

COUNCIL FORUM
Thursday 19th July 2018

PRESENT – *The Mayor Councillor McFall, (in the Chair), Councillors; Afzal; Akhtar H; Akhtar P; Batan; Bateson; Brookfield; Casey; Connor; Daley, Davies; Fazal; Gee; Groves; Gunn; Hardman; Harling; Hussain I; Hussain M; Hussain S; Jan-Virmani; Kay; Khan M; Khan Z; Khonat; Liddle; Mahmood Q; Marrow; McGurk; Oates; Patel; Richards; Rigby C; Rigby J; Riley; Salton; Shorrocks; Sidat; Slater Jo; Slater Ju; Smith D; Smith J; Surve; Talbot; Taylor and Whittle.*

RESOLUTIONS

17 Notice Convening Meeting

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jackie Floyd, Faryad Hussain, Mahfooz Hussain, Neil Slater and Julie Slater.

19 Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 17th May 2018

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on the 17th May 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

20 Civic Service Award

The Mayor presented Civic Service Awards to former Councillors David and Karimeh Foster, Eileen Entwistle MBE and Tony Humphrys.

The Leaders of both political groups and the Deputy Mayor paid tribute to the former Councillors awarded and thanks were returned from the former Councillors to the Council.

21 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of Interest were submitted from Councillors Mohammed Khan, Zamir Khan, Dave Smith and Andy Kay in respect of Agenda Item 9 – Motion re: Fire Rescue Authority.

22 Mayoral Communications

The Mayor updated Council Forum on recent activities and events, in particular attending the Queen's Garden Party in June.

Other notable events included a World War Commemoration Event at Colne, the unveiling of a new War Memorial in Darwen, the Consecration of the Bishop of Lancaster and the Fusion Awards at King Georges Hall.

23 Council Forum

Three questions had been submitted under Procedure Rule 10 as follows:

To the Leader of the Council from Asif Mahmud:

The former Communities Secretary, Sajid Javid, announced a £50 million investment from the Government to develop local Integration plans.

Blackburn is one of the five towns earmarked for this money.

Please could the Council advise on the following:

- *When this investment is going to be made available to the Council?*
- *How it plans to spend this money, will any of this money be made available to community organisations who already work to promote integrated communities?*
- *Will the Council be carrying out a wide ranging consultation with the people of Blackburn to shape the integrated community strategy as proposed by the former Communities Secretary?*

Councillor Mohammed Khan provided a response to the Question and Supplementary Question arising from Mr Mahmud, advising that the position was not clear yet as Ministers had yet to decide on the allocation of money and the dates for the receipt of funding were also unclear, although it was expected the position would be clearer by the end of September. The Leader gave details of emerging themes and consultation to date and referred to recent examples of integration in the Borough and noted that integration was the responsibility of all.

To the Executive Member for Regeneration from Yvonne Hindle:

Residents in Pleasington are seriously concerned regarding the following: Speeding through the village. This is a particular concern during peak times i.e. morning and evening traffic.

Clearly, the road through Pleasington is being used by non-residents for the school run and access to the M65. Over the years the volume of traffic has increased considerably. I have witnessed vehicles speeding, both entering and exiting the village past my property, without any regard for the 30mph limit through the village.

Entering the village from Preston Old Road, there is a sharp right hand bend over the bridge. There is a narrow footpath on the right side of the road (no footpath on the left). This footpath is up to the Golf Club: beyond the Golf Club there is no footpath up to the Railway Station. The only adequate footpath is the section up to the Butlers Pub.

Throughout the village the road markings have deteriorated and are barely visible or non-existent. Signage throughout the village and approaching the village needs reviewing to alert drivers to the hazards of bends, gradients, narrow footpath, blind summit. The landlord of the Railway Pub has expressed concern re vehicles speeding over the railway bridge, endangering customers crossing to the Bowling Green.

