

**CLITHEROE TOWN COUNCIL.**

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 30 January, 2017.**

**PRESENT:** The Town Mayor Councillor Mark French in the Chair;  
The Deputy Town Mayor Councillor Maureen Fenton,  
Councillor Ian Brown, Pam Dowson, Kerry Fletcher, Stewart Fletcher,  
Susan Knox, Allan Knox and Mary Robinson.  
Ian Woolstencroft – Interim Town Clerk.

**3.17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence, together with the reason, was received from Councillor Paul Robinson.

**RESOLVED:** That the apology be accepted.

**4.17 MINUTES.**

The Minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held on the 23 January, 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 12 December, 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**5.17 NOTICE OF MOTION.**

Councillor Allan Knox put forward the following Notice of Motion for consideration :-

The Town Council note with concern that:-

- [1 ] Mining company Cuadrillo Resources has recently gained planning permission to frack in the Fylde despite opposition of the local planning authority[ Lancashire County Council ] and many local people.
- [2] Licenses to frack in the Ribble Valley have been obtained by Osprey Petroleum .Ltd .
- [3] Fracking is banned in Scotland, France , Germany, and the states of New York and Maryland as well as numerous counties in California.
- [4] There is a lack of understanding and evidence in relation to the environmental Impact and safety of shale gas “fracking”. There is also uncertainty concerning the adequacy of regulatory powers and oversight. The Co-operative commissioned study from the University of Manchester’s Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research Report, “Shale gas: a provisional assessment of climate change and environmental impacts”reported a number of conclusions in relation to the extraction and use of shale gas, including:-

- A significant risk of ground and surface water contamination by the hazardous chemicals involved in extraction .
- The requirement for high volumes of water in shale gas extraction could put considerable pressure on local water supplies
- The likelihood that close proximity of extraction sites to population centres would create additional pressure on scarce land – use resources through increased risk of intrusive noise pollution , truck movements and land use demands that could arise
- The likelihood that exploitation of this additional fossil fuel resource will increase net carbon emissions
- The risk that exploitation of shale gas will delay major investments in zero- and very low – carbon technologies.

**RESOLVED: [1] That the Town Council objects to the carrying out of shale gas or coal gas methane testing or extraction in the greater Clitheroe area until such time as the Town Council is satisfied as to the safety of the process and that the risk of adverse environmental impacts have been fully addressed;**

**[2] That the Town Clerk write to the Chief Executives and Leaders of Ribble Valley Borough and Lancashire County Councils as well as the local MP and inform them of this decision; and**

**[3] That the Town Clerk be also asked to notify the local press and appropriate national environmental press.**

#### **6.17 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS.**

A list of Mayoral engagements attended by the Mayor and Deputy since the last ordinary Town Council meeting was submitted for information.

#### **7.17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

Consideration was given to a number of planning applications for weeks ending 6, 20 and 27 January, 2017.

**RESOLVED: That no objections be raised to the following applications:-  
3/2016/ 1154; 1199 ; 3/2017/ 0025 and 0059.**

#### **8.17 PARISH LENGTHSMANS REPORT.**

Members received the Parish Lengthsman's general report for January, 2017. The report made reference to the fact that whilst litter picking the Chester Avenue Play Area and the area behind the long stay car park he had come across a large number of sparklet type bulbs which he understood contained some form of illegal drug along with a number of drug packets which he had drawn to the attention of the local Police.

Members made reference to other areas of the town where there is a juvenile misuse problem for example Clitheroe Cricket Club by the Bowling Green and Henthorn Park.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk be requested to write to the local Chief Inspector drawing attention to the Town Council's concerns that there is increasing evidence of drug misuse in the town and to ask the Police to take action to help alleviate the problem within resources they have available.

**9.17 REVIEW OF TRIAL PERIODS FOR TOWN SERGEANT AND ALLOTMENTS MANAGER POSTS.**

With reference to Minute No 58.16 [September, 2016], the Town Clerk reported on the outcome of the three month trial to fill the vacant position of Town Sergeant and Allotments Manager .

Consideration was also given to a review of the Parish Lengthsman's contract which is due for renewal at the end of March, 2017.

**RESOLVED:** [1] That the position of Town Sergeant be offered to Arthur Astles with effect from the 1 February, 2017;

[2] That the position of Allotments Manager be offered to Stephen Bates with effect from the 1 February, 2017 and those duties be combined with his position as Parish Lengthsman ;

[3] That the Parish Lengthsman's contract be extended for a further twelve months until 31 March, 2018 ;and

[4] That the Town Clerk be asked to arrange for a Relief Halberdier to be identified and that Members be asked to put forward any names .

**10.17 FUTURE OF THE COUNCIL OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS COMMITTEE (CLOC).**

The Town Clerk submitted the Minutes of the Council of Local Organisations (Clitheroe) Committee meeting held on the 23 January, 2017 in which reference was made to the decision of the Town Council that they would no longer be prepared to fund the cost of providing food parcels to those over 80 years of age and living alone in Clitheroe but that they would make a financial contribution to any alternative scheme.

The meeting finished at 7.50pm.

Signed .....  
CHAIRMAN.