COUNCIL

Thursday, 24th March, 2016

Present: Councillor Marlene Haworth (Mayor), Councillors Judith Addison, Lisa Allen, Noordad Aziz, Peter Britcliffe, Clare Cleary, Loraine Cox, Paul Cox, Munsif Dad, Bernard Dawson, Tony Dobson, Wendy Dwyer, Diane Fielding, Melissa Fisher, June Harrison, Eamonn Higgins, Terry Hurn, Abdul Khan, Julie Livesey, Gareth Molineux, Kerry Molineux, Jenny Nedwell, Tim O’Kane, Bernadette Parkinson, Miles Parkinson and Paul Thompson

Apologies: Councillors Mohammad Ayub, Chris Fisher, Harry Grayson, Ken Moss, Bill Pinder, Joyce Plummer, Kath Pratt and Malcolm Pritchard

1 Minute’s Silence

The Mayor announced the death of Honorary Freeman Alice Horne, who had died earlier in the month, just weeks after celebrating her 109th birthday, and asked those present to stand in silence in tribute.

At the same time, she asked those present to remember the victims of the Brussels terrorist attack, which had occurred just two days previously, on 22nd March 2016. A minute’s silence was duly held.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mohammad Ayub, Chris Fisher, Harry Grayson, Ken Moss, Bill Pinder, Joyce Plummer, Kath Pratt and Malcolm Pritchard.

3 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest, or dispensations noted.

4 Announcements

1) At the last meeting, the Mayor had made mention of the fact that David Reid, from West End, Oswaldtwistle had been selected as a finalist in the High Sheriff of Lancashire’s Young Citizen Award, for his campaign to improve West End play area, on Blackburn Road, Oswaldtwistle, which had resulted in a new play area with new equipment. She was now delighted to announce that David had been awarded second place, from the 40 finalists across Lancashire. David and his father were present at the meeting, so fellow Councillors also had the opportunity to congratulate him on his achievement.

2) Councillors Wendy Dwyer, Chris Fisher, Harry Grayson, Kerry Molineux and Bill Pinder would not be standing for re-election at the forthcoming local elections on 5th May 2016. The Leader of the Council therefore thanked them for their service as Councillors.

3) The Leader made the following statement:-
In January 2016 the Council received the welcome news that it had been awarded £2 million to regenerate Rhyddings Park.

While most of the key elements of the project are uncontroversial, it has become apparent over recent weeks that the plan to fell the large redwood tree at the entrance of the Park is one that has divided public opinion. As a result, we now have a large public petition asking for the tree to remain.

The original plan, which was agreed with the Friends of Rhyddings Park Group, proposed the felling of this tree to open up the access to the Park and because there were concerns about the suitability of the site given that this species of tree, the Giant Sequoia, is capable of growing considerably larger than the tree currently is, and that the tree is relatively close to a residential area, footpath and public open space.

It is clear that there are many people in the area who would like the tree to stay. I would therefore like to have an open debate about this at Council before any future action is taken.

To inform this debate, I will be asking for officers to arrange for an independent, expert assessment of the implications of the tree remaining and continuing to mature in its existing position. If this assessment allays concerns about future risks and liabilities then I would hope that we can negotiate a redesign of this element of the project with the Heritage Lottery Fund. If, on the other hand, there are significant concerns about these matters, we will need to have regard to this in our final decision.

I would reiterate that the assessment will be independent and that we will commission an expert who has played no part in the plans to date. In the spirit of openness and transparency, I would also propose that the report is produced will be publically available ahead of any Council debate.”

4) The Chief Executive presented to the Mayor a framed photograph of her and the Mayoress, to mark her final Council meeting at which she would preside as Mayor, and her year in office.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th February 2016 were submitted.

Resolved - That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25th February 2016 be approved as a correct record.

6 Question Time

No questions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 2.2(v).

7 Lancashire Combined Authority

The Leader of the Council presented a progress report on proposals to establish a Lancashire Combined Authority. This had last been considered by Council on 19th November 2015, when approval had been given to take part in a consultation exercise on the proposals. This had now been completed and, of the respondents, 70% strongly or tended to agree with the establishment of a combined authority for Lancashire. Council agreement was now sought to become a constituent member of Lancashire Combined Authority. Subject to agreement by other Councils in Lancashire, the proposal to form a
Lancashire Combined Authority would be submitted to Government for consideration and negotiation.

Resolved

(1) That the contents of the report be noted.

(2) That the response to the public consultation ion the Combined Authority proposals be noted.

(3) That Council agrees to become a constituent member of a Lancashire Combined Authority and submit proposals to do so to the Secretary of State.

