

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

### Present:

Councillor Burdess (in the Chair)

### Councillors

Baker	G Coleman	Jackson	R Scott
Benson	Collett	Kirkland	Smith
Blackburn	Cox	Matthews	Stansfield
Brookes	Critchley	Mitchell	I Taylor
Cain	Farrell	O'Hara	Walsh
Callow	Galley	Owen	L Williams
Mrs Callow JP	Hobson	Robertson BEM	T Williams
Campbell	Hugo	Roberts	Wilshaw
Clapham	Hunter	D Scott	Wing
D Coleman	Hutton	Mrs Scott	

### In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships/Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

### 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Baker, D Coleman, Farrell, Hugo, Jackson, O'Hara, Owen, Robertson and Stansfield declared prejudicial interests in agenda item 5 'Call-In – Referral to full Council' as members of the Planning Committee. Councillors Mrs Callow and Callow declared personal interests in the same item as they lived in the vicinity of Stanley Park Golf course.

### 2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2020

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 July 2020 be signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

### 3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced the sad death on 29 August of former Mayoress Betty Crichton and, on behalf of the Council, expressed condolences to her family.

Members then observed a minute's silence.

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### 4 EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT

Prior to consideration of the Executive and Combined Fire Authority reports, Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health was invited to address members of the Council in respect of the Covid-19 pandemic. Dr Rajpura outlined the latest pandemic developments and government guidance, as well as the impact upon the Blackpool locality. He went on to answer questions from councillors in relation to arrangements that were in place to protect residents including local testing and 'track and trace' systems.

The Executive Lead Members for the meeting then presented reports to the Council on work undertaken in the Corporate, Place and People portfolio areas. The reports covered corporate, strategic and policy issues, together with work being undertaken in transforming services and with partners. The report from representatives on the Combined Fire Authority was also considered.

Questions, comments and debate were invited from all councillors on each of the report areas and the following members offered written responses to questions raised at the meeting:

1. Councillor L Williams agreed to provide a written response to Councillor Walsh on the number of hotels and guesthouses that were being leased by the Council, along with details of the financial support for payment of leases/rents to those establishments that had been unable to trade during the national lockdown.
2. Following comments from Councillor M Scott, Councillor L Williams offered to provide details of the planned structure to support the young people in the Council's care into apprenticeships.
3. Councillor Smith offered to provide Councillor Walsh with details of the regulations regarding the compulsory purchase by the Council, of properties that had been problematic/ derelict for over ten years.
4. Councillor D Scott left the meeting prior to consideration of the report from the Combined Fire Authority representatives.
5. Having declared prejudicial interests in agenda item 5, Councillors Baker, D Coleman, Farrell, Hugo, Jackson, O'Hara, Owen, Robertson and Stansfield left the meeting prior to consideration of the item.

### 5 CALL IN - REFERRAL TO FULL COUNCIL

Members considered the referral from the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Executive Decision EX29/2020 'Proposed appropriation and open space land at Stanley Park Golf Course, Blackpool'.

**Motion 1:** Councillor T Williams proposed (and Councillor Clapham seconded):

'That the Council refers the item back to the Executive, that it listens to the people of Blackpool and overrides the decision to develop the site in order for the Council to protect and maintain this land for future generations in perpetuity'.

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In moving his motion, Councillor T Williams referred to the number of representations that had been received that objected to the development on the site and his reasons for call-in of the item including that he had considered that there had been a lack of consultation on the proposed development and that it should be reserved for open green space.

A range of views were expressed on the motion. A number of members supported the proposal to refer the decision back for review, citing that unlike other developments, the land was not historically a campsite and should be protected as an opportunity to develop the site for all users as the proposed development was aimed at tourists rather than the town's residents. It was also stated that the current use provided aesthetic green space for the town and the proposed development was not in line with the objectives in the Council's Green and Blue Strategy or the Council's climate change declaration to protect the environment. Concerns were expressed that it would be difficult to change any concept once a planning application had been submitted, that many developers gained planning consent on appeal and that not all members had been involved in considering alternative proposals.

A number of members spoke against the notice of motion, stating that accessibility of the site to residents was currently limited and as such the land was underused by a limited number of people who were golf club members. It was stated that golf courses were not natural environments and therefore did not support indigenous wildlife, were ineffective at carbon capture and that the developer had planned to plant more trees and commission an environmental survey. In terms of the Executive decision, it was expressed that it had been necessary to determine appropriation whatever the future outcome on use, that the recent petition included people who were unlikely to use the land, that a diligent tender and decision-making process had been followed and that the planning process would determine the appropriate use of land. Members also stated that the development would create potential local jobs and opportunities for suppliers in the area.

Prior to voting, five members of the Council requested that the vote on the motion should be recorded. The voting was as follows:

**For the motion:** Councillors Mrs Callow, Callow, Clapham, G Coleman, Cox, Galley, Roberts, Mrs Scott, R Scott, Walsh, T Williams, Wilshaw, Wing - total 13.

**Against the motion:** Councillors Benson, Blackburn, Brookes, Burdess, Cain, Campbell, Collett, Critchley, Hobson, Hunter, Hutton, Kirkland, Matthews, Mitchell, Smith, Taylor, L Williams – total 17.

**Abstentions:** None

**Motion lost:** The motion was therefore lost.

**Motion 2:** Councillor L Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

'That no further action be taken'.

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In moving the motion, Councillor L Williams referred to the reasons given by the scrutiny committee for referral and explained the tender process that had been followed and went on to highlight the best value advantages and stated that the Executive had balanced the benefits and disadvantages in making the decision with appropriate weight attributed to the points presented.

**For the motion:** Councillors Benson, Blackburn, Brookes, Burdess, Cain, Campbell, Collett, Critchley, Hobson, Hunter, Hutton, Kirkland, Matthews, Mitchell, Smith, Taylor, L Williams – total 17.

**Against the motion:** Councillors Mrs Callow, Callow, Clapham, G Coleman, Cox, Galley, Roberts, Mrs Scott, R Scott, Walsh, T Williams, Wilshaw, Wing - total 13.

**Abstentions:** None

**Motion won:** The motion was therefore carried.

### Mayor

(The meeting ended at 9.12 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:  
Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance  
Tel: (01253) 477034  
E-mail: [lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk)