

**COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE GILL, MAYOR**

**MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE**

**Date of Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009**

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor C. Gill (in the Chair)  
Councillors Aldred, A Barnes, Challinor, Cheetham,  
Crawforth, Dickinson, 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, Thorne and  
Unsworth**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive  
Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive  
Clare Birtwistle, Interim Head of Legal Services  
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Officer  
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer**

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

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**2. MINUTES**

Councilor Robertson asked a question in relation to the Members Allowance Scheme presented at the previous meeting to which the Leader of the Council responded.

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 February 2009 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

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

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5. OUTSTANDING ITEMS OF BUSINESS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

There were no outstanding actions to report.

## 6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

No.	Issue	Answered by (and action)
1.	Transport Facilities – Bacup Road	Councillor Cheetham
2.	Why no Union Flag flying at the Council Chamber?	Councillor Swain
3.	Notice of Motion and views on the Leisure Trust	Councillor A Barnes
4.	Timescales for responding to letters	Councillor Swain

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

The Mayor, the Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Labour Group, the Leader of the Liberal Democrats and the Independent Member, each gave their thanks to the Chief Executive, who was leaving the Council to take up a new position at Oldham Council.

The Chief Executive responded by thanking everyone and wished the Council well for the future.

## 8. 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.	Damage to vehicles in Whitworth over the weekend period.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Steen
2.	Relocation of the Rossendale Free Press to Manchester.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Swain
3.	The full costs (total amount of rates, repairs and maintenance, Utility costs and any other expenses) of keeping certain buildings in the Council's ownership for the past 12 months.	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Essex
4.	Publication of the Accommodation Strategy	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Essex
5.	Resignation of Councillors moving out of the area, and paying back allowances.	Councillor A Barnes	Councillor Swain

6.	Confirmation that the Council are still partners in the Adrenalin Gateway.	Councillor A Barnes	Councillor Swain
7.	Councillors featured in Rossendale Alive.	Councillor A Barnes	Councillor Swain
8.	Withdrawing of addresses and phone numbers from the Council's website.	Councillor Lamb	Councillor Swain
9.	Timescale of when the Hot Food Takeaway report would be presented.	Councillor Robertson	Councillor Challinor
10.	Comments on S106 agreements.	Councillor Robertson	Councillor Steen
11.	Status of the land at Knott Hill, Whitworth.	Councillor Aldred	Councillor Steen

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **9a. Recommendation of the Cabinet The Council's Priorities**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009, in respect of the Council's Priorities.

In considering the report the Leader informed Members that these were the Council's Priorities for the next 12 months and Leisure would be a number one priority which cuts across all the priorities.

#### **Resolved**

1. That the views expressed by members at the Priority Setting Event be noted.
2. That Full Council agree the following Priorities:-
  - Encouraging healthy and respectful communities.
  - Promoting the Borough.
  - Providing value for money services.
  - Delivering regeneration across the Borough.
  - Delivering quality services to our customers.
  - Keeping the borough clean, green and safe.

### **9b. Recommendation of the Cabinet Draft Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009, in respect of the Draft Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy.

In considering the report Members identified the following issues to which the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder responded:

- Recent inspection of Green Vale Homes
- Fuel poverty and low income households
- Alternative technologies

**Resolved:**

That Full Council approve the Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan.

**9c. Recommendation of the Standards Committee  
Standards Committee Annual Report 2008/09**

The Council considered the Standards Committee Annual Report 2008/09.

**Resolved:**

That Full Council note the Annual Report of the Standards Committee.

**9d. Recommendation of the Standards Committee  
Amendment of Hearing Procedure**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Standards Committee in respect of the amendments to Hearing Procedures.

**Resolved:**

That the Council adopts the Procedure as set out in the Appendices to the report and that it be kept under review by the Standards Committee.

**N.B. Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive left the meeting prior to the start of the following item.**

**10. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Council considered the arrangements for the new Chief Executive and interim arrangements.

The Leader of the Council moved the recommendations of the report with an amendment to 8.1 which was seconded by Councillor Challinor:

“That an Appointment Committee be formed comprising the Leader of Council, Deputy Leader of Council, Leader of the Labour Group, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Sandiford and the Head of People and Policy.”

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

**Resolved:**

1. That an Appointment Committee be formed comprising the Leader of Council, Deputy Leader of Council, Leader of the Labour Group, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Sandiford and the Head of People and Policy.
2. Authority be delegated to the Appointment Committee to offer a salary package not exceeding £98,000 (plus nationally agreed cost of living allowances) to a suitable candidate.
3. To approve the interim appointment of the Deputy Chief Executive, on an honorarium basis, as the Acting Chief Executive until a permanent appointment is made and the successful applicant takes up position.
4. To approve the Executive Director Business as Returning Officer for elections held during the interim period, acting as Local Returning Officer for European Elections and Deputy Returning Officer for County Council elections.

**11. NOTICE OF MOTION**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion which had been submitted by Councillors A. Barnes and C. Lamb:

“That in view of the conduct of Councillor Gledhill as Portfolio Holder for Leisure, since the appointment, his position should be terminated forthwith”.

Councillor Gledhill responded to the notice of motion highlighting the work he had undertaken in relation to leisure, including attending 22 leisure related meetings, forming joint Committees with membership of Councillors, members of the public and Officers, and forming a community group to take forward leisure facilities.

A number of questions and comments were raised by Members to which both the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Leisure responded.

The Leader of the Council moved an amendment to the Notice of Motion that:

“That in view of the conduct of Councillor Gledhill as Portfolio Holder for Leisure, since the appointment, his position should not be terminated forthwith”.

Councillor Aldred queried the validity of the amendment and Councillor Swain withdrew the amendment and the original motion was voted on.

**Resolved:**

The motion was lost.

**12. URGENT DECISIONS**

The Mayor reported that the Cabinet had not taken any urgent decisions since the last meeting.

**Resolved:**

That it be noted that there were no urgent decisions taken.

**(The meeting started at 7.00pm and concluded at 8.10pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....