

COUNCILLOR JOYCE PAWSON, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 27th February 2008

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor J. Pawson (in the Chair)
Councillors Aldred, A. Barnes, L. Barnes, Challinor,
Cheetham, Dickinson, Driver, Durkin, Eaton, Essex,
Farrington, Forshaw, Graham, Hancock, Lamb, Morris,
Neal, Nuttall, S. Pawson, Pilling, Robertson, Sandiford,
Smith, Steen, Swain and Thorne**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive
George Graham, Executive Director of Resources
Phil Seddon, Head of Financial Services
Bill Lawley, Interim Legal and Democratic Services Manager
Heather Moore, Committee and Member Services Manager**

**ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Serridge
6 Members of the Public
2 Representatives from the Press**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Crawforth, Gill, Haworth, Hewlett, Lynskey, Ruddick, Tickner, Unsworth and Wilson.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19th December 2007 and the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 29th January 2008 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Mayor reported that there were no items of business.

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

The Mayor reminded Members that tickets for the Mayoral Charity Ball were available from the Civic Services Officer/Leader's PA. The event was being held at the Riverside, Whitworth Civic Hall on Saturday 8th March 2008 and proceeds would go to the Mayor's Charity Fund which was supporting the Rossendale Hospice.

The Leader of the Council reported the receipt of a communication from Councillor Sandiford in respect of a campaign to include 'Haslingden' in the name of the Parliamentary Constituency of Hyndburn in order to reflect the number of Haslingden residents now forming part of this Constituency.

There were no communications from the Chief Executive.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. Mr Peter Heys asked about the responsibility for maintenance of the highway at Peel Terrace, Shawforth.

The Leader reported that Lancashire County Council as the Highway Authority were responsible.

2. Mrs Anne Kenyon asked about the lighting at the roundabout at Rising Bridge.

The Leader reported that the matter would be referred to Lancashire County Council.

3. Mr Noel O'Brien asked a question about the naming of the Haslingden Parliamentary Constituency.

The Leader responded to the question.

7. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Leader of the Council and the relevant Portfolio Holders answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:-

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
1.	Condition of Peel Terrace, Shawforth	Councillor Neal	The Leader
2.	Whitworth Neighbourhood Office	Councillor Neal	Councillor Essex
3.	Outcome of Polling Station Review	Councillor Lamb	The Leader (a meeting of the Task and Finish Group and Chief Executive to be set up)

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
4.	Waste Management Strategy	Councillor Lamb	Councillor Driver (to look at timescales for reporting to Overview and Scrutiny and inform all Councillors)
5.	Costs of not having a Waste Transfer Station	Councillor Lamb	Councillor Driver (consultants report to be circulated to all Councillors)
6.	Proposed Post Office Closures in Rossendale	Councillor Sandiford	The Leader
7.	Fees and Charges across the Council	Councillor A. Barnes	The Leader (details to be circulated to all elected members)

8. UPDATE TO MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The Council considered the recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

In considering the report presented Members identified the following issues to which the Leader of the Council or Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council responded:

- General Reserves
- Policy Guidelines
- Improvements in Value for Money
- Direction of Resources into the priorities of the communities

Resolved:

1. That Council approves the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy, subject to any final amendments arising from the Council's final budget approval.
2. That the Council approves the Treasury Management Strategy, as detailed in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
3. That Council approves the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators, as detailed in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

9. REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX FOR 2008/09

The Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council presented an update to Appendix 4 of the Report relating to the 2008/09 Precepts and asked Council to note the Lancashire Police Authority (General Expenses) Precept was £2,924,021.

In considering the Report Members identified the following issues to which the Leader of the Council or Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council responded.

- Budget Consultation Process
- Pennine Lancashire Night Time Noise Service
- Free access to leisure facilities, this would now include reservists
- Investment in Council vehicles
- The Council's Accommodation Strategy
- Programme of litter bin replacement
- Improvements to playgrounds
- Members Allowances

Councillor Aldred moved the following addition to the Report by way of an amendment which was seconded by Councillor A. Barnes:

“That the Independent Remuneration Panel be requested to undertake an urgent review of the Members Allowances Scheme”.

On being put the amendment was carried, and the substantive motion was then put.

Resolved:

That the Independent Remuneration Panel be asked to consider the 2008/09 Members Allowances Scheme being based on 15 hours per week as the average number of hours on official council duty and that if any Councillor that undertakes less than 15 hours be given the opportunity to forfeit the allowance.

1 – Budget Requirement

1.1. That the savings (and use of funds) identified for 2008-09 in the sum of £240,000 as detailed in Appendix 2 of this report be approved.

1.2. That investments in the sum of £126,000 as detailed in Appendix 2 of this report be approved.

1.3. That an amount of:

- 1.3.1. £37k be transferred from the Change Management Reserve,
- 1.3.2. £112k be transferred from Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme (LABGIS)

- 1.4. That consequent upon resolutions 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 above, and the Head of Finance opinion on the robustness of the 2008-09 Estimates and the level of balances, the Council's Budget for 2008-09, as amended, be approved in the sum of £11,504,246.

2 – 2008/09 Precepts

- 2.1 That the receipt, or anticipated receipt, of the following precepts for 2008-09 be noted:

	£
Lancashire Police Authority (General Expenses)	2,924,021
Lancashire County Council (General Expenses)	23,163,339
Lancashire Fire Authority (General Expenses)	1,293,801
Rosendale Borough Council (General Expenses)	5,296,068
Whitworth Parish Council (Special Expenses)	49,966

3 – Council Tax Base

- 3.1 That it is approved that in accordance with the delegation, of 9th January 2008, the Head of Financial Services in consultation with The Leader of the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2008-09 in accordance with Section 33 (1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by Section 84 Local Government Act 2003 for the whole area of the Borough the 21,506 “D” Band equivalent units being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax base for the year end,
- 3.2 For that part of the Council's area being Whitworth Parish, the amount be 2,326 “D” Band equivalent units, being the amounts calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in that part of its area to which the Special Items relate.

