaw Traveller site from Lancashire County Council to Lancaster City Council for a nominal fee.
- (2) That the transfer takes place as soon as practical.
- (3) That delegation be given to the Director for Communities and the Environment in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Housing to procure the necessary capital improvements provided they stay within the approved budget."

Councillor Frea seconded the proposition.

Councillor Barber proposed the following amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Gardiner:

"That the City Council work with the County Council and tenants to see if a third party organisation could be found to take ownership of the site and that officers be requested to look at alternative solutions and not one that increases debt on the City Council."

Councillors then voted on the amendment which was lost with 23 votes for and 32 against.

After further debate the Mayor called for a vote on the substantive motion. 30 Members voted for the substantive motion, 14 against with 10 abstentions whereupon the Mayor declared the proposal to be clearly carried.

Resolved:

- (1) That Council approves the transfer of ownership and subsequent management of Mellishaw Traveller site from Lancashire County Council to Lancaster City Council for a nominal fee.
- (2) That the transfer takes place as soon as practical.
- (3) That delegation be given to the Director for Communities and the Environment in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Housing to procure the necessary capital improvements provided they stay within the approved budget.

116 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader presented her report updating Members on various issues since her last report to Council. The Leader reported that along with the Leaders of South Lakeland and Barrow Councils she had written to the Secretary of State with regard to cross boundary arrangements and the Leaders and Chief Executives would be meeting on Friday afternoon for further talks. She then responded to a number of questions from Councillors.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.

117 COMMITTEE TIMETABLE 2020/2021 (Page 8)

Council considered the revised proposed timetable of meetings, times and revenues for the 2020/21 municipal year. Consideration of the timetable had been deferred from December Council in order that officers could address the aspects of the timetable which some Councillors had been dissatisfied with.

Approval of the proposed timetable of meetings, times and venues for the 20/21 municipal year, as set out in the report, was moved by Councillor Joan Jackson and seconded by Councillor Wood.

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

Resolved:

- (1) That the revised proposed timetable of meetings, times and venues for the 2020/21 municipal year, as appended to the minutes, be approved.

118 COUNCIL PLAN: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

The Leader presented a report from Cabinet, which sought agreement of the Council's strategic priorities for the purpose of informing budget decisions for 2020-21 and future years, and developing a comprehensive strategic plan in consultation with stakeholders. The Leader commended the priorities: A Sustainable District, An Inclusive and Prosperous Local Economy, Health and Happy Communities and A Co-operative, Kind and Responsible Council and the cross cutting themes of Climate Emergency, Community Wealth Building and Community Engagement.

Adoption of the priorities, as set out in the report, was moved by the Leader and seconded by Councillor Sinclair.

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

Resolved:

- (1) That Council adopt the priorities as set out in Appendix B and appended to the minutes, as the basis for further development of its Policy Framework including budget decisions for 2020/21 and future years.

119 BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK UPDATE 2020/21 TO 2023/24

The Mayor reminded Councillors that a recorded vote would be required on the following item to comply with regulations and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.7 as

these were 'budget decisions' within the terms of the regulations.

Councillor Whitehead, Cabinet Member with the portfolio for Finance, presented a report to update Council and gain its feedback on the latest position regarding the development of the Budget and Policy Framework for 2020/21 to 2023/24 and, in that context, to seek approval of the level of council tax increase for 2020/21 and for Cabinet's proposed revenue budget for 2020/21. Technical updates on savings and additional income analysis and the impact of Cabinet Decisions/Discussions together with an updated table on the medium term budget gaps had been made available to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Councillor Whitehead, the Leader and the Director for Communities and the Environment responded to questions from Members before Councillor Whitehead proposed recommendation (1), as set out in the report.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox seconded the recommendation.

After debate on the proposals, a recorded vote was taken. Votes were recorded as follows:-

For the proposition:

Councillors Bannon, Biddulph, Black, Brookes, Bryning, Dant, Frea, Greenwell, Hamilton-Cox, Hanson, Hartley, Jackson Caroline, King, Lewis, Mills, O'Dwyer-Henry, Parr, Penny, Prichard, Redfern, Reynolds, Robinson, Sinclair, Stubbins, Thornberry, Whearty, Whitaker, Whitehead, Wood, and Young (30)

Against the proposition:

Councillors Anderton, Austen-Baker, Barber, Boyd-Power, Budden, Cleet, Clifford, Dennison, Evans, Firth, Gardiner, Goodwin, Greenall, Guilding, Jackson Joan, Jenkins, Knight Geoff, Knight Sarah, Matthews, Scothern, Thomas, Whitworth, Wild and Yates (24)

Abstention:

Councillor Anderson (1)

Resolved:

- (1) That a City Council tax increase of £5 for 2020/21, together with a year on year target of the maximum allowable under the Government's local referendum thresholds for future years be approved.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8.00pm for a ten minute interval in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 in the Constitution. The meeting reconvened at 8.10pm. Councillor Clifford, having declared an interest on the next item on the agenda did not return to the meeting at this point.

