

**COUNCILLOR BARBARA ASHWORTH, MAYOR**

**MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE**

**Date of Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Ashworth (in the Chair)  
Councillors Aldred, A. Barnes, Bromley, Cheetham, James  
Eaton, Janet Eaton, Farrington, Fletcher, Gill, Haslam-Jones,  
Haworth, Hughes, Johnson, Kempson, Kenyon, Lythgoe,  
Marriott, Morris, Neal, Oakes, Pendlebury, Powell, Procter,  
Roberts, Serridge, Steen, Stevens and Walmsley.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Stuart Sugarman, Chief Executive  
Clare Birtwistle, Legal Services Manager (Monitoring Officer)  
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager  
John Illingworth, Mayor's Attendant**

**ALSO PRESENT: 19 members of the public**

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**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Adshead, L.Barnes, Brennan, Essex, Kostyan, MacNae and Stansfield.

**2. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 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**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

The Head of Paid Service informed of the following changes to committee membership and outside bodies since the Annual Meeting:

- Councillor Kenyon and Councillor Haslam-Jones are the additional two Development Control Committee members following the changes made at the July Council meeting.
- Councillor Powell is the representative on the Healey Dell Nature Reserve Joint Management Committee rather than Councillor Neal.

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

The Leader of the Council informed that Rogue Landlord Funding secured in 2018 had been used in a multi-agency approach to make landlords comply with fire safety

legislation and meet minimum privately rented standards. The project was ongoing, but so far the Council had carried out over 30 inspections with issues being identified at 10 premises.

The Council's Environmental Health Officers had delivered workshops to give local businesses confidence when working with food products and serving customers with food allergies. The sessions were well attended with more than 80 Rossendale food and drink businesses attending.

Haslingden Street Fair successfully re-launched on Sunday 15 September with an estimated 2000 people visiting. The event was organised jointly by Jackie Flynn Communities Team, and Haslingden traders and community groups, with support from Lancashire County Council. The new group which formed to organise the street fair was now looking to become a constituted community group to organise other events in Haslingden.

Following the issue of holiday hunger being raised by Councillors Aldred and Neal and being considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Communities Team worked with community and voluntary groups and 6 primary schools on a pilot project to provide food and activities to children who would normally receive free school meals. Over 100 children had benefitted from the project. The Leader of the Council thanked Councillor Lythgoe who initiated the task and finish group and Councillor Johnson for seeing the project through and for her activity in the project over the summer holiday period.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **6. Recommendation of the Appointments and Appeals Committee**

The Council considered the recommendation on the appointment of the Chief Executive of the Council.

Councillor Neal wished the current Chief Executive every success in his new role.

#### **Resolved:**

That Neil Shaw is appointed Chief Executive of the Council, subject to HR policies, references and clearances being completed.

#### **Reason for Decision**

To ratify the appointment of the Chief Executive.

#### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

### **7. Recommendation of the Appointments and Appeals Committee**

The Council considered the recommendation on the appointment of the Co-opted Member of the Audit and Accounts Committee.

**Resolved:**

That subject to references, Mr Simon McManus be appointed as the Co-opted Member of the Audit and Accounts Committee.

**Reason for Decision**

To ratify the appointment of the Co-opted Member of the Audit and Accounts Committee.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**ORDINARY BUSINESS**

**8. Temporary Accommodation Project**

The Council considered the Temporary Accommodation Project report which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Customers.

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

- The young persons' property in Rawtenstall was still in use and being run by a third party on behalf of the Council.
- If the Shadow Portfolio Holder had specific questions regarding the long-term plan, the Portfolio Holder was happy to answer any questions.

**Resolved:**

1. Members note the contents of the report.
2. Members approve the necessary commissioning of services and expertise to support the project as detailed within the report, along with the criteria for selecting the properties to acquire.

**Reason for Decision**

To give authorisation to commission the services and expertise necessary to support the project and to help meet the Council's priorities of prevention homelessness and returning properties back into use.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

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**N.B.** Councillor Serridge left the meeting

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**9. Health and Safety Service Plan 2019/20**

The Council considered the Health and Safety Service Plan 2019/20 report, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Operations and Development Control.

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**N.B.** Councillor Serridge returned to the meeting

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In response to comments and questions from members the Leader of the Council informed that the report related to the health and safety compliance work carried out by the Public Protection Unit

**Resolved:**

That the Health and Safety Service Plan 2019/20 be approved.

**Reason for Decision**

The health and safety service plan for 2019/20 sets out and explains the Council's proposal to make arrangements for the enforcement of health and safety legislation.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

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**N.B.** Councillor Barnes left the meeting

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**10. Future High Streets Fund/ Heritage Action Zone for Bacup town centre**

The Council considered the Future High Streets Fund/ Heritage Action Zone for Bacup town centre report which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development.