4 – Budget impact on Council Tax

- 4.1 That the following amounts be now calculated and approved by the Council for the year 2008-09 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:-
- (a) £32,979,796 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.
 - (b) £21,475,550 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
 - (c) £11,504,246 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4.1(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4.1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.

- (d) £6,208,178 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates, Revenue Support Grant, (increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax Surplus) or (reduced by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its General Fund to its Collection Fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988) (Council Tax Deficit)
- (e) £Nil being a transfer from the Collection Fund Surplus to General Fund.
- (f) **£246.26** being the amount at 4.1(c) above less the amount at 4.1(d) and 4.1(e) above, all divided by the amount at 3.1 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- (g) **£49,966** being the aggregate amounts of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (h) **£21.48** being the amount at 4.1(g) above all divided by the amount of 3.2 above, calculated by Council and applicable to the Parish of Whitworth area only for the Special items.

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Special Items Only, Parish of Whitworth	14.32	16.71	19.09	21.48	26.25	31.03	35.80	42.96

- (i) **£267.74** for part of the Council's area, Parish of Whitworth, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4.1(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 3.2 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
- (j) Being the amounts shown below that are given by multiplying the amounts at 4.1(f) and 4.1(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Parish of Whitworth	178.49	208.25	237.99	267.74	327.23	386.74	446.23	535.48
All other parts of the Borough	164.17	191.54	218.90	246.26	300.98	355.71	410.43	492.52

- (k) That it be noted that for the year 2008-09 the Lancashire County Council have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the Categories of dwellings shown below:-

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Lancashire County Council	718.04	837.71	957.39	1077.06	1316.41	1555.75	1795.10	2154.12

- (l) That it be noted that for the year 2008-09 the Lancashire Police Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Lancashire Police Authority	90.64	105.75	120.85	135.96	166.17	196.39	226.60	271.92

- (m) That it be noted that for the year 2008-09 the Lancashire Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Lancashire Fire Authority	40.11	46.79	53.48	60.16	73.53	86.90	100.27	120.32

- (n) That, being calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4.1(i) above and 4.1(k), (l) and (m) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2008-09 for each of the categories of dwellings show below:-

VALIDATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Parish of Whitworth	1027.28	1198.50	1369.71	1540.92	1883.34	2225.78	2568.20	3081.84
All other parts of the	1012.96	1181.79	1350.62	1519.44	1857.09	2194.75	2532.40	3038.88

Borough								
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5 – Council Tax Collection

- 5.1 That the Head of Customer Services and e-Government, Officers and Partners be authorised to take all necessary steps to ensure collection and recovery of the Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR).
- 6. That the Independent Remuneration Panel be requested to undertake an urgent review of the Members Allowances Scheme.

10. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/09

The Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council presented an update to the report in respect of Capital Expenditure and informed the Council that the disabled facilities grants was £390k of which 60% was covered by disabled facilities capital grant, therefore £155k was financed from Council resources.

Resolved:

- 1. That the following capital expenditure be agreed for 2008/09:

Detail	£000's
Vehicle replacement Programme (5 year programme)	805
Environmental Improvement Programme (4 year programme)	320
CCTV	51
Emergency Works	100
DDA Work	60
IT Upgrade	35
War Memorials (5 year programme)	30
Total	1,401

- 2. That subject to confirmation of grants the Brownfields' Recycling Programme and the Housing Programme (including the ELEVATE funded Environmental Programme), as in Appendix 1 be approved, and that the Head of Financial Services be authorised to amend the programme in the light of final grant allocations.

**11. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2008-2011**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet to adopt the Statement of Licensing Policy 2008-11.

The Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council requested that a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group be convened to investigate and make recommendations on issues relating to the prevention of alcohol abuse.

Resolved:

That the Statement of Licensing Policy 2008-2011 be adopted.

12. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2008/09

The Council considered the appointment of Deputy Mayor for 2008/09.

The following motion had been submitted in writing prior to the meeting by Councillors A. Barnes and Aldred:

1. That the Deputy Mayor is selected based on length of service and not political affiliation.
2. That members seeking re-election at the following May election be considered for nomination, subject of course to their re-election.
3. That a Selection Committee comprising of the Leaders of each Political Group meets in December of each year to consider members who could be eligible for selection.
4. That the selection of Deputy Mayor be made following the RBC elections in May except in the year of the LCC election when the selection should be made by the Selection Committee at its meeting in the previous December.
5. To allay any fears that this Notice of Motion could be politically motivated, that the selection of the Deputy Mayor for 2008/2009 should be restricted to members of the Conservative group.
6. That the Deputy Mayor will automatically be voted Mayor in the following year.

Councillor Swain moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Eaton:

“That the criteria relating to the selection of Deputy Mayor be referred to the Civic Matters Working Group for consideration and that a report be submitted to the Council on 26th March 2008”.

On being put the amendment was carried and the substantive motion was then put.

Resolved:

That the criteria relating to the selection of Deputy Mayor be referred to the Civic Matters Working Group for consideration and that a report be submitted to the Council on 26th March 2008

13. URGENT DECISIONS

The Mayor reported that no urgent key decisions had been taken by the Cabinet during

the period October to December 2007.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and concluded at 9.00pm)