

COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE GILL, DEPUTY MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 19th December 2007

PRESENT: The Deputy Mayor Councillor C. Gill (in the Chair)
Councillors Aldred, A. Barnes, L. Barnes, Challinor,
Cheetham, Crawforth, Driver, Durkin, Eaton, Essex,
Farrington, Forshaw, Graham, Haworth, Hewlett,
Lamb, Lynskey, Morris, Neal, Nuttall, Pilling,
Robertson, Ruddick, Sandiford, Smith, Steen, Swain,
Thorne, Tickner, Unsworth and Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE: Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive
Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive
Linda Fisher, Executive Director of Regulatory Services
George Graham, Executive Director of Resources
Bill Lawley, Interim Legal and Democratic Services Manager
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
Carolyn Law, Committee and Member Services Officer

ALSO PRESENT: Stephen Stray, Senior Planning Officer - Forward Planning
Caroline Ridge, Assistant Planner – Forward Planning
County Councillor Serridge
11 Members of the Public
2 Representatives from the Press

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dickinson, Hancock, J.Pawson, S.Pawson, and Mr. A Neville, Independent Chair of the Standards Committee.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th November 2007 be signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Council were asked to consider whether they had an interest in any matters to be discussed at the meeting and the following interest was declared:

No declarations of interest were made.

4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Deputy Mayor reported that there were no items of business.

5. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER

The Deputy Mayor informed the Council that the Chief Executive had received notification of the resignation of Councillor Duncan Ruddick as Leader of the Council, and invited Councillor Ruddick to confirm the resignation.

The Deputy Mayor invited nominations for the position of Leader of the Council. Councillor Tony Swain was proposed by Councillor Darryl Smith and seconded by Councillor Peter Steen.

Resolved:

That Councillor Tony Swain be appointed Leader of the Council for the remainder of 2007/08.

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR, THE LEADER, OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

The Deputy Mayor welcomed newly elected member, Councillor Crawforth, to his first Full Council meeting.

The Leader of the Council reported that he had no communications.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the newly elected member, Councillor Crawforth, had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – Questions to the Leader

A member of the public asked the Leader whether all Councillors would pull together for the future of Rossendale, since there was still much to achieve. In response the Leader of the Council confirmed that Members would continue to work together and carry on the good work of the Council.

8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

A number of questions were raised under this item and a summary of those questions and responses are detailed below.

Councillor Crawforth submitted a written question in advance of the meeting, asking what was the Council doing to incorporate additional plastics, other than plastics 1 (PETE) and 2 (HDPE), into the scheme? In response, Councillor Driver, Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale reported that very few recyclable plastics have an end product, and that it is the contractors at the recycling facility that stipulate the types of plastics that are able to be recycled.

Councillor Robertson submitted a written question asking that as there were a number of shops in the Borough what was the Council doing to ensure that these establishments are participating fully within the recycling scheme? In response, Councillor Driver, Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale reported that businesses had been invited to take part in a recycling scheme, and at present additional incentives such as window stickers and certificates to promote scheme

participation were being considered.

Councillor Farrington submitted a written question in relation to the public conveniences in Crawshawbooth which had been closed for over two years. The Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group had recently calculated that it would cost £2,500 to carry out the repairs in order to re-open the facility. She asked when would the repairs be carried out and when would the toilets be re-opened? In response, Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council reported that the public conveniences had been closed owing to fire damage and were the subject of ongoing review. The matter had been brought before the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and when more information had been sought the report would be presented to the Cabinet.

Councillor A.Barnes submitted a written question concerning Neighbourhood Forums. The Borough has four forums, which do not attract a great response from the public, is it because the areas they cover are too big and people tend to relate to smaller areas, and what was the Council doing to ensure these forums become more effective? In response, the Leader of the Council reported that there was work to be done with the Neighbourhood Forums and that over the coming months the options available needed to be identified and reviewed.

Councillor Lamb asked a further question (the first question was asked at the previous Council meeting), when the contents of the feasibility study relating to the proposals for a waste transfer station would be shared with all elected members and not just the Cabinet? Councillor Driver, Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale responded by indicating that she thought the question already had been responded to and that if it had been submitted as a written question then it could have been followed up to allow a response at the meeting.

Councillor Neal asked two questions relating to leasing issues: could the Leader of the Council investigate why the lease has not been signed for the Community Leisure Association of Whitworth (CLAW) at Riverside, and why has the lease for Bacup Borough Football Club not been agreed. In response to the first question the Leader of the Council confirmed he would investigate. In response to the second question, Councillor Challinor, the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Promoting Rossendale indicated that he had attended meetings with the manager who had originally been satisfied with a 25 year lease. Meetings are currently ongoing directly with the manager.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

9a. CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS – 19th SEPTEMBER 2007 FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet to approve the contents of the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2007/8 and Sampling Policy.

Resolved:

That the Council agrees to the contents of the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2007/8 and Sampling Policy.

10. CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS – 14th NOVEMBER 2007 EMPLOYMENT LAND

STUDY

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet to approve the contents of the Employment Land Study.

Councillor Neal made a suggestion that it would be useful to consult with the Town Council and Town Clerk when considering matters on Regeneration and Employment.

Resolved:

That the Council approves the Employment Land Study.

11. INTERIM HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT

The Council considered the report of the Executive Director of Regulatory Services on the proposed adoption of the revised Interim Housing Policy Statement.

Councillor Neal raised a question concerning eco-friendly energy and recycling facilities when considering future development applications. In response, Councillor Challinor, the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Promoting Rossendale confirmed that the policy was interim and would continue to update with the latest legislation, including eco-friendly requirements.

Resolved:

That the Council adopts the Interim Housing Policy Statement.

12. URGENT DECISIONS

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on decisions taken under Paragraphs 15 (General Exemption) and 16 (Special Urgency) of the Access to Information Procedures Rules.

Resolved:

That the Council agrees that the report be noted.

13. POLITICAL BALANCE

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the political balance of the Council.

The Executive Director of Regulatory Services asked the Council to note point 4.2 of the report confirming the principles of political balance.

Councillor Swain proposed Option 4 and was seconded by Councillor L.Barnes.

An amendment was moved by Councillor A. Barnes and seconded by Councillor Robertson.

Voting took place on the amendment of Option 5.

Councilor Swain withdrew his proposal of Option 4.

Resolved:

That the Council adopts Option 5 of the Political Balance Report.

That the names of the Councillors to serve on Committees and outside bodies be delegated to the Chief Executive.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and concluded at 8.15pm)

CHAIR