

COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE GILL, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 10 December 2008

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor C. Gill (in the Chair)
Councillors Aldred, A Barnes, Challinor, Cheetham,
Dickinson, Driver, Eaton, Essex, Evans, Farrington,
Forshaw, Gledhill, Graham, Lamb, Lynskey, May,
Morris, Neal, Nuttall, C Pilling, J Pilling, Robertson,
Sandiford, Smith, Stansfield, H.Steen, P.Steen, Swain
and Unsworth**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive
Linda Fisher, Executive Director – Business
Heather Moore, Committee and Member Services Manager
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer**

**ALSO PRESENT: Senga Lindsay, Project Manager, East Lancashire Teaching
Primary Care Trust
Christine Gregory, Project Manager, East Lancashire
Teaching Primary Care Trust
Aidan Kirkpatrick, Consultant in Public Health, East
Lancashire Teaching Primary Care Trust
Janet Tonge, Community Network Director, East Lancashire
Teaching Primary Care Trust
Joe Gibson, Director of Strategy and Implementation, East
Lancashire Teaching Primary Care Trust
County Councilor Serridge
5 Members of the Public
1 Representative from the Press**

1a) Welcome and introductions

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council to introduce the guests present at the meeting and to outline the purpose of the debate. The Leader informed the meeting that there would first be a presentation by Senga Lindsay and Christine Gregory, Project Managers, East Lancashire Teaching Primary Care Trust, on the health investments in Rossendale followed by a presentation on the Saving a Million Years of Life Programme, from Janet Tonge, Community Network Director, Aidan Kirkpatrick, Consultant in Public Health, and Joe Gibson, Director of Strategy and Implementation, East Lancashire Teaching Primary Care Trust

1b) Presentation by Senga Lindsay, Project Manager

Senga Lindsay delivered a presentation on the Rossendale Community Health Facilities.

The East Lancashire Teaching Primary Care Trust had delivered 6 new health facilities throughout East Lancashire and the new £10m Rossendale facility would be the seventh health facility. The new facility would be a three storey building with on-site parking with additional parking being made available on the present Rawtenstall Health Centre site.

All services provided at the Rossendale Hospital site would re-locate to the new site, plus additional services would also be available including the Rossendale Hospice and elderly day care rehabilitation.

Construction of the new site would commence in January 2009 with phase 1 complete by April 2010 and Phase 2 by August 2010.

1c) Saving a Million Years of Life Programme

Members watched a DVD which highlighted the different projects taking place within the community including smoking cessation clinics, keep fit programmes and healthy lifestyle initiatives which were part of the Saving a Million Years of Life programme.

Janet Tonge, Community Network Director, delivered a presentation on the Saving a Million Years of Life Programme.

She presented statistics relevant to Rossendale in relation to life expectancy targets for both males and females and infant mortality rates and explained how the Primary Care Trust was addressing the health inequalities in Rossendale.

1d) Community Views

The Mayor invited members of the public to share their views and ask questions of all the representatives of the Primary Care Trust.

One question was raised on the need to reduce the number of takeaways throughout the Borough. The PCT responded by indicating that they were working with the Local Strategic Partnership Health and Wellbeing Group on key priorities including obesity.

1e) Questions by Elected Members

The Mayor invited Elected Members to share their views and ask questions. Members raised the following views to which representatives from the Primary Care Trust responded.

- Transfer of services from Rossendale Hospital
- Dentistry
- District Nurses who would be relocate to other local sites
- Mental Health and Drug Services with the need to work closely with the Lancashire Care Trust
- Need to extend pharmacy hours
- Access arrangements for ambulance service
- Need for improvements to Haslingden Health Centre

- GP's and extended opening hours
- Mobile Theatre Units
- Rehabilitation Service
- The priority areas within the Saving a Million Years of Life Programme

The Mayor thanked the representatives from the East Lancashire Teaching Primary Care Trust for attending the meeting.

Prior to the consideration of the remainder of Council business the Mayor invited Reverend Andrew Wilkinson to say prayers.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors L. Barnes, Crawforth, Haworth, Pawson, Thorne and Wilson.

3. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 September 2008 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Mayor reported that there was one urgent items of business which would be taken at the end of the meeting. This related to changes to the Cabinet and Committees, which the Leader would introduce.

The reason for urgency was to ensure that the Council could focus on priority issues, therefore the matter could not be delayed until the next meeting.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Nuttall declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item B5a (Notice of Motion), as he was once employed by Rossendale Borough Council in the Tourist Information Centre.

6 OUTSTANDING ITEMS OF BUSINESS FROM THE LAST MEETING

- 6a)** The Mayor informed the Council that a Notice of Motion was outstanding from the last meeting of the Council.

The following motion, notice of which had been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11 was moved by Councillor C. Pilling and seconded by Councillor J. Pilling.

‘That Rossendale Council re-opens the Tourist Information Centre in a dedicated building and in an appropriate location.’

Following a debate it was then moved by Councillor Swain and seconded by Councillor Challinor by way of an amendment:

“That the Council does not re-open the Tourist Information Centre in a dedicated building. The Council is committed to attracting tourists and strengthening our tourist economy and providing the service through a partnership approach in line with the previously agreed Tourism Marketing Action Plan”.

