



Minutes of the Council meeting held at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde on Thursday 27 November, 2014.

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**Councillors present:**

The Mayor, Councillor Shewan

Councillors Amos	Councillor R Gandhi	Councillor Ormrod
Councillor Anderson	Councillor Gibson	Councillor Pimbley
Councillor M Anderton	Councillor Greenhough	Councillor Robinson
Councillor Lady Atkins	Councillor Henderson	Councillor Smith
Councillor Balmain	Councillor Hewitt	Councillor B Stephenson
Councillor Bannister	Councillor Hodgkinson	Councillor E Stephenson
Councillor Beavers	Councillor Jones	Councillor Swift
Councillor Berry	Councillor Kay	Councillor T Taylor
Councillor B Birch	Councillor Lawrenson	Councillor V Taylor
Councillor C Birch	Councillor Lees	Councillor Treece-Birch
Councillor Bowen	Councillor Martin	Councillor A Vincent
Councillor Bridge	Councillor MacNaughton	Councillor M Vincent
Councillor Brooks	Councillor McKay	Councillor Walmsley
Councillor Catterall	Councillor Moon	Councillor Williams
Councillor Collinson	Councillor Murphy	Councillor Wilson
Councillor M Gandhi	Councillor Newsham	

**Apologies:** The Deputy Mayor (Cllr Rogers), Councillors E Anderton, I. Duffy, R Duffy Hargreaves, McCann, and Turner.

**Officers present:**

Garry Payne (Chief Executive)  
 Philippa Davies (Corporate Director, Resources)  
 Michael Ryan (Corporate Director, People and Places)  
 Nikki Wilcock (Communications Manager)  
 Roy Saunders (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager)  
 Duncan Jowitt (Democratic Services Officer)

**Also present:** 6 members of the public and 1 representative of the press.

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#### **COU.58 Confirmation of minutes**

Cllr Treece Birch said that, whilst he accepted that the minutes of Council meetings were not intended to be a verbatim record of everything that was said, he was concerned that comments he had made at the last meeting about the cut in Government funding, in his capacity as shadow cabinet member for resources, on the Executive report of the Resources Portfolio Holder, had not been included. The Chief Executive said that if similar circumstances arose in the future, his comments would be referred to.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 October 2014 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the penultimate word on the second line of the second paragraph of minute 53 (the Leader's Executive Report) being amended to read "police" instead of "policy", so that it referred to the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### **COU.59 Declarations of interest**

None.

#### **COU.60 Announcements**

The Mayor announced that Councillor Lees was kindly organising a 'Children of the Fylde Sing' Concert at Thornton Little Theatre on Friday 16 January 2015 at 7.30 pm in aid of the Mayoral Charity. He urged Members to attend if they could. He said that tickets were available from Cllr Lees or from the Mayor's Secretary.

The Mayor also announced that the Mayor's Charity Ball was likely to be held on Friday 27 March 2015, although that date had not yet been completely fixed. He said that tickets for the event would be on sale early in the New Year, but that raffle tickets were already available for the prize draw, which would take place at the Ball. He asked Members to buy some tickets to raise funds for the Mayoral Charity.

The Mayor then made an announcement about the Notice of Motion concerning compliance with the Council's Constitution, which had been submitted as item 17(2) of the agenda for this meeting.

He said that Article 17.02, in Part 2 of the Constitution, stated:

#### Interpretation

*The ruling of the Mayor as to the construction or application of this Constitution or as to any proceedings of the Council shall not be challenged at any meeting of the Council. Such interpretation will have regard to the purpose of this Constitution contained in Article 1.*

He said that, as far as he was concerned, he had acted in accordance with the Constitution at the previous Council meeting. He said that, in line with his interpretation of the Council Procedure Rules, there should be no more talk of a member of the Cabinet speaking on the Executive Report of one of their Cabinet colleagues. The ten minutes for comments or questions on each Executive Report should be reserved for non-executive Councillors.

The Chief Executive advised that it would have been more appropriate for the Mayor to make his comments during the debate on agenda item 17, rather than as an announcement. He said that the Constitution needed to be read as a whole rather than particular sections being picked out in isolation. He advised that business should proceed as set out on the agenda.

The Mayor said that it was others who had 'cherry picked' a particular Procedure Rule to suggest that the Leader could speak on an Executive Report of another member of the Cabinet. He was adamant that he had the authority to rule on who should be allowed to speak and that he would not allow Cabinet members to ask questions or make comments on the Executive Reports of their Cabinet colleagues. He suggested that paragraph 11.3 of the Council Procedure Rules should be changed and he expected nobody to challenge the Mayor.

The Leader (Cllr Gibson) and the Deputy Leader (Cllr A Vincent) both raised points of order stating that the Mayor should not be making such statements under this item and challenging his interpretation of the Constitution.

At 7.16pm the Council resolved, under Procedure Rule 17.10(e), to adjourn the meeting for a short period.

At 7.22pm the Mayor re-entered the Chamber to re-commence the meeting but, as only 12 Members (10 Labour and 2 Independent) remained present, which was less than the quorum of 14 members specified in Procedure Rule 7, the meeting was immediately adjourned.