120 COUNCILLOR DARREN CLIFFORD

Councillor King, the Chair of Standards Committee presented a report to inform Council of the findings of the Standards Committee, and the sanctions imposed, following two separate hearings into breaches of the Councillor's Code of Conduct by Councillor Darren Clifford.

The report was submitted in accordance with Rule 2.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution and was for noting.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.

Councillor Clifford returned to the meeting at this point.

121 ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

The Chief Executive presented a report to advise Council of the calculations relating to the allocation of seats, following a change to political groupings, in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. As a result of Councillor Cleet resigning from the MBI group to become an Independent Councillor, unaligned to any political group, the MBI group was required to pass a committee seat to the Labour group. It was noted that Councillor Cleet had been a member of the Council Business Committee and the MBI group wished to pass that vacant seat to the Labour group.

Councillor Knight proposed the recommendations as set out in the report. Councillor Greenall seconded the proposals. There was no debate and when put to the vote the proposition was clearly carried.

Resolved:

- (1) That the change in political composition be noted and the new calculation be approved.
- (2) That the MBI group pass a seat on the Council Business Committee to the Labour group.

122 EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS - SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report to inform Council of a change to the Scheme of Delegation made by the Leader. The Leader had agreed to an amendment to the Scheme of Delegation to enable the Director for Communities and the Environment to appoint suitable qualified officers to act on behalf of the Council under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018. This related to licensing of animal activities, namely dog and cat boarding, dog breeding, hiring out horses, selling animals as pets and keeping or training animals for exhibition.

No questions were raised. Council were requested to note the report as required by Paragraph 4(b) of section 2 of Part 3 of the Constitution.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.

123 APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Mayor noted that the Labour group were required to nominate a Member for the place on Council Business Committee that had been passed from the MBI group earlier in the meeting.

Councillor O'Dwyer-Henry proposed that Councillor Wood be appointed to the Council Business Committee and Councillor Black seconded the proposal.

There were no further changes. A vote was taken on the proposal, which was clearly carried.

Resolved:

- (1) That Councillor Wood be appointed to the Council Business Committee.

124 QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 (Pages 9 - 10)

The Mayor advised that three questions had been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rules as follows:

- (1) Councillor Greenwell to Councillor Frea regarding the Council's electricity from renewable sources
- (2) Councillor Greenwell to Councillor Frea regarding whether the Council intends to increase the percentage of renewable electricity that it uses
- (3) Councillor Clifford to Councillor Sinclair regarding Public Space Protection Orders

Details of the questions and answers together with any supplementary questions and responses are appended to the minutes.

125 MINUTES OF CABINET

Council considered the Cabinet minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2019. No questions were raised.

Resolved:

- (1) That the minutes be noted.

Mayor

(The meeting finished at 8.25 p.m.)