There have been several accidents in the village over the years, but matters have been 'brought to a head' when on Saturday 9th June, in the afternoon, a high powered BMW car crossed, mounted the narrow pavement, lower down from my home, demolished the wall and emergency services were called. It is a miracle no pedestrians were walking on the pavement at that time or serious injury or fatalities would have occurred. The Route through the village is used by walkers, families walking to school, church, now runners from Witton Park. Groups of runners have expressed their concerns to me personally. There is a serious safety problem in the village of Pleasington and we have been disregarded when traffic calming measures are implemented. I would mention Tockholes, a similar village but, I believe has less traffic flow. I understand Shorrock Lane is to have traffic calming measures, 20 mph, speed bumps?

I have had a meeting at my home with 3 councillors in my ward and voiced the aforementioned points. I feel it is imperative that these should be formally addressed by the Council.

I would add that I have contacted Kay Mahoney at Capita who has assured me she will bring up my concerns at the next meeting.

I have contacted Clive Grunshaw, Police Commissioner regarding the possibility of the use of C.S.W. (Community speed Watch) as has been successfully implemented in the village of Pannal.

In summary, if the points raised are not addressed there will be serious injury or fatalities in the village of Pleasington.

To the Executive Member for Regeneration from Collette Hunt:

Could it be clarified by the appropriate Council Department as to why Pleasington Village has been ignored regarding traffic calming measures, notwithstanding the serious speeding problems and accidents already outlined and the fact that such measures have been put in Tockholes and several other areas within the Borough?

Councillor Phil Riley provided a response to the Questions and Supplementary Questions arising, advising of reductions in Road Safety funding, and prioritisation criteria for road schemes. Councillor Riley gave details of accident data for the sites and of the role of the Police and Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety in identifying areas where speed checks and enforcement were required, advising that the matters raised would be brought to their attention.

24 Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12

One Motion had been submitted under Procedure Rule 12 as follows:

Lancashire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority remains committed to delivering the best possible service to Lancashire's communities, with the resources it has available. This Council notes that the Fire and Rescue Authority continues to work productively and effectively with a range of stakeholders and that the Fire and Rescue Authority also acknowledges the new statutory duty to collaborate with other emergency services, while recognising many initiatives were already in place or in development irrespective of this mandate. The Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council remains confident that current governance arrangements present the best way to deliver a fire and rescue service for Lancashire's communities, and notes that the Fire and Rescue Authority will provide the information required for the work proposed by the Police and Crime Commissioner, which it believes will evidence that collaborative opportunities are already being effectively progressed within existing structures. Consequently, this Council is opposed to any proposals that transfer any current responsibilities of the Fire and Rescue Authority in Lancashire to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Home Secretary explaining this view, sending copies to Members of Parliament.

Moved by Cllr Phil Riley
Seconded by Cllr John Slater

Following debate, Council Forum moved to a Vote.

RESOLVED – That the Motion be carried.

25 Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Council Forum received a report which gave details of the first meetings held of the Policy and Corporate Resources, People and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Chairs of each Committee also gave updates for their Committees.

The Leader referred to some conflicts of interest relating to certain Members and their roles and advised that this would be addressed.

The Chief Executive advised that the best way for the Committees to report going forwards would be looked at ahead of the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That the report and updates be noted and that a new reporting mechanism be in place for the next meeting.

26 Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolios

Council Forum received and considered reports and updates from the Leader and Executive Members with portfolios.

During the course of reports being moved, reference was made to the Council being named as Council of the Year by the Municipal Journal in its annual awards and thanks were passed to the Chief Executive and all his staff for their contribution to this achievement.

It was also noted that the meeting would have been Linda Clegg's last meeting if she was able to attend, and the thanks of all the Council were passed to Linda for her excellent contribution as Director of Children's Services. The new Director, Jayne Ivory, would join the Council week commencing 23rd July 2018.

Reference was made to the huge increase in volunteers who were acting as community litter pickers, and the Executive Member, Councillor Jim Smith

passed his thanks to all concerned.

RESOLVED – That the reports of the Leader and Executive Members be noted.

27 Questions Received from Members under Procedure Rule 11

No questions had been received from Members under Procedure Rule 11.

Signed at a meeting of the Council
on the day of
(being the next ensuing meeting of the Council) by

MAYOR