

COUNCILLOR BARBARA ASHWORTH, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 17th July 2019

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Ashworth (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Aldred, A. Barnes, Brennan, Bromley,
Essex, Fletcher, Gill, Haslam-Jones, Haworth, Hughes, Johnson,
Kempson, Kenyon, Kostyan, Lythgoe, MacNae, Marriott, Morris,
Neal, Oakes, Pendlebury, Powell, Procter, Roberts, Serridge,
Stansfield, and Steen.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Clare Birtwistle, Legal Services Manager (Monitoring Officer)
Cath Burns, Director of Economic Development
Phil Seddon, Head of Finance (S151 Officer)
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager
Jenni Cook, Committee and Member Services Officer
John Illingworth, Mayor's Attendant**

ALSO PRESENT: 8 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors L.Barnes, Cheetham, James Eaton, Janet Eaton, Farrington, Stevens and Walmsley.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2019 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
2. That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2019 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Lythgoe and Morris declared non-pecuniary interests in relation to minute 9 as they were on the board of Rossendale Leisure Trust.

Councillors Essex and Oakes declared non-pecuniary interests in relation to minute 15 as they were on the directors of RTB.

5. Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service.

The Leader of the Council formally notified members that the Council's Chief Executive, Stuart Sugarman, was leaving to start a new role with the NHS. She wished him well in his new job and informed that the post would be advertised next week, the interviews

would be held 13th September, and the appointment would be subject to approval at Council on 25th September.

The Leader of the Council provided an update on the meeting with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, which was attended by herself, the Chief Executive of Rossendale Council and the Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Eamonn Boylan. At the meeting it was discussed how the Council could work more closely with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and to investigate the possibility of the Council becoming an associate member. As the legislation had changed it was no longer possible to become an associate member, however, the Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority had agreed to work more closely especially on transport issues.

There was a change of representative on the Police and Crime Panel and Councillor Hughes had replaced Councillor Oakes.

Over the last 18 months, the Apprenticeship Levy had supported the Council's organisational and staff development; 15 staff had completed the Business Improvement Techniques qualification, 18 had completed the Level 3 Institute of Leadership and Management qualification and one had completed an NVQ 4 in Business Administration. The Leader of the Council thanked all the staff involved for their commitment to continuous improvement and congratulated them on their excellent achievements.

The Leader of the Council informed that the Council had been looking more closely at Spinning Point Phase 2. There has been some interest in the retail element, but the interest was not to the expected standard, and since Rawtenstall was on the up it would need to be able to add to the rejuvenation of the area. Therefore it was proposed to revisit and change the plans to Phase 2 in relation to the retail element and maintain more public space and car parking space, whilst retaining the spa offer. There was significant retail interest at the bus station and talks were ongoing with interested parties.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service the Director of Economic Development informed of the following changes to committee membership and outside bodies since the Annual Meeting:

- Councillor Jackie Oakes was the representative on the RTB Board rather than Councillor Adrian Lythgoe.
- Councillor Steve Hughes was the representative on the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel rather than Councillor Jackie Oakes.
- Councillor Andrew Walmsley was the representative on CLAW rather than Councillor Adrian Lythgoe.

The changes had already been updated on the Council's website.

ROLL OF HONOUR

6. Roll of Honour

The Mayor commended Samara Barnes for her service to the borough and communities of Rossendale. Samara had been instrumental in setting up the Red Box

Project in Rossendale. The Mayor noted that people of Rossendale should rightfully be very proud of her.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

7. Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report 2018/19 and Work Programme 2019/20

The Council considered the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report 2018/19 and Work Programme 2019/20. The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services introduced the report and thanked the councillors of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, including Councillor Lythgoe, the former chairperson, and Councillor Johnson, the new chairperson, for their hard work.

In response to comments and questions from members the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Leader of the Council informed that:

- If there were any items members wanted reviewing they could be raised with the chairperson or portfolio holder.
- In relation to Empty Homes, it was important not to jeopardise the Police investigation.

Resolved:

1. Members noted the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19.
2. Members noted and approved the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/20.

Reason for Decision

To provide an Annual Report to Full Council to demonstrate the work carried out by the committee each year. By agreeing the Work Programme the Council ensures that local issues and services to local communities continue to be part of the scrutiny process with a view to being able to make recommendations for continuous improvements.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. Constitution Review

The Council considered the Constitution Review report, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services.

In response to comments and questions from members the Leader of the Council informed that:

- There were other councils with more members on their planning committees.
- More members would help with the number of members available to determine the increased planning applications as a result of the new housing requirements.

Resolved:

That Council agree to the proposed changes to the Constitution in relation to:

- Increasing the membership of the Development Control Committee from seven to nine elected members.

Reason for Decision

The Council is required by law to implement a Constitution and it is in the interests of the Council to regularly review and update the document.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

ORDINARY BUSINESS**9. Capital Expenditure**

The Council considered the Capital Expenditure report, which was introduced by the Leader of the Council.

Resolved:

Members agree to the financing and/or purchasing of gym equipment for Haslingden Adrenaline Centre up to a value of £250k, repayable by Rossendale Leisure Trust in the form of rent or similar over 5 years.

Reason for Decision

Supporting the capital expenditure and its financing will help maintain the financial success of RLT.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

10. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) Dog Control

The Council considered the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) report, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Customers.

In response to comments and questions from members the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Customers informed that:

- Any bin could be used to dispose of dog waste, but if there was an issue with available bins it could be raised with the Operations Team, who would review the request.
- An enforcement review was planned for October and was part of the work plan.

Resolved:

That following a period of public consultation and consideration of the same, the draft Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) are adopted by the Council.

Reason for Decision

To approve the proposed orders which are relevant, necessary and consistently enforced across the borough.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

11. Food Law Service Plan 2019/20

The Council considered the Food Law Service Plan 2019/20, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Customers.

In response to comments and questions from members, the Leader of the Council agreed to contact the Food Standards Agency with a request to get central government to enforce premises not to be able to trade if they had a score of less than 3, in addition to enforcing displaying their score.

Resolved:

That the Food Law Service Plan 2019/20 be approved.

Reason for Decision

The Food Law Service Plan for 2019/20 will deliver the Council's obligation to comply with the Food Standards Agency's Food Law Code of Practice.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

12. Whitaker HLF/ NLHF Update

The Council considered the Whitaker HLF/ NLHF Update report, which was introduced by the Leader of the Council. She congratulated the Whitaker on their recent funding award and thanked officers and the Whitaker for their hard work.

Resolved:

1. That members note the successful award of National Lottery Heritage Funding to Rossendale Council for the stage 2 expansion of the Whitaker Museum.
2. That Council authorise the Whitaker CIC to become joint grant applicants with Rossendale Council subject to a side agreement being signed by both parties that allows Rossendale Council to retain control for decisions involving project management or finance. Council delegates authority to the content and signing of the agreement to the Legal Services Manager (Monitoring Officer).
3. That Council approve up to £75k in capital expenditure in order to facilitate the relocation and refurbishment of a new parks and open spaces depot facility.

Reason for Decision

To support the stage 2 expansion of the Whitaker Museum.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

13. Urgent Decisions

The Mayor reported that the Cabinet had not taken any urgent decisions since the last meeting.

14. Exclusion of Public and Press

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

15. Industrial Building Development

The Council considered the Industrial Building Development report, which was introduced by the Leader of the Council.

Discussion took place on the item and officers and the Leader of the Council provided clarification where requested.

Resolved:

To approve the recommendation.

Reason for Decision

To promote the regeneration of Rossendale together with supporting the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and the future sustainability of the Council.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.50pm and concluded at 8.30pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date