(4) That, in the interim period, the Council agrees to the formation of a shadow Lancashire Combined Authority and agrees to become a member of the same; and

(5) That any future proposals for a devolution deal with the Government be brought back to Council for agreement.

8 Nomination of Honorary Aldermen

Nominations were put forward for former Councillors to be conferred with the title of Honorary Alderman:

- Paul Barton
- Wendy Dwyer
- William (Bill) Pinder
- Lynn Wilson

Paul Barton and Lynn Wilson were former Councillors; Wendy Dwyer and Bill Pinder were serving Councillors, who would not be standing for re-election in May.

Resolved

- That in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the following be conferred with the title of Honorary Alderman, in recognition of their eminent service to the Borough, and that the honour be conferred at the Council (Mayor-making) meeting on Saturday, 21st May 2016:

  - Paul Barton
  - Wendy Dwyer
  - William (Bill) Pinder
  - Lynn Wilson

9 Appointment of Co-opted Members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Council was asked to seek Council approval to amend the Constitution (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules) regarding the appointment of co-opted members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. In September 2015, Council had agreed to allow any member of the public with relevant experience or knowledge to be appointed a co-opted member. Appointments would be made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Subsequently, and at the request of scrutiny, the Group Leaders had considered drawing up criteria to be followed in relation to co-optee applications and nominations. Council was
now asked to approve a process for appointing co-optees, and to approve an amendment to the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules to reflect this.

Resolved

(1) That the changes to arrangements for seeking nominations and selecting co-opted members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted; and

(2) That Rule C2 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules be changed accordingly, i.e.

Each overview and scrutiny committee may appoint up to three members of the public, who the committee deems to have relevant experience of topics related to that scrutiny committee, as non-voting co-optees.

- Applications may be invited to fill a vacancy for a co-opted member at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; applications may also be received directly from members of the public.
- The application will be considered first at the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee will consider the knowledge and experience of the applicant relevant to the terms of reference or work programme of the Committee.
- The intention is that such co-optees will be non-political.
- If the majority of the Overview and Scrutiny members support the appointment of the applicant, the proposed appointment will be presented to Council for approval.

10 Filming at Meetings

Council approval was requested, to amend the Council’s policy on filming and recording at meetings, which was one of the “Codes and Protocols” in Part 5 of the Constitution. It had first been introduced in 2013 and subsequently revised by Council in September 2014, in response to the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014. This allowed for persons attending public local government meetings to film proceedings, including recording and filming via social media. It was now proposed that any Councillor, as well as a member of the public, wishing to film or record all or part of the meeting or take photographs must inform the Mayor, at the start of the meeting, specifying what it is the Councillor intends to film, record or photograph. The change was suggested in order that the Council’s practices were fair to all attendees at meetings.

Resolved

- That the policy on the “Use of Mobile Phones, Social Media, Filming and Recording at Meetings”, to include the following paragraph (after paragraph 2.1):

Any Councillor, as well as a member of the public, wishing to film, take a photograph or record all or part of the meeting must inform the Mayor, at the start of the meeting, specifying what it is the Councillor intends to record, film or photograph.

11 Pay Policy
A report was submitted, seeking the adoption of a Pay Policy for 2016/17. The Localism Act 2011 (Chapter 8, Pay Accountability) required all local authorities to set out its position on a range of issues relating to the remuneration of its employees. The policy needed to be approved by the Council in open forum, by the end of March each year and then published on its website. The policy set out the current approach to the remuneration of all posts within the Council, including,

- The pay structure of the Council and how it is set
- Senior management remuneration, providing details of the pay grade for posts defined as Chief Officer and the accompanying allowances
- The recruitment arrangements for a Chief Officer
- The relationship between the salaries of Chief Officers and other employees
- Details of the lowest paid posts within the Council.
- Employer’s pension contribution details
- Termination of employment payments

Resolved - That the Pay Policy 2016/17 be adopted.

12 Minutes of Cabinet

The minutes of Cabinet meeting 3rd February 2016 were submitted.

Resolved - That the minutes be received and noted.

13 Minutes of Committees

The minutes of the following meetings were submitted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMITTEE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audit Committee</td>
<td>18th January 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee</td>
<td>22nd January 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee</td>
<td>26th January 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Committee (Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing)</td>
<td>1st February 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Committee</td>
<td>10th February 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee</td>
<td>16th February 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Committee (Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing)</td>
<td>2nd March 2016</td>
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</tbody>
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Resolved - That the minutes be received and noted.

