

COUNCILLOR ANDREW WALMSLEY, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 13th September 2023

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Walmsley (in the Chair)
Councillors B. Ashworth, D. Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes,
Cheetham, Coogan, Driver, Foxcroft, Gill, Hodgkiss, Hughes,
Johnson, Looker, McInnes, McMahon, MacNae, Marriott,
Morris, Neal, Norton, Oakes, Powell, Procter, Rigby, Rooke, M.
Smith, S. Smith, Thompson and Whitehead.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Huntington, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
Karen Spencer, Chief Finance Officer/ S151 Officer
Darren Kershaw, Mayor's Attendant
Nicole Holt, Transport Co-ordinator
Michael Forrest, Operations Supervisor**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 1 press
12 public**

A short silence was held as a mark of respect for former councillor Andrew Neville.

The Mayor presented certificates of appreciation on behalf of the Council to Jack and Margaret Martin for their commitment to Bacup Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society and to the Royal Court Theatre Bacup.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Adshead, Eaton, Kenyon, Snowden and Woods.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2023 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.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

6. Marl Pits Pool Filtration System

The Council considered the Marl Pits Pool Filtration System report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The decarbonisation fund was being used to fund a more effective form of filtration.
- It was difficult to know what the maintenance costs would be, but it would save money and be more green once the work was complete.

Resolved:

1. Full Council approve the renewal of a new pool filtration system at Marl Pits Pool and authorise officers to tender the project.
2. Full Council delegate the appointment of the contractor to the Head of People and Policy in consultation with the Lead Member for Resources.

Reason for Decision

To approve the works and tender process for the renewal of the pool filters at Marl Pits Pool to avoid pool closure and to benefit from energy saving.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

7. Climate Change Strategy Update

The Council considered the Climate Change Strategy Update.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The report recognised the real benefits that the schemes delivered.

Officers were thanked for their work and it was pleasing that Rossendale was leading the way.

Resolved:

That Council note the progress in year three of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

Reason for Decision

Continued development of the outlined projects will allow us to move forward to ensure we reach our net zero ambitions by 2030.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. Haslingden 2040 Update

The Council considered the Haslingden 2040 Update.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Works had already started.
- The grant funding was awarded before Covid and the cost of everything had gone up which necessitated the request for additional funding.
- It was about how heritage could be brought into the economic development of an area.
- It would be beneficial to see opportunities to ring fence money from potential capital receipts to help the local area.
- There was a need to promote and encourage diverse business in the area.
- There has been loss of income owing to the windfarm application being called in and overturned.

Officers were thanked for their work, particularly with the ever changing grant schemes which officers had adapted to and dealt with positively. Thanks was also given to the Town Centre Regeneration Officer who had been very well received.

Resolved:

1. To note the progress made to date on the Haslingden 2040 vision.
2. To delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development, Head of Legal and Lead Member for Economic Development to:
 - Accept additional external grant funding to support the Haslingden TH programme supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and enter into any necessary grant agreements.
 - Deliver the Haslingden Market scheme including securing the necessary permissions such as planning permission.
 - Procure a main contractor to deliver Haslingden Market improvements under JCT design and build.
 - To close Haslingden market for a period of 6-8 weeks while improvement works take place.
3. To delegate authority to the Haslingden 2040 Strategic Board to:
 - Approve the development of the plans for Haslingden Market.
 - Execute recommendations in the High St Task force Report.

Reason for Decision

Approving the recommendations of this report will contribute to Haslingden becoming a thriving and functional town centre, supporting the local economy and the Haslingden 2040 aspirations.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

9. Hareholme Viaduct

The Council considered the Hareholme Viaduct report.

Resolved:

1. Full Council to approve the improvement works to Hareholme Viaduct.
2. Full Council approve the appointment of Lee Ashworth Excavations, the lowest bidder, to carry out the tendered works.
3. Full Council to approve the addition of a further £300k budget to the existing capital scheme to be funded by borrowing or capital receipts.

Reason for Decision

Full Council to approve the works, the budget and award the contract to the lowest bidder Lee Ashworth Excavations to ensure the future safe use of the viaduct.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

10. Insurance Contract

The Council considered the Insurance Contract.

