

COUNCILLOR JOYCE THORNE, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 24th JUNE 2009

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

**IN ATTENDANCE: Helen Lockwood, Chief Executive
Philip Devonald, Interim Head of Legal and Democratic
Services
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Officer
Phil Seddon, Head of Finance
Mike Riley, Communities Manager**

ALSO PRESENT: 4 Members of the Public

The Mayor welcomed Philip Devonald, the Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors L Barnes, Graham, Haworth, Morris, C.Pilling, J.Pilling, Sandiford and Wilson.

The Mayor wished Councillor Sandiford a speedy recovery on behalf of all Elected Members.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15th May 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. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

No.	Issue	Answered by (and action)
1.	Neighbourhood Forums and community participation and involvement.	Councillor Swain
2.	Rosendale Leisure Trust funding commitments.	Councillor Swain

Additional written questions were submitