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# LEADER'S POLICY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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**Wednesday, 20th July, 2016**

**Present:** Councillors Miles Parkinson (in the Chair), Councillors Clare Cleary, Tony Dobson, Terry Hurn and Paul Thompson

**Apologies** Councillors Paul Cox

**In attendance** Jane Ellis, Executive Director (Legal and Democratic Services; Helen Gee, Democratic Services Manager; Michael Walker, Corporate Performance Manager

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## **1 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Paul Cox.

## **2 Minutes of the last meeting**

**Agreed** - **That the minutes of the last meeting, held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016, be received and agreed as a correct record.**

## **3 Matters arising - Changes to Symphony Housing Group**

At the last meeting, the Head of Regeneration and Housing had updated Members on changes to the governance of Symphony Housing Group, of which Hyndburn Homes formed part. Councillor Paul Cox, a member of Hyndburn Homes Board had indicated that partners, including the local authority, would be consulted on proposals. Councillor Dobson indicated that there had been no updates since then and he had concerns about accountability, contact and quality of customer service, if the local office was to go. Councillor Parkinson undertook to ask Councillor Paul Cox to contact Councillors with an update on the situation.

**Agreed** - **That Councillor Paul Cox as a Board member on Hyndburn Homes, would be asked to provide Councillors with the latest information on the proposed restructuring of Symphony Housing Group, and any implications for Hyndburn Homes.**

## **4 Updates/Additions to the Borough's War Memorials**

The Corporate Performance Manager sought Members' guidance on proposed changes to the war memorials in the Borough. A small number of requests had been received, to make changes or additions to the war memorials (soldiers' names etc.). It was felt important to have an agreed approach to such requests and this discussion would inform a proposed policy, to be put to Cabinet for approval.

During the discussion, a number of points of principle were put forward, including:-

- the request should come from an authentic source, such as a family member

- the person requesting the change or addition of a name would be expected to provide evidence.

**Agreed** - **That the Corporate Performance Manager be asked to draft a policy on changes to war memorials, based on the approach agreed at this meeting, to be submitted to Cabinet for approval.**

## **5 VC Paving Stones**

The Democratic Services Manager reported that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had organised the production of commemorative paving stones for local Victoria Cross recipients from the First World War. The DCLG would pay for one; the local authority would need to pay for any additional stones. Hyndburn had registered its interest in two VC recipients:

- Hardy Parsons, born Rishton (Gloucestershire Regiment); date of action - 20 or 21 August 1917, Epehy, France
- Basil Horsfall, born Sri Lanka (East Lancashire Regiment (11th Battalion) "Accrington Pals"); date of action - 27 March 1917, Moyenneville, France

The intention was to lay these stones at suitable locations, in discussion with interested parties such as relatives. The Hardy Parsons stone would be located in Rishton, the place of his birth. No location had yet been decided for the Basil Horsfall stone. The stones would be laid on the centenary of the date of action. The cost of the additional stone was £540. The Council would be expected to meet the cost of installation and maintenance and provision would be made in the 2017/18 budget to meet relevant costs.

At the stage, Members were asked to note the position and to make any suggestions regarding the location of the Basil Horsfall stone.

**Agreed**

- (1) That the report be noted.**
- (2) That the stone for Hardy Parsons (Rishton) be located at the War Memorial, Rishton, at an exact location proposed by the Rishton Ward Councillors; and**
- (3) That the stone for Basil Horsfall be located within the Accrington Pals Gardens, on Church Street, Accrington.**

## **6 Armed Forces Day 2017**

The Democratic Services Manager reported that Great Harwood British Legion had offered to host an Armed Forces Day event on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Members were of the view that this should be a family event to acknowledge serving members of the armed forces.

**Agreed** - **That the report be noted and these views be conveyed to members of Great Harwood British Legion.**

## **7 Other Business**

### **a) Fracking**

Councillor Dobson asked whether it would be possible to have a presentation on fracking at the next Council meeting. A presentation in support of fracking by the mining company

Cuadrilla had been made to Councillors on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013, and he felt that it would be appropriate for those who opposed fracking to put forward the opposing view.

**Agreed** - **That in order to provide the opportunity for a balanced debate, arrangements be made for a debate on fracking from those who opposed it at a future Council meeting.**

**b) Website**

Councillor Dobson put forward a suggestion that there was an opportunity on the Council's website to provide signposting to local community groups, through the use of short videos, for example. It was noted that the Council's website was currently undergoing a revamp and it was proposed that this suggestion be put to the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Gareth Molineux, to take up with the Head of ICT.

**Agreed** - **That the suggestion be brought to the attention of the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Gareth Molineux.**

**8 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

It was agreed the he next meeting would be arranged when necessary.

Signed:.....

Date: .....

Chair of the meeting  
At which the minutes were confirmed