

COUNCILLOR JACKIE OAKES, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 7th July 2021

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Oakes (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Brennan, Cheetham (in part), James Eaton, Janet Eaton, Foxcroft, Gill, Haworth, Hughes, Johnson, Kempson, Kenyon, Kostyan (in part), Lythgoe, Marriott, Morris, Neal, Pendlebury, Procter (in part), Rigby, Rooke, Serridge, Stevens, Walmsley, Whitehead and Woods (in part).

IN ATTENDANCE: Neil Shaw, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
Adam Allen, Director of Communities
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: By remote access – 3 public observers.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors L.Barnes, Essex, MacNae, Powell, Steen and Thompson, and it was noted that Councillor Cheetham would be late.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2021 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

There were no communications from the Mayor or Head of Paid Service.

The Leader of the Council informed that Covid restrictions were being lifted on 19th July, but numbers in Rossendale were still high. Council communications would continue to reflect this and she reminded people to take care over coming weeks.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

N.B. Councillor Procter entered the meeting.

6. Digital Strategy

The Council considered the Digital Strategy, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Councillor Steve Hughes.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Good customer service would be embedded across the Council in parallel with the delivery of the digital strategy, including providing timely and appropriate replies to enquiries.

Resolved:

1. That Full Council approve the proposed new Digital Strategy.
2. That Full Council approve the proposed roadmap to translate the Digital Strategy into a clear programme of projects over the lifetime of the strategy which will be consulted upon with Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Reason for Decision

A Digital Strategy is an integral part of transforming the way in which the council delivers its services and how the council is perceived by residents. This strategy provides an ambitious vision and a deliverable work programme which will help transform our approach to delivering services to the residents of Rossendale.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

N.B. Councillors Kostyan and Woods entered the meeting.

7. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report and Work Programme

The Council considered the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report and Work Programme, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, Councillor Sean Serridge. Councillor Serridge thanked members of the committee for their hard work and reminded councillors that they could refer issues to the committee to be scrutinised.

Resolved:

That Council approve the Annual Report 2020/21 and Work Programme 2021/22.

Reason for Decision

The Annual Report and Work Programme summarises the work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and provides an outline of the work to be carried out during the 2021/22 municipal year.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

N.B. Councillor Cheetham entered the meeting.

8. Climate Change Update

The Council considered the Climate Change Update, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Councillor Adrian Lythgoe. Councillor Lythgoe thanked officers for their hard work towards achieving the priorities in the strategy.

Resolved:

1. That Council note the progress of the first year of the Climate Change Strategy.
2. That Council agree the priority projects for the coming year.
3. That Council approve the recruitment of a Carbon Reduction Project Officer on a two-year fixed term to increase the council's capacity to progress projects in the

strategy.

4. That Council delegate approval of individual projects funded from the Carbon Reduction Fund to the s151 Officer in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Climate Change Member Champion.

Reason for Decision

The Council has made a public commitment to tackling climate change by taking action locally and having a clear programme of projects to deliver on this ambition.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

NOTICES OF MOTION

9. Notice of motion

Councillor Serridge moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor James Eaton:

Rossendale has been the title of a parliamentary constituency since 1885. This council notes with great concern the draft proposal to split Rossendale in half and place the towns of Bacup and Whitworth with Burnley. This council finds the draft proposal completely unacceptable and resolves to write to the Boundary Commission expressing our view that the title Rossendale must be retained and this review should be used to once again reunite the Borough in a single constituency.

In response to comments, members were asked to encourage residents to take part in the consultation.

Resolved:

To write to the Boundary Commission expressing our view that the title Rossendale must be retained and this review should be used to once again reunite the Borough in a single constituency.

Reason for Decision

To support the motion.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

10. Notice of motion

Councillor Foxcroft moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Woods:

Our climate emergency is the biggest challenge facing the globe going forwards. As a council we should be doing everything in our power to make going green the natural and easy choice for our residents. To this end council resolves to

- *Installing at least one electric vehicle charging points in all council owned and maintained car parks by the end of 2022*
- *Provide early guidance on all future housing developments that we expect all off road parking to include an electric vehicle charging facility within the plan and mandate this through conditions if necessary.*

An amendment was moved by Councillor Marriott which was seconded by Councillor

Hughes as follows:

Our climate emergency is the biggest challenge facing the globe going forwards. As a council we should be doing everything in our power to make going green the natural and easy choice for our residents.

Members welcome existing commitments to expand the charging infrastructure across the borough. Members note that not all council owned and maintained car parks may be suitable for electric car charging points but will form part of site assessments under existing plans to expand the network.

Subject to Government led planning law reforms, and following the adoption of The Local Plan, this Council will develop supplementary planning guidance to mandate electric car charging infrastructure and condition developments in line with the policy.

Members voted on the amendment, which became the substantive motion.

Resolved:

Subject to Government led planning law reforms, and following the adoption of The Local Plan, this Council will develop supplementary planning guidance to mandate electric car charging infrastructure and condition developments in line with the policy.

Reason for Decision

To support the amended motion.

Alternative Options Considered

Original motion submitted.