**Resolved:**

1. Council note the successful award up to £150,000 of the first stage of the Future High Streets Fund and authorise acceptance of the grant.
2. Council note the pending stage one High Street Heritage Action Zone application decision for Bacup.
3. Council note the consultation to date on the emerging draft Bacup 2040 Vision and Masterplan. Council authorise full consultation to take place to strengthen forthcoming funding applications with a view of adopting the Vision and Masterplan as official Council policy and supplementary planning document status at a future Council meeting.
4. Council agree to the establishment of a Bacup 2040 Vision Board to act as a policy and steering group for the project. Terms of reference to be delegated to the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the portfolio holder.
5. Council allocate £250,000 from the Employment and Transport Reserve, delegated to the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the portfolio holder to support detailed designs, studies, consultation, planning permission and professional reports to strengthen the second round application based on the emerging draft Bacup 2040 Vision and Masterplan. Unused funds will be returned to the reserve after the bid is concluded.

**Reason for Decision**

To finalise the Bacup 2040 Vision and Masterplan after further consultation with residents, businesses and community stakeholders. To support a further second round application for Future High Streets funds in April 2020.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## 11. Urgent Decisions

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

### NOTICES OF MOTION

## 12. Councillor Hughes moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Johnson:

*Council notes: That the impacts of climate change are already having a significant effect on Rossendale.*

*The “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees”, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, not only describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise but also confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and local government, and the private sector.*

*We all have a duty to act on climate change and by having a strong policy to cut emissions, this also has associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits.*

*Council therefore commits to:*

- *Declaring a ‘climate emergency’ that requires urgent action*
- *Working towards making the council’s activities net-zero carbon by 2030*
- *Setting a 100% clean energy target, across the Council’s full range of functions by 2030*
- *Proactively promoting the need for businesses across Rossendale to take steps to be net-zero carbon by 2030*
- *Writing to government asking them to bring forward new funding and devolved powers to help make the zero-carbon target a reality*
- *Creating a new Climate Change Member Champion who will support the relevant Portfolio Holder and Leader of the Council in delivery of the commitments*
- *Where necessary officer reports to Cabinet and Full Council contain impact assessments on Climate Change, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible*
- *Assigning a lead officer to deliver the Council’s commitments*

### **Resolved:**

The motion was carried.

### **Reason for Decision**

To support the notice of motion.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

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**N.B.** Councillor Barnes returned to the meeting

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**13. Councillor Pendlebury moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Steen:**

*As a local councillor I am concerned, along with many other people regarding the amount of single use plastic and recycling within our own borough. I feel that as a council we should be leading and setting an example in encouraging and increasing our recycling efforts.*

*I would like to put forward to Council a motion, that as a council we all commit to increasing our current recycling rate from 29% to 50%, introduce a food/compostable bin by 2021 and finally, all Rossendale events should commit to being 'single use plastic free' from early next 2020.*

*I hope that as a council we can all agree to this motion, which will make Rossendale a healthier and better place to live in, but in committing to this we will also enhance our environment.*

Councillor Serridge confirmed he supported the motion but would like to move an amended motion. He moved an amended motion which was seconded by Councillor Hughes as follows:

*This council recognises the terrible impact single use plastics are having on our environment and on wildlife. As a council, we have a duty to lead the way in reducing the amount of single use plastics used across our services and to encourage others to do the same.*

*Council therefore commits to reviewing all service areas with the aim of minimising and hopefully removing entirely our use of non-biodegradable single use plastics, and will encourage the organisers of the wonderful community events we have in Rossendale to do the same. This will take effect immediately.*

*With regard to general recycling, council confirms it will work towards the target of recycling 50% of waste collected across the borough and furthermore agrees to contact Lancashire County Council as our waste disposal authority, asking them to introduce a county wide waste food disposal service, and to work with the 12 districts to stop waste food being disposed of in landfill sites.*

Councillor Serridge asked if Councillors Pendlebury and Steen would agree to withdraw their moving and seconding of the original motion in support of the above amended motion, and whether Councillor Pendlebury would like to second the amended motion instead of Councillor Hughes. Councillors Pendlebury and Steen agreed. Councillor Hughes withdrew his seconding of the motion and Councillor Pendlebury agreed with the amended motion and seconded it.

In response to comments from a member, the Leader of the Council confirmed she was happy to support putting a proposal to Lancashire County Council which would encourage and make it easier for main road fronted properties to recycle.

Members voted on the amended motion becoming the substantive motion, which was carried.

**Resolved:**

The motion was carried as amended.

**Reason for Decision**

To support the amended notice of motion.

**Alternative Options Considered**

The original notice of motion.

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The Leader informed that the Chief Executive would be leaving after 10 years with the council and that members were invited to say farewell and pass on their best wishes at the MacMillan Coffee Morning at 10am on Friday. She thanked him on behalf of all members. Councillor Neal expressed his gratitude and Councillor Cheetham also thanked him on behalf of Lancashire County Council and neighbouring authority officers for his role as secretariat where his contributions had been much appreciated.

**(The meeting commenced at 7.10pm and concluded at 8.00pm)**

Signed.....  
(Chair)

Date .....