Resolved:

1. The tender of the Council's insurance arrangements with support from the Council's insurance brokers, Aon PLC, in order to have the new insurance policies in place from 1st April 2024.
2. Full Council delegates the appointment of the insurance provider(s) to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Lead Member for Resources.

Reason for Decision

The Council's existing insurance contract ends in March 2024. The Council must ensure it has an insurance provider in place from April 2024.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

11. Urgent Decisions

Council noted the Special Urgency Decision taken 31st July 2023 relating to the Local Authority Housing Fund grant as detailed on the public notice.

NOTICES OF MOTION**12. Notice of motion**

Councillor McInnes moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor MacNae:

This Council notes that it is now 13 years since Professor Sir Michael Marmot's landmark strategic review of health inequalities in the UK "Fair Society, Healthy Lives" which called for urgent action to address health inequalities in the UK.

This Council also notes Sir Michael Marmot's recent comments in the British Medical Journal that the imposition of austerity since 2010 has had a terrible and disproportionate effect on the poorest members of society.

Sir Michael makes a series of urgent recommendations to address this growing inequality including action on child poverty, working conditions and climate.

This Council resolves to write to the Office of the Prime Minister to urge his Government to listen to one of our leading experts on health inequalities and to begin to implement his recommendations as a matter of extreme urgency and to the benefit of poorer families across the country and here in Rossendale.

A recorded vote was requested by Councillor Neal, Hughes and Ashworth.

Voting took place as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Barbara Ashworth	For
Cllr Danielle Ashworth	For
Cllr Alyson Barnes	For
Cllr Samara Barnes	For
Cllr Cheetham	Abstain
Cllr Coogan	For
Cllr Driver	For
Cllr Foxcroft	Against
Cllr Gill	For

Cllr Hodgkiss	Against
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Johnson	For
Cllr Looker	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr McInnes	For
Cllr McMahan	For
Cllr MacNae	For
Cllr Marriott	For
Cllr Morris	Against
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Norton	For
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Powell	For
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Rigby	Against
Cllr Rooke	For
Cllr Michelle Smith	For
Cllr Scott Smith	Against
Cllr Thompson	Against
Cllr Walmsley	For
Cllr Whitehead	For
For:	24
Against:	6
Abstentions:	1

Resolved:

This Council resolves to write to the Office of the Prime Minister to urge his Government to listen to one of our leading experts on health inequalities and to begin to implement his recommendations as a matter of extreme urgency and to the benefit of poorer families across the country and here in Rossendale.

Reason for Decision

To support the motion.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

13. Notice of motion

Councillor S. Smith moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Rigby:

Council resolves to designate remembrance events as civic events and includes them formally within the civic calendar.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Marriott and seconded by Councillor Hughes as follows:

Events and acts of remembrance across Rossendale are organised by fantastic community minded volunteers and organisations, often working closely with Rossendale Council.

This Council will continue its support for such events throughout the borough for Remembrance Sunday and continue to recognise other occasions such as Armed Forces Day.

This Council will continue its work in this area, including funding annual traffic management costs for the main parades, Community Partnership Grants for smaller events, the restoration and maintenance of our War Memorials, and maintaining our commitments to our Armed Forces Covenant.

This Council would like to formalise a vote of thanks to the amazing teams of volunteers from across our community that work so hard to ensure that Rossendale never forgets those who gave so much in conflict to protect the freedoms we enjoy.

In response to the amendment, members noted the following:

- Community Partnership Grants were reduced last year.
- The original notice sought to include the events under the Council's public liability insurance.

Members voted on the amendment which was carried and became the substantive motion.

Resolved:

1. This Council will continue its support for such events throughout the borough for Remembrance Sunday and continue to recognise other occasions such as Armed Forces Day.
2. This Council will continue its work in this area, including funding annual traffic management costs for the main parades, Community Partnership Grants for smaller events, the restoration and maintenance of our War Memorials, and maintaining our commitments to our Armed Forces Covenant.
3. This Council would like to formalise a vote of thanks to the amazing teams of volunteers from across our community that work so hard to ensure that Rossendale never forgets those who gave so much in conflict to protect the freedoms we enjoy.

Reason for Decision

To support the amended motion.

Alternative Options Considered

Original motion.

(The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and concluded at 8.51pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date