11. Notice of motion

Councillor Rigby moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Morris:

Openness and transparency are fundamental to the running of a council in order to build trust with residents. Covid-19 has made us work in and new different ways creating opportunities for residents across Rossendale to interact with their elected representatives. As we move forwards council commits to continue enabling this by:

- *Ensuring all open door council meetings are webcast live by autumn 2021*
- *Making sure resident and member question time sections of council meetings are made part of the agenda and available for everyone on publication of meeting minutes immediately.*

An amendment was moved by Councillor Serridge which was seconded by Councillor Hughes as follows:

Openness and transparency are fundamental to the running of a council in order to build trust with residents. Covid-19 has made us work in and new different ways creating opportunities for residents across Rossendale to interact with their elected representatives. As we move forwards council commits to continue enabling this by:

- *Ensuring all open door council meetings continue to be able to be observed via Zoom.*
- *Ensure public and members question time is kept as per the Constitution.*
- *That procedures continue to be reviewed by the Governance Working Group.*

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Public and members can ask questions at Rossendale, unlike many other authorities.
- Proceedings can be observed on Zoom.

Members voted on the amendment, which became the substantive motion.

Resolved:

1. To ensure all open door council meetings continue to be able to be observed via Zoom.
2. To ensure public and members question time is kept as per the Constitution.
3. That procedures continue to be reviewed by the Governance Working Group.

Reason for Decision

To support the amended motion.

Alternative Options Considered

Original motion submitted.

12. Notice of motion

Councillor Adshead moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Stevens:

This Council notes:

The Government Resources and Waste Strategy launched in 2018;

The Declaration of Climate Emergency by this Council in September 2019;

The Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) Climate Change Strategy and 10 year action plan published earlier this year (2021);

The environmental impact of excess plastics in the natural environment

and welcomes the Borough's first plastic free initiatives at 'The Bug' in Whitworth and 'Planet B' in Rawtenstall.

This Council therefore resolves:

- *To develop a plastics strategy with the objective that Rossendale will become a Plastic Free Community by 2025;*
- *To set up a Plastic Free Working Group;*
- *To conduct an audit of single use plastics in RBC;*
- *To review recycling routes for plastics in RBC;*
- *To support Plastic Free Community initiatives in the Borough.*

An amendment was moved by Councillor Foxcroft which was seconded by Councillor Pendlebury as follows:

This Council notes:

The Government Resources and Waste Strategy launched in 2018;

The Declaration of Climate Emergency by this Council in September 2019;

The single use plastics Notice of motion unanimously agreed by this council in September 2019

The Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) Climate Change Strategy and 10 year action plan published earlier this year (2021);

The environmental impact of excess plastics in the natural environment

and welcomes the Borough's first plastic free initiatives at 'The Bug' in Whitworth and 'Planet B' in Rawtenstall.

This Council therefore resolves:

- *To develop a plastics strategy with the objective that Rossendale will become a Plastic Free Community by 2025;*
- *To set up a Plastic Free Working Group;*
- *To review recycling routes for plastics in RBC;*
- *To support Plastic Free Community initiatives in the Borough.*
- *To confirm that following actions agreed in 2019 RBC is now single-use plastics free in all service areas and where this is not the case make any changes necessary by autumn 2021*
- *To confirm progress in supporting community events to be single use plastic free*
- *To report on progress of all actions to O&S by March 2022 and bring a report to full council by the end of the current municipal year*

Councillor Adshead requested that the previous reference to an audit, be included in the amendment. The request was agreed by the proposer and seconder and the following line of the motion was amended as follows:

- *To confirm that following actions agreed in 2019 RBC is now single-use plastics free in all service areas confirmed by a full audit and where this is not the case make any changes necessary by autumn 2021*

Members voted on the amendment, which became the substantive motion.

Resolved:

1. To develop a plastics strategy with the objective that Rossendale will become a Plastic Free Community by 2025;
2. To set up a Plastic Free Working Group;
3. To review recycling routes for plastics in RBC;
4. To support Plastic Free Community initiatives in the Borough.
5. To confirm that following actions agreed in 2019, RBC is now single-use plastics free in all service areas, to be confirmed by a full audit, and where this is not the case make any changes necessary by autumn 2021
6. To confirm progress in supporting community events to be single use plastic free
7. To report on progress of all actions to O&S by March 2022 and bring a report to full council by the end of the current municipal year

Reason for Decision

To support the amended motion.

Alternative Options Considered

Original motion submitted.

13. Notice of motion

Councillor S. Barnes moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Serridge:

Within the UK we have been witnessing a crisis in food poverty over the last few years.

We have now reached a tipping point and the levels of food poverty are devastating. This

is an unacceptable situation for one of the richest nations in the world, and highlights the inequalities to be found in the UK in 2021.

We have seen significant increases in the need to access food parcels and support over the last year as the consequences of the pandemic continue to be felt by many within the community.

The National Food Strategy is the first independent review of the country's entire food system for over 75 years. Its purpose to set out what kind of food system we should be building for the future.

Food poverty should be central to this strategy, and enshrining the right to food into law would clarify Government's obligations on food poverty and enable government bodies to be held to account on this vital issue.

This Council resolves to:

- 1. call on the 'right to food' to be incorporated into the National Food Strategy and asks that the Chief Executive writes to Henry Dimbleby, the Independent Lead on the Strategy, with such a request; and*
- 2. note and give thanks for the superb efforts by many within our community on their work to fight food poverty, from those making donations to foodbanks, volunteers, businesses large and small, individuals and groups all working across Rossendale to support one another.*

Resolved:

1. To call on the 'right to food' to be incorporated into the National Food Strategy and asks that the Chief Executive writes to Henry Dimbleby, the Independent Lead on the Strategy, with such a request.
2. To note and give thanks for the superb efforts by many within our community on their work to fight food poverty, from those making donations to foodbanks, volunteers, businesses large and small, individuals and groups all working across Rossendale to support one another.

Reason for Decision

To support the motion.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.10pm and concluded at 7.25pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date