

COUNCILLOR JACKIE OAKES, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING: 20th May 2022

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Oakes (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes,
Brennan, Cheetham, Coogan, Janet Eaton, James Eaton,
Foxcroft, Hughes, Johnson, Kenyon, McInnes, McMahon,
Marriott, Morris, Neal, Powell, Procter, Rigby, Rooke, Serridge,
Smith, Snowden, Steen, Thompson, Walmsley, Whitehead and
Woods.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Neil Shaw, Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal/Monitoring Officer
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager
Stephanie Carroll, Civic Services Officer and Leader's PA
John Illingworth, Mayor's Attendant
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant**

**ALSO PRESENT: 1 press
5 public (includes 1 remote attendee)
37 guests**

A short silence was held as a mark of respect for former councillors Fred Lynskey and John McManus.

The Leader of the Council informed of two special achievements. Councillor Alan Neal had achieved a total of 30 years' service as a councillor, and Councillor James Eaton had achieved 30 years of continuous and unbroken service as a councillor. She thanked both Councillors Neal and Eaton for their commitment and dedication and presented them with a Certificate of Achievement on behalf of the Council.

She also informed that that Rossendale was one of the first councils in the country to pay the £150 energy rebate to direct debit payers, the finance team were now working on a solution to enable the remaining payments to be made as quickly as possible.

Steve Bayes, George Bristow and Betty Bayes had committed over 40 years to running the Rossendale Badminton League and had also formerly played the sport too, Steve Bayes at county level. Betty's role had been as vice president and press secretary, Steve had been the league's chairman and George was the retiring secretary. All three members would be hanging up their racquets at the end of the season and, in recognition of their dedication and voluntary contributions to badminton in Rossendale, the Leader asked for them to be presented with a certificate of achievement on behalf of the Council.

CIVIC MATTERS

1. Election of the Mayor

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2022/23. Councillor Anne Cheetham was proposed by Councillor David Foxcroft and seconded by Councillor Alyson Barnes.

Resolved:

That Councillor Anne Cheetham be appointed as the Mayor for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

NB: The New Mayor, Councillor Anne Cheetham, chaired the meeting from this point forward.

2. Election of the Deputy Mayor

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2022/23. Councillor Andrew Walmsley was proposed as Deputy Mayor for external engagements only by Councillor Barbara Ashworth and seconded by Councillor Peter Steen.

Resolved:

That Councillor Walmsley be appointed as the Deputy Mayor for external engagements only for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

3. Presentation and Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor and Mayoress

Councillor Sean Serridge moved the vote of thanks and spoke in relation to the retiring Mayor, seconded by Councillor Peter Steen, to which Councillor Jackie Oakes responded.

Resolved:

That the grateful thanks of this Council be offered to Councillor Jackie Oakes for the excellent manner in which she has fulfilled her duties as Mayor.

BUSINESS MATTERS

4. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors L. Barnes, Haworth, Lythgoe and Pendlebury.

5. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2022 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

6. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

7. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

8. Retiring Councillors – Vote of Thanks

Councillor Patrick Marriott spoke in relation to those councillors who had retired following the Elections on 5th May 2022, this was seconded by Councillor Jenny Rigby.

Resolved:

That the grateful thanks of this Council be offered to Brian Essex, Christine Gill, Karl Kempson, Denis Kostyan and Joseph Stevens for their hard work throughout their service as elected members of the borough.

9. Election of Councillors

The Chief Executive reported that the following persons had been elected councillors on

5th May 2022 and had each made the necessary Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Mayor welcomed all new and returned councillors to the Council.

Resolved:

That it be noted that the following persons were elected on 5th May 2022.

Name of Person Elected Ward

Anne Cheetham	Eden
Granville Morris	Greenfield
James Eaton	Greensclough
Alyson Barnes	Goodshaw
Annie McMahon	Hareholme
Alan Neal	Healey & Whitworth
Caroline Snowden	Helmshore
Michelle Smith	Irwell
Liz McInnes	Longholme
Jackie Oakes	Stacksteads
Mary Coogan	Whitewell
Ann Kenyon	Worsley

The Mayor wished them well in their role as a councillor.

10. Appointment of Leader of the Council

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Leader of the Council for a 4 year term.

Councillor Jackie Oakes moved and Councillor Sean Serridge seconded that Councillor Alyson Barnes be appointed Leader of the Council.

Resolved:

That Councillor Alyson Barnes be appointed Leader of the Council for a 4 year term.

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

There were no communications.

12. Political Balance, Committees and Outside Bodies

The Council considered the Political Balance, Committees and Outside Bodies report.

Resolved:

That the Council confirm appointments proposed by the various political groups as set out in the following appendices:

- Appendix A - Draft political balance calculation
- Appendix B - Draft committees of the Council, working groups, member champions and other meetings

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Council can effectively conduct its business.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

13. Proposed move to whole Council elections

The Council considered the proposed move to whole Council elections.

Resolved:

- That Council agrees to commence a 6 weeks consultation process on whether the

Council should change to whole-council elections every 4 years.

- That the Council proposes to commence whole-council elections in 2024 should Council resolve to change the election cycle following the required consultation.
- That the Council will hold a future Extraordinary Full Council meeting to hear the outcome of the consultation and make a determination on whether to move to whole- council elections or stay as election by thirds.

Reason for Decision

Council should consider agreeing the report recommendations in order to commence the public consultation on changing the electoral cycle as required by the relevant legislation. This will enable members to better understand the views of the voting public and relevant stakeholders when considering whether to move to whole-council elections or stay as election by thirds.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS

14. Honorary Aldermen

In accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council considered nominations to receive the title of Honorary Alderman in recognition of eminent service to the Borough.

Councillor Alan Woods proposed Peter Evans, seconded by Councillor Marilyn Procter. Councillor Anne Cheetham proposed Judith Driver, seconded by Councillor Sue Brennan. Councillor Sean Serridge proposed Tom Aldred, seconded by Councillor Peter Steen.

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on the following individuals in recognition of their service and dedication to the local community as a councillor for the borough of Rossendale:

- Peter Evans
- Judith Driver
- Tom Aldred

(The meeting commenced at 6.40pm and concluded at 8.30pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date