The Mayor declared the amendment carried and called for a vote on the substantive motion, which was carried.

Resolved:

That the Council does not re-open the Tourist Information Centre in a dedicated building. The Council is committed to attracting tourists and strengthening our tourist economy and providing the service through a partnership approach in line with the previously agreed Tourism Marketing Action Plan

- 6b)** The Mayor informed the Council that a Notice of Motion was outstanding from the last meeting of the Council.

The following motion, notice of which had been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11 was moved by Councillor C. Pilling and seconded by Councillor J. Pilling.

“That Rossendale Borough Council considers an application in partnership with neighbouring Boroughs for the status of area of outstanding beauty, which will enhance tourism, protect and enhance our landscapes and preserve our wonderful heritage.”

Following a debate it was then moved by Councillor Swain and seconded by Councillor Essex by way of an amendment:

‘That the Council does not yet consider an application in partnership with neighbouring Boroughs for the status of area of outstanding beauty. The current focus for the Council is to ensure that the Core Strategy is developed which will allow the Council to shape development for many years to come. The Strategy will ensure that Green belt areas and Countryside areas are protected for years to come, thus preserving our heritage.’

The Mayor declared the amendment carried and called for a vote on the substantive motion, which was carried.

Resolved:

That the Council does not yet consider an application in partnership with neighbouring Boroughs for the status of area of outstanding beauty. The current focus for the Council is to ensure that the Core Strategy is developed which will allow the Council to shape development for many years to come. The Strategy will ensure that Green belt areas and

Countryside areas are protected for years to come, thus preserving our heritage

6c) ANY OTHER OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

There were no other actions to report.

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

The Chief Executive reported the receipt of a letter from Bacup and Stacksteads Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) which thanked the Council for their support in the mediation process between the TMO and Green Vale Homes regarding a complaint under the Stock Transfer Agreement.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

No.	Issue	Answered by (and action)
1.	Knott Hill Playing Field	Councillor P. Steen
2.	Gritting of footpaths	The Leader agreed to take this forward with Lancashire County Council

9. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

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

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
1.	Green Vale Homes' plans for Mytholme House. Bridge End House – concerns about vandalism	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Challinor The Leader agreed to look into the matter
2.	Shuttle bus service from Rawtenstall to the Council Chambers including usage and costs	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Essex
3.	Confirmation of funding increase for Rossendale Council from the	Councillor Gledhill	Councillor Essex

	Government		
4.	Free Swimming	Councillor Barnes	A Councillor Graham/The Leader
5.	Improvements needed to gritting services, particularly gritting of footpaths by Lancashire County Council (LCC)	Councillor Sandiford Councillor Lamb Councillor Neal	The Leader to discuss with LCC.
7.	Valley Centre Development	Councillor May	The Leader
8.	Rosendale Leisure Trust finances	Councillor Aldred	The Leader
9.	Gritting for sheltered accommodation areas	Councillor Neal	The Leader to discuss with LCC

10. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET

10a. Freedom of Information – New Publication Scheme

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet in respect of the Freedom of Information New Publication Scheme.

The Leader of the Council informed the meeting that the report had also been presented to Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved:

That the Council approves and adopts the Information Commissioner's model publication scheme and the Guide to Information detailing the information that the Council publishes in accordance with the Scheme.

11. AUDIT COMMISSION – PROBITY IN PLANNING REPORT

The Council considered the Audit Commission's Report on Probity in Planning in Rossendale.

In considering the report the following matters were discussed:-

- Scheme of Delegation. Concerns were raised about the proposal to increase the number of objectors to 6. The Leader stated that the Scheme of Delegation was not being approved this evening and would be the subject of a further report back to Council for approval.
- Needs of needs of residents
- Call-In Procedure
- Improved levels of performance within Development Control

The Executive Director – Business clarified that the proposed Scheme of Delegation would be considered by the Governance Working Group and a report would be submitted to Council.

Resolved:

That the Audit Commission, Probity in Planning Report be approved, subject to the Scheme of Delegation being presented to the Governance Working Group and a report thereafter to be presented to Full Council.

12. PROTOCOLS FOR INCLUSION IN THE CONSTITUTION

The Council considered the inclusion of the following Protocols within the Constitution:-

- Standards Committee Members Protocols
- Monitoring Officer Protocol
- Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) Protocol
- Confidential Information Protocol

Resolved:

That the above protocols be approved for inclusion in the Constitution.

13. URGENT DECISIONS

13a. The Mayor reported that the Cabinet had taken an urgent key decision relating to the approval of changes to the IT infrastructure.

Resolved:

That the urgent decision be noted.

14. URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS – CABINET MEMBERSHIP

The Leader of the Council reported on changes to the Cabinet and Committees, indicating that the number of Cabinet Members would increase by one to include Councillor Gledhill, who would assume the Portfolio for Leisure.

He reported that Cabinet Members could not serve on the Audit Committee therefore a substitute would be sent for the remaining meeting in the Municipal Year as Councillor Gledhill was no longer eligible to act as Chair of that Committee. Councilor Hazel Steen would replace Councilor Gledhill on the Licensing Committee.

Resolved:

That the change to the Cabinet Membership be agreed and the other actions be noted.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and concluded at 9.35pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)
Date