

COUNCILLOR JUDITH DRIVER, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 17th July 2024

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Driver (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, Bauld, Belli,
Bleakley, Cheetham, Gill, Harrison, Holland, Kenyon, Lythgoe,
McInnes, Neal, Norton, Payne, Procter, Royds, S. Smith,
Walmsley and Woods.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Huntington, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Yasmin Ahmed, Principal Legal Officer / Deputy Monitoring Officer
Darren Kershaw, Mayor's Attendant
Phillip Veevers, Mayor's Attendant**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 1 press
1 public
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy
Andy Taylor, Head of Operations
Kimberly Haworth, Head of Finance**

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors S. Barnes, Eaton, Hancock, Harris, Hodgkiss, Looker, McMahon and M. Smith.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 17th May 2024 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

The following declarations of interest were made:

- Councillor A. Barnes and Councillor S. Smith were Town Board members (Item C2).

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

There were no communications from Head of Paid Service.

The Mayor thanked those who had attended and supported her recent event and helped raise funds for the Mayor's Charity. Their continued support was much appreciated.

The Leader of the Council provided the following updates:

- The Leader congratulated newly elected members of Parliament and looked forward to working with them.
- The Vitality festival, which was a partnership health and well-being event, took place at the Valley Academy on Saturday 13th July supporting our priority of healthy and proud communities.

- The first partnership workshop of Better Lives Rossendale had taken place with over 30 people attending. The project aimed to understand the support needed by our most financially vulnerable residents.
- Consultation had commenced on the second phase of improvements at Edgeside Park. For anyone wanting to have their say, this consultation would be open until Friday 19th July.
- The Housing Renewal Technical Officer, had been awarded the Student of the Year at Oldham Colleges Outstanding Learners Student Awards following the successful completion of her HNC in Construction and the Built Environment. The Council was proud to have her as part of the team.
- The Council continued to deliver its vision of creating a thriving local economy, having secured in excess of £50million in external funding over the last few years to support this work. Plans were well underway for regeneration in Bacup and Haslingden. The new masterplan for Rawtenstall had identified a pipeline of projects to support regeneration, including investment in Rawtenstall market, new public realm improvements and changes to the gyratory system on St Mary's Way. Another £20million had been secured as part of Central Government's Long Term Plan for Towns initiative, and establishing thriving town centres in the Valley was a priority for the Council.
- Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative and the Bacup High Streets Heritage Action Zone projects had all been completed, and National Lottery Heritage funding had been secured for the Big Lamp Project in Higher Deardengate, Haslingden.
- Other initiatives had brought in hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of funding such as Rossendale Works and Rossendale Employability and Skills Forum to help secure employment for local people and assist disadvantaged residents. A case study had been put together, which documented the challenges, support and aspirations of one of the participants in the Rossendale Works programme and would be circulated to all Councillors as an example of how the Council's support can help transform lives.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

6. Improvements to the 3G Pitch at the Adrenaline Centre

The Council considered the report on the Improvements to the 3G Pitch at the Adrenaline Centre.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Funding was much needed.
- Obesity rates in Rossendale were higher than average.
- Football Foundation funding application was to be submitted by the end of Dec and works would start in Feb 2025.
- There had been a meeting with Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT) to understand the damage done to the pitches by the circus. Repair works would be looked at to help the clubs and works were underway.
- The use of grass pitches were challenging as they were weather dependant.
- The work to be done in Rossendale around obesity and public health was welcomed.
- Thanks was given to Council officers for securing the much needed funding for improvements to the pitches.
- The circus had a bond to repair the pitches and works would be finished as planned.
- Going forward, the use of the pitches would be reviewed.

Resolved:

1. That Council agrees to the investment at the Adrenaline Centre, Haslingden for new 3G artificial grass, refurbishment of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) to a play zone and refurbishment of grass pitches, with investment from the Football

Foundation (circa £1.5 million), following the Football Foundation Framework at Appendix one of the report.

2. That Council approves acceptance of the Football Foundation grant and delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer and S151 Officer to enter into the grant funding agreement.

Reason for Decision

To provide members with an overview of the strategic plan for investment into pitches in Rossendale from the Football Foundation and to provide authority to accept the grant funding from the Football Foundation.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

7. Long Term Plan for Towns Funding

The Council considered the Long Term Plan for Towns Funding report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- A detailed presentation would be shared with all members.
- Positive feedback had been received.
- Comments made in relation to environmental changes and the River Irwell would be looked into and fed back to the board.
- Tightening up enforcement was also required.
- Funds to spend on projects would need to be balanced in order to be taken on board everything raised.
- Thanks would be sent to the teams working on this.

Resolved:

1. Council to authorise acceptance of the £20m Long Term Plan for Towns funding for the core areas of Crawshawbooth, Rawtenstall and Waterfoot over a 10 year period subject to the submission of an appropriate investment plan.
2. Council to note the establishment of a Town Board, the appointment of the Chair and members to oversee the strategic investment plan and note the governance arrangements.
3. Council to Delegate Authority to Cabinet to approve the submission of the Vision and 3- year Investment plan to MHCLG and associated government departments.
4. Council to Delegate Authority to the Director of Economic Development in conjunction with the Lead Member for Economic Development, Head of Legal Services and S151 Officer to tender and appoint any consultants required to develop the Town Board's Long Term plan.
5. To Delegate Authority to Programme Board to monitor spend, oversee programme delivery and manage risks.
6. To approve the Rawtenstall Masterplan and Delegate Authority to the Director of Economic Development to monitor progress, delivery and make minor amends to the masterplan.
7. Delegate Authority to Cabinet to develop a Waterfoot Masterplan which will be used as a key framework for action as part of the Long Term Plans for Towns investment.

Reason for Decision

Approving the recommendations of this report will contribute to a framework for economic development, community well-being, and infrastructure in Waterfoot, Crawshawbooth and Rawtenstall.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

8. Recommendation of the Appointments and Appeals Panel - appointment of the Director of Resources

The Council considered the appointment of the Director of Resources.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Gratitude and thanks was given to the previous Chief Finance Officer who would be written to and thanked on behalf of all members.

Resolved:

That Chris Warren be appointed to the post of Director of Resources, subject to HR policies, references and clearances being completed.

Reason for Decision

To appoint a Chief Officer to a vacant post.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

9. Recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 and Work Programme 2024/25

The Council considered the Appointment of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report and Work Programme.

Resolved:

That Council approve the Annual Report 2023/24 and Work Programme 2024/25.

Reason for Decision

To inform of the work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2023/24 and outline of the work to be carried out during 2024/25.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

Councillor Neal provided an update on Whitworth pool and gave his thanks to everyone involved.

(The meeting commenced at 7:00pm and concluded at 7:58pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date