14 Motion submitted on Notice: Remembering Srebrenica

The following motion was moved by Councillor Noordad Aziz seconded by Councillor Munsif Dad under Council Procedure Rule A9:-
“(1) That this Council:

- Notes that 2016 is the twenty-first anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which saw over 8,000 men and boys killed by Serbian nationalist forces
- Notes that in 2009 the European Parliament passed a resolution that 11 July should be recognised as the day of commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide all over the EU; and in 2015 urged the development of educational and cultural programmes that promote an understanding of the causes of such atrocities and raise awareness about the need to nurture peace and to promote human rights and interreligious tolerance
- Applauds the work of those involved in the pursuit of justice for the victims and their surviving relatives, including the International Commission of Missing People (ICMP) and the Mothers of Srebrenica, whose courage and humility in the face of unthinkable horror is an inspiration to us all
- Commends the work of the charity, Remembering Srebrenica, in raising awareness of this tragic and preventable genocide and working in communities across Britain to help them learn the lessons of Srebrenica

(2) That Council resolves that Hyndburn Borough Council will

- raise awareness of the genocide and learn the lessons of Srebrenica
- support Srebrenica memorial events in July each year as part of the UK-wide Remembering Srebrenica Memorial Week.
- support the work of Remembering Srebrenica to learn the lessons from Srebrenica to tackle hatred and intolerance to help build a better, safer and more cohesive society for everyone.”

The motion was debated, put to the vote and carried.

Resolved (1) That this Council:

- Notes that 2016 is the twenty-first anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which saw over 8,000 men and boys killed by Serbian nationalist forces
- Notes that in 2009 the European Parliament passed a resolution that 11 July should be recognised as the day of commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide all over the EU; and in 2015 urged the development of educational and cultural programmes that promote an understanding of the causes of such atrocities and raise awareness about the need to nurture peace and to promote human rights and interreligious tolerance
- Applauds the work of those involved in the pursuit of justice for the victims and their surviving relatives, including the International Commission of Missing People (ICMP) and the Mothers of Srebrenica, whose courage and humility in the face of unthinkable horror is an inspiration to us all
• Commends the work of the charity, Remembering Srebrenica, in raising awareness of this tragic and preventable genocide and working in communities across Britain to help them learn the lessons of Srebrenica

(2) That this Council resolves that Hyndburn Borough Council will:

• raise awareness of the genocide and learn the lessons of Srebrenica
• support Srebrenica memorial events in July each year as part of the UK-wide Remembering Srebrenica Memorial Week.
• support the work of Remembering Srebrenica to learn the lessons from Srebrenica to tackle hatred and intolerance to help build a better, safer and more cohesive society for everyone.

15 Motion submitted on Notice: Withdrawal of Student Maintenance Grants

The following motion was moved by Councillor Noordad Aziz and seconded by Councillor Clare Cleary under Council Procedure Rule A9:-

“That this Council is extremely concerned at the effects, from September 2016, of the withdrawal of Student Maintenance Grants from students from low-income families. The withdrawal of the grant and replacement with a loan will act as a massive barrier to the aspirations of many able students from low income households, of which we have many in the borough of Hyndburn. This burden will be on top of the student loan of £9,000 per annum.

That this Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Education and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, expressing our grave concerns at the abolition of the student maintenance grant and its impact on students from low income backgrounds and urges them to abandon these changes.

We also ask that the Prime Minister clarify his position after promising not to abolish student maintenance grants for students from low income backgrounds when the student loan fees were increased.”

The motion was debated, put to the vote and carried..

Resolved

(1) That this Council is extremely concerned at the effects, from September 2016, of the withdrawal of Student Maintenance Grants from students from low-income families. The withdrawal of the grant and replacement with a loan will act as a massive barrier to the aspirations of many able students from low-income households, of which we have many in the borough of Hyndburn. This burden will be on top of the student loan of £9,000 per annum.

(2) That this Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Education and the Chancellor
of the Exchequer, expressing our grave concerns at the abolition of the student maintenance grant and its impact on students from low income backgrounds and urges them to abandon these changes; and

(3) That this Council also asks that the Prime Minister clarifies his position after promising not to abolish student maintenance grants for students from low income backgrounds when the student loan fees were increased.

16  The Mayor, Councillor Marlene Haworth

It was noted that this would be the last Council meeting to be chaired by the Mayor, Councillor Marlene Haworth, during her year of office, 2015/16. Tributes were paid to her, particularly in the fair and calm manner in which she had chaired Council meetings and she thanked Councillors for their support.

Signed: ……………………………………………………

Date: ………………………………………………………

Chair of the meeting
at which the minutes were confirmed