

**COUNCILLOR ANNE CHEETHAM, MAYOR**

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

**DATE OF MEETING: 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor Councillor Cheetham (in the Chair)  
Councillors Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Brennan (in part), James Eaton (in part), Foxcroft, Hughes, Johnson, Kenyon, Lythgoe, McMahon, MacNae, Neal, Oakes, Powell, Procter, Rigby, Smith, Steen, Thompson, Walmsley, Whitehead and Woods.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Neil Shaw, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service  
Yasmin Ahmed, Principal Legal Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer  
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager  
Adam Allen, Director of Communities  
Mandy Lewis, Director of Economic Development  
Kimberley Haworth, Accountant  
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** 2 Members of the public  
1 Press

**By remote access (Zoom):**  
Councillor Morris  
Karen Spencer, Head of Finance/ S151 Officer  
2 public observers

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Adshead, Coogan, Janet Eaton, McInnes, Marriott, Morris, Pendlebury, Rooke, Serridge and Snowden.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS**

**3. Whole-council Elections**

The Council considered the Whole-council Elections report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The preferred option was to retain elections in thirds.

The Chief Executive clarified the consultation process, which was also detailed in section 4 of the report.

Councillors Neal, A.Barnes and Walmsley requested a named vote.

Members voted as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr Alyson Barnes	For
Cllr Samara Barnes	For
Cllr Brennan	For

Cllr Cheetham	Abstain
Cllr James Eaton	For
Cllr Foxcroft	Against
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Johnson	For
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr McMahon	For
Cllr MacNae	For
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Powell	Against
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Rigby	Against
Cllr Smith	For
Cllr Steen	Against
Cllr Thompson	Against
Cllr Walmsley	For
Cllr Whitehead	For
Cllr Woods	Against
<b>For:</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Against:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Abstentions:</b>	<b>1</b>

**Resolved:**

The Council considered the response to the consultation on whole-council elections and determined to continue to use an electoral system which is by thirds.

**Reason for Decision**

To consider the responses received following the consultation and to retain the electoral cycle in thirds.

**Alternative Options Considered**

To move to whole-council elections in 2024 and amend the scheme for town council elections in Whitworth to the same day.

**ORDINARY BUSINESS**

**4. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**5. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

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

There were no communications from the Head of Paid Service.

The Leader paid tribute to the women's English football team and their remarkable success in winning the Euros. She also noted that it was even more special as Kiera Walsh, who was named player of the match in the final, went to Haslingden High and BRGS. The Leader also

updated members on various sport improvements including working closely with the Football Foundation and FA to provide two new artificial pitches and an upgrade to the pitch at Valley Academy; Rossendale was one of 5 boroughs in the UK that had been selected for an FA pitch improvement pilot to further improve grassed playing areas for local clubs and communities; the refurbished running track at Marl Pits would open this month; the Council was in discussion with the lawn tennis association to fully refurbish some of our tennis courts in parks, and recommendations would be brought in autumn from the feasibility work on the sports centres.

The Mayor also informed that there would be a bus renamed after Keira Walsh.

The Leader of the Council informed that Stubbylee and Moorlands Park had retained the Green Flag for the second year with the hard work of the open spaces staff, the Master Planning Group and a number of volunteers. She also informed that the Mayor had kindly dedicated a rose bush in memory of Sylvia Lancaster in the park.

One of the staff apprentices, Mia Starkey, had received a First Class Honours Degree in Business Management. This was an outstanding achievement and the Leader congratulated Mia on behalf of the Council. She also wanted to encourage other members of staff who were undertaking graduate apprenticeships and wished them well in their studies.

The Council had recently applied for and had been successful in applying to be accredited as a living wage employer. A living wage employer ensured that all employees aged 18 and over, including certain classes of contracted staff, were paid at least the living wage. The employer also agreed to increase the amount which it pays to employees by the same amount as any increase in the living wage within six months of the date of the official announcement. The Council had received a plaque in honour of the accreditation and was listed as a living wage employer on the Living Wage Foundation website. The Council was also able to use the Living Wage logo on documentation such as job advertisements.

## **ORDINARY BUSINESS**

### **7. Levelling Up Fund Bid**

The Council considered the Levelling Up Fund Bid report.

Councillor Foxcroft moved an amendment to recommendations 1.5 and 1.6 as follows:

- 1.5 To delegate authority to the council's Section 151 Officer working jointly with the Finance and Economic Development portfolio holders to agree the detail of any amendments to the project funding or grant acceptance. Should there be any changes to the funding the grant acceptance would be brought back to Council.
- 1.6 A delivery plan to be presented to full Council for approval if the bid is successful.