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

COMMITTEE TIMETABLE 2020/21 AGREED AT COUNCIL 29 JANUARY 2020

	May 2020	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January 2021	February	March	April	May	
Mon		1 Planning								1 Planning	1 Planning			Mon
Tue		2			1			1 Planning Site Visit		2-Budget & Perf Panel - MTH	2 Cabinet LTH			Tue
Wed		3	1 Overview & Scrutiny Committee		2			2		3	3			Wed
Thu		4 Licensing	2 Licensing Member Briefing		3 Member Briefing	1 Member Briefing		3		4 Licensing Member Briefing	4 Council Business Committee	1 Member Briefing		Thu
Fri	1	5	3		4	2		4	1 Bank Holiday	5	5	2 Bank Holiday		Fri
Sat	2	6	4	1	5	3		5	2	6	6	3	1	Sat
Sun	3	7	5	2	6	4	1	6	3	7	7	4	2	Sun
Mon	4	8	6	3	7 Planning Site Visit	5 Planning Site Visit	2 Planning Site Visit	7 Planning	4	8	8 Commonwealth Flag Raising	5 Bank Holiday	3 Bank Holiday	Mon
Tue	5	9 Cabinet MTH	7 Budget and Performance Panel	4	8	6	3	8 Cabinet MTH	5 Planning	9 Cabinet MTH	9	6	4	Tue
Wed	6	10 Audit	8	5 Overview and Scrutiny	9	7	4	9 Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6	10	10 Overview and Scrutiny Committee	7	5	Wed
Thu	7 PCC ELECTIONS	11	9 Standards	6	10	8 Licensing	5 Member Briefing	10	7 Licensing	11 Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11 Member Briefing	8	6 CC ELECTIONS	Thu
Fri	8 Bank Holiday	12	10	7	11	9	6	11	8	12	12	9	7	Fri
Sat	9	13	11 Freeman's Court	8	12	10	7	12	9	13	13	10	8	Sat
Sun	10	14	12	9	13	11	8 Remembrance Sunday	13	10	14	14	11	9	Sun
Mon	11	15 Planning Site Visit	13 Planning Site Visit	10 Planning Site Visit	14 Planning	12 Planning	9 Planning	14	11	15	15	12	10	Mon
Tue	12	16	14 Cabinet LTH	11	15 Cabinet MTH	13	10 Budget and Performance Panel	15	12	16	16 Budget and Performance Panel	13 Cabinet MTH	11	Tue
Wed	13	17	15	12	16 Overview and Scrutiny Committee	14	11 Council	16 Council	13	17 Audit	17 Council	14	12	Wed
Thu	14	18 Council Bus Com	16	13	17	15	12	17	14 Standards	18	18 Licensing	15	13	Thu
Fri	15 Annual Council	19	17	14	18	16	13	18	15	19	19	16	14 Annual Council	Fri
Sat	16	20	18	15	19	17	14	19	16	20	20	17	15	Sat
Sun	17 Mayor's Sunday	21	19	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	21	18	16 Mayor's Sunday	Sun
Mon	18 Business Council	22 Planning Armed Forces Day Flag Raising	20 Planning	17 Planning	21	19	16	21 Planning Site Visit	18	22 Planning Site Visit	22 Planning Site Visit	19 Planning Site Visit	17 Business Council	Mon
Tue	19	23	21 JCC Personnel	18 Budget and Performance Panel	22	20	17	22	19 Cabinet LTH	23	23	20	18	Tue
Wed	20	24 Council	22 Audit	19	23	21	18	23	20 Overview and Scrutiny Committee	24 Budget Council	24	21 Overview and Scrutiny	19	Wed
Thu	21	25	23	20	24	22	19 Licensing	24	21	25	25	22	20	Thu
Fri	22	26	24	21	25	23	20	25 Bank Holiday	22	26	26	23	21	Fri
Sat	23	27	25	22	26	24	21	26	23	27	27	24	22	Sat
Sun	24	28	26	23	27	25	22	27	24	28	28	25	23	Sun
Mon	25 Bank Holiday	29	27	24	28	26	23	28 Bank Holiday	25 Planning Site Visit		29 Planning	26 Planning	24	Mon
Tue	26 Planning Site Visit	30	28	25	29 Budget and Performance Panel	27 Cabinet LTH	24 JCC Personnel	29	26		30	27	25	Tue
Wed	27		29 Council	26	30 Council	28 Overview and Scrutiny Committee	25 Audit	30	27 Council		31	28 Council	26	Wed
Thu	28		30	27 Licensing		29 Council Business Committee	26	31	28			29	27	Thu
Fri	29		31	28		30	27		29			30	28	Fri
Sat	30			29		31	28		30				29	Sat
Sun	31			30			29		31				30	Sun
Mon				31 Bank Holiday			30						31 Bank Holiday	Mon
Tue														Tue

1. Question submitted by Councillor June Greenwell to Councillor Kevin Frea

The Council signed up to tackle climate change almost 12 months ago, when we declared a climate emergency, as we strive to reduce our carbon footprint, and play our part in saving the planet.

Would you tell me how much of the electricity the council currently uses is from renewable sources?

ANSWER

Councillor Frea responded:

At the time that the decision to purchase through Yorkshire Purchasing Authority was taken we were able to switch to a renewable tariff and are on a green electricity tariff now for all those contracts that are managed and co-ordinated by Property Group. The main exception is car park lighting, and we are currently moving this across as well.

2. Question submitted by Councillor June Greenwell to Councillor Kevin Frea

Is the council intending to increase the percentage of renewable electricity the council uses, and if it is, when is this likely to happen?

ANSWER

Councillor Frea replied:

Our biggest consumer of electricity is Salt Ayre. It is anticipated that 95% of Salt Ayre's electricity will be provided directly from our own solar installation. This means electricity will be cheaper and directly supplied by renewables.

Just for background -

The electricity we get is from the grid but there is an offset agreement, and npower explain it like this:

<https://www.npower.com/business-solutions/products-and-services/buying-energy/renewable-energy/>

3. Question from Councillor Darren Clifford to Councillor Alistair Sinclair

In light of the widely reported incidents of anti-social behaviour by gangs of youths in and around Lancaster City Centre which caused such distress to residents and local businesses alike, can the cabinet member responsible confirm that the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) covering that area was allowed to lapse by Lancaster City Council.

ANSWER

Councillor Sinclair said that there had been some incidents of anti-social behaviour from young people but no evidence of sustained anti-social behaviour. In terms of gangs of youths, there didn't appear to be an issue with gangs, the issue was with young people having nowhere to go. He was not aware of significant distress caused to residents although he was aware of a weekend when the police dispersed a large number of people. With regard to the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), consultation had been undertaken towards the

end of last year and officers felt there was a need for further consultation. Community engagement was important and it was important to talk to a wide range of stakeholders as to how to move forward with regard to PSPO's. They hadn't been used with regard to young people and the police had significant powers to address anti-social behaviour in the district. A Head of Public Protection had just been appointed and would be engaging with the community to consider if PSPO's were necessary.

Supplementary question to Councillor Alistair Sinclair

Councillor Clifford thanked Councillor Sinclair for his comprehensive answer and agreed that enforcement was not the only option. By way of a supplementary question for which he would accept a written answer, Councillor Clifford suggested that from time to time cases of anti-social behaviour were referred to the Legal department and would it would be possible to tell Councillors how many cases had been referred to the Legal department, and the outcome.

Councillor Sinclair agreed to provide a written response.