

**COUNCILLOR BARBARA ASHWORTH, MAYOR**

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

**Date of Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Neil Shaw, Chief Executive  
Clare Birtwistle, Legal Services Manager (Monitoring Officer)  
Cath Burns, Director of Economic Development  
Ken Masser, Interim S151 Officer  
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager  
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant

**ALSO PRESENT:** 1 press  
2 members of the public

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**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Brennan, Essex, Kenyon, Morris, Roberts and Stansfield.

**2. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**3. Urgent Items of Business**

There was one urgent item of business which was a recommendation from the Appointments and Appeals Committee regarding the Appointment of the Director of Communities. This would be taken at the end of the agenda at item E1 (minute 12).

**4. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

The Leader of the Council informed that the Council had welcomed £76,000 funding to support the domestic abuse service in the borough. Rossendale Council was one of 15 Lancashire local authorities involved in a bid to government for a share of £2.1m.

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

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The Council had been providing support for those affected by the floods, and an update had already been provided during Question Time.

A further grant of £24k had been secured to allow the Council to continue the good work around dealing with Rogue Landlords. This would include both enforcement and training which would be tailored to improve the standards and practices of the private rented sector.

The joint grant awarded to ourselves and 5 other councils of £630k to fund electric vehicle charge points in the borough was now coming to fruition with installation about to commence. This would contribute to the Council's efforts to tackle climate change and reduce carbon emissions, and by the end of August, 8 new charge points should be in place.

## **POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK ITEMS**

### **6. 2020/21 Corporate Priorities, Council Tax and the Medium Term Financial Strategy**

The Council considered the 2020/21 Corporate Priorities, Council Tax and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Resources. The Mayor informed that a revised Appendix 4 had been circulated to members and that a recorded vote was required for this item.

Various members thanked the Finance Team for the work they had done on the budget setting.

In response to a question, the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Customers confirmed that there was a different process for raising taxi licensing fees and that it couldn't be done in line with inflation, as costs needed to be fully costed in line with the guidelines.

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

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Members voted on the recommendations of the report as follows:

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

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Cllr Adshead	For
Cllr Aldred	For
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr A. Barnes	For
Cllr L. Barnes	For
Cllr Bromley	For
Cllr Cheetham	For
Cllr James Eaton	For
Cllr Janet Eaton	For
Cllr Fletcher	For

Cllr Gill	For
Cllr Haslam-Jones	For
Cllr Haworth	For
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Johnson	For
Cllr Kempson	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr MacNae	For
Cllr Marriott	For
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Pendlebury	For
Cllr Powell	For
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Serridge	For
Cllr Steen	For
Cllr Stevens	For
Cllr Walmsley	For
<b>For:</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Abstentions:</b>	<b>0</b>

**Resolved:**

1. That Members approve a 2020/21 Council Tax rate for Band D of £279.57, being a 1.99% increase.
2. That Members approve the use of £69k from the Council Tax collection fund and £686k from the Business Rates Retention reserve to support the 2020/21 annual budget.
3. That the Council approves a net revenue budget for 2020/21 of £9.006m.
4. That Council approves the Fees and Charges as noted in Appendix 1.
5. In line with the previous year, Council approves that allowances will not increase in line with inflation going forward, until further notice and will be revisited as part of the next full review in 2022.
6. That Council agrees the technical resolutions necessary to give effect to these proposals (Appendix 4).

**Reason for Decision**

The Council must remain focused on identifying and delivering further efficiencies and income in order to ensure annual balanced budgets over the immediate and medium term. It must also ensure that all its budget resource allocations are directed to the core functions of the Council and that the use of its resources has clear links to the Council’s Corporate Priorities. The proposals have been considered and approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> February and Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

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

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## **7. Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2023/23**

The Council considered the Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Resources.

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

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### **Resolved:**

1. Members approve the affordable capital programme for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 3 of the Budget Report, and the new capital expenditure projects totalling £1,526k.
2. Council agree to delegate any minor amendments to the capital programme throughout the 2020/21 financial year as a result of new grant-funded community projects, to the Head of Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources. Amendments will then be reported to Cabinet through the regular Financial Monitoring Reports.

### **Reason for Decision**

To approve a capital programme for 2020/21.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

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

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## **8. Treasury Management Strategy & Treasury Management Practices (updates for 2020/21)**

The Council considered the Treasury Management Strategy & Treasury Management Practices (updates for 2020/21), which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Resources.

It was noted that the footer on Appendix 1 should read date last amended February 2020 and due for review February 2021.

### **Resolved:**

1. Full Council considered and approved the revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Treasury Management Policy and Practices.
2. Full Council delegate any further minor changes to the Head of Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources.

### **Reason for Decision**

Adoption of the updated Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Treasury Management Policy and Practices will ensure continued compliance with the Code and continue to contain the Council's exposure to financial risk.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## **ORDINARY BUSINESS**

### **9. Rawtenstall Market Management Tender**

The Council considered the Rawtenstall Market Management Tender report.

Various members put on record their thanks to Jane Boys for the excellent work she had done in re-vitalising the market and for her energetic and invigorating approach.

In response to a question Councillor Marriott confirmed there was a 5 year break in the management agreement, and Councillor Oakes informed it was to hold an open competition regarding a management agreement for up to 10 years.

#### **Resolved:**

1. To approve the holding of an open competition for the ongoing management of Rawtenstall Market for up to 10 years.
2. To authorise the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to assess and award the tender to the most advantageous bid.
3. To approve a budget of up to £10,000 from the employment and transport reserve for the legal, professional and advertising fees associated with this process.

#### **Reason for Decision**

To approve an open competition to assess the suitability of tender proposals and award an up to 10 year management agreement of the site following an evaluation process.

#### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

### **10. Re-appraising Rawtenstall - a 2040 vision**

The Council considered the Re-appraising Rawtenstall - a 2040 vision report, which was introduced by the Leader of the Council.

Councillor Cheetham placed on record her thanks to the late Mr Leonard Entwistle for campaigning to save the façade of the old Town Hall, she also thanked the new bus station reception staff, who were very helpful and informative.

#### **Resolved:**

1. Members note the positive contribution of the Spinning Point project to date, including the opening of the new bus station in Rawtenstall.
2. Members agree to not progressing a further project on the Spinning Point Phase 2 development at this time and accept the associated financial implications outlined in this report.

#### **Reason for Decision**

Whilst recognising the success of Rawtenstall's town centre, prior to any further substantial investment, it is proposed that the vision for Rawtenstall is refreshed. This will mean that Phase 2 at Spinning Point will not proceed at this point in time.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**11. Council Pay Policy Statement**

The Council considered the Council Pay Policy Statement report.

**Resolved:**

Full Council approves the Pay Policy Statement.

**Reason for Decision**

The Pay Policy Statement meets the legal requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES**

**12. Recommendation of the Appointments and Appeals Committee**

The Council considered the recommendation on the appointment of the Director of Communities.

**Resolved:**

That Adam Allen is appointed Director of Communities, subject to HR policies, references and clearances being completed.

**Reason for Decision**

To ratify the appointment of the Director of Communities.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**(The meeting commenced at 6.50pm and concluded at 8.00pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....