In response to the amendment it was confirmed that:

- There were tight timescales for the delivery of the programme and delivery needed to be in a timely manner.
- If the bid was accepted the delivery plan would be brought to Cabinet to keep members informed.
- If accepted the deadline for delivery was March 2025.

The Chief Executive confirmed that Haslingden had not been included Levelling Up Fund Bid, but it was included in the Shared Prosperity Fund Bid.

The Leader of the Council thanked the relevant officers for their hard work on the Levelling Up Fund Bid and Shared Prosperity Fund Bid.

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

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Members would be kept informed of the bid and delivery plan.
- There would be public consultation on the gyratory.
- Whitworth had not been included owing to the bid criteria, but the Council was supportive of Whitworth in other ways such as through the Town Council and leisure provision.

The amendment was withdrawn with the assurance that there would be a suitable level of scrutiny.

**Resolved:**

1. Council note the submission of a £17.9m application to the Government's Levelling Up Fund that will support the regeneration of: Rawtenstall and Bacup Market areas, Union Street Public Realm, Rawtenstall Connected Public Realm, the establishment of 'The Bridge' skills and employability centre and capacity enhancements to Rawtenstall gyratory.
2. Council provide authorisation to accept the grant, if the bid is successful, and enter into a grant funding agreement.
3. Council to authorise £1.8m of council funding from the strategic reserve to support the projects, if the bid is successful.
4. Council to authorise acceptance of Lancashire County Council funding of £1.5m to support the projects, if the bid is successful.
5. To delegate authority to the council's Section 151 Officer working jointly with the Finance and Economic Development portfolio holders to agree the detail of any amendments to the project funding or grant acceptance.
6. A delivery plan to be presented to Cabinet for approval if the bid is successful.

**Reason for Decision**

The Rossendale Levelling Up bid will, if successful, deliver transformational change to two of our town centres and Rawtenstall gyratory. This will support our economic development aspirations and is an excellent opportunity to lever in significant external funding to improve both the town centres and opportunities for local people.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

The Mayor reminder members of the overnight road closures commencing for 6 weeks on the Rawtenstall spur.

**8. National Lottery Heritage Fund 'Big Lamp'**

The Council considered the report on National Lottery Heritage Fund 'Big Lamp'.

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

**Resolved:**

That members note the contents of the report.

**Reason for Decision**

To update members as to the progress made in relation to this project. The delivery of the Big Lamp project bid will deliver a transformational change to Haslingden town centre and in turn this will support our economic development aspirations.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## **9. Renewal of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) – dog control**

The Council considered the report on Renewal of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) – dog control.

### **Resolved:**

That members agree to extend the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) relating to dog control for a period of 3 years.

### **Reason for Decision**

To allow the continuation of effective enforcement of responsible dog ownership.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## **10. Disposal of Land**

The Council considered the Disposal of Land report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Highways issues were the responsibility of Lancashire County Council.
- Funding would be used for the benefit of the borough.
- Other issues raised would be considered as part of the planning process.

Councillors Foxcroft, Rigby and Steen requested a named vote.

Members voted as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr Alyson Barnes	For
Cllr Samara Barnes	For
Cllr Brennan	For
Cllr Cheetham	Against
Cllr James Eaton	For
Cllr Foxcroft	Against
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Johnson	For
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr McMahon	For
Cllr MacNae	For
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Powell	Abstain
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Rigby	Against
Cllr Smith	For
Cllr Steen	Against

Cllr Thompson	Against
Cllr Walmsley	For
Cllr Whitehead	For
Cllr Woods	Against
<b>For:</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Against:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Abstentions:</b>	<b>1</b>

**Resolved:**

1. Council to authorise the disposal of land at Park Avenue, Haslingden.
2. Terms to be delegated to the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the portfolio holder.

**Reason for Decision**

Primarily the sale of the land maximises income for the Council. Of further significant benefit is that the land at Park Avenue is an allocated site within the Local Plan 2019 to 2036 under Policy H45 for up to 30 dwellings. The site has received a high level of interest through a formal tender process and, subject to planning, the sale of the land would facilitate the provision of much needed housing to assist the Council with its housing delivery position. It is recommended to delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development to allow for a timely completion and disposal at best value in line with the Constitution.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**11. Exclusion of Public and Press**

**Resolved:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items 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.
- information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings, under Part 1 Paragraph 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

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

**12. Special Urgency Decision Report**

The Council considered and discussed the Special Urgency Decision report.

**Resolved:**

To agree the recommendations as detailed in the report.

**Reason for Decision**

To support the recommendations.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**13. Environmental Enforcement Contract**

The Council considered and discussed the Environmental Enforcement Contract report.

**Resolved:**

To agree the recommendations as detailed in the report.

**Reason for Decision**

To support the recommendations.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**(The meeting commenced at 6.57pm and concluded at 9.04pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....