

COUNCILLOR ANDREW WALMSLEY, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 15th November 2023

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Walmsley (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, B. Ashworth, D. Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Cheetham, Driver, Eaton, Foxcroft, Gill, Hodgkiss, Johnson, Kenyon, Looker, McInnes, Marriott, Neal, Norton, Oakes, Procter, Rigby, Rooke, M. Smith, S. Smith, Snowden, Whitehead and Woods.

IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Huntington, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy
Karen Spencer, Chief Finance Officer/ S151 Officer
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Darren Kershaw, Mayor's Attendant
Ian Walker, Service Assurance Team Leader
Nicole Holt, Transport Co-ordinator

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 14 members of the public

Prior to the meeting two certificates of appreciation were presented on behalf of the Council to Kimberley Ashworth and Naomi Burke, of the Women of Whitworth Project, in recognition of their help and support to numerous families and children across Rossendale since 2018.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Coogan, Hughes, McMahon, MacNae, Morris, Powell and Thompson.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 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 from the Mayor or Head of Paid Service.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that the Council was in latter processes of transferring the Whitworth pool to Whitworth Town Council. She also thanked officers, staff and groups involved with organising the Remembrance events and to residents for turning up on a rainy day.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

6. Local Council Tax Support Scheme

The Council considered the report on the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

Resolved:

That Full Council approve the Rossendale Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25 as set out in the report.

Reason for Decision

Councils are required to set a Council Tax Support scheme annually, before the 11th March on the charge year, in this case 2024/25. No conclusive case for significant amendment to the scheme has been identified at this time.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

7. Ward Boundary Review – Allocation of Polling Districts

The Council considered the report on the Ward Boundary Review – Allocation of Polling Districts.

Thanks was given to the Elections Manager and Elections Team for all the hard work in dealing with the review.

Resolved:

1. Full Council approve the recommended new polling districts following the ward boundary review.
2. Full Council approve delegation to the Chief Executive as Returning Officer to allocate polling stations for the new polling districts and in the event that any polling station becomes unavailable or found to be unsuitable in the run up to an election, to appoint a new polling station and to make this change on a permanent basis following the election as necessary.

Reason for Decision

Following the boundary review by the independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England, it is now necessary to review the polling district boundaries ensuring they do not cross any of the county divisions. This is in readiness for the publication of the Electoral register and the May 2024 elections.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. Public Meeting Schedule

The Council considered the Public Meeting Schedule.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The reduction in the number of members would impact on the schedule.
- The schedule was live document.

Resolved:

That Council agree the Public Meeting Schedule containing dates of public meetings for 2024/2025 as detailed at Appendix A.

Reason for Decision

To agree a committee schedule in order to ensure that the Council can effectively conduct its business.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

9. Urgent Decisions

Council noted the Special Urgency Decision taken 10th October 2023 relating to the Community Asset Transfer application from Whitworth Town Council as detailed on the public notice.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

10. Constitution Review

The Council considered the Constitution Review report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The Constitution was a live document and it was good to see it being kept up to date.

Resolved:

That Council approves the following amendments to the Constitution:

1. The amendments to the Finance Procedure Rules as outlined in Appendix 1.
2. The amended Contract Procedure Rules as outlined in Appendix 2
3. The amendment to the Officer Delegation Scheme at Part 3 of the Constitution in relation to the definition of “significant” when considering revenue or capital expenditure and approval to award as outlined in Appendix 3.
4. The minor amendment throughout the Constitution where reference is made to the Head of Finance, this shall now refer to the Chief Finance Officer.
5. The minor amendment throughout the Constitution where reference is made to Portfolio Holder, this shall now refer to Lead Member.

Reason for Decision

The Council is required by law to implement a Constitution and it is in the interests of the Council to regularly review and update the document.

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 item 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 Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

12. Energy Development Schemes

The Council considered the Energy Development Schemes report.

Discussion took place on the item and clarification was provided where requested.

Resolved:

To approve the report recommendations.

Reason for Decision

To support the recommendations.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 7.10pm and concluded at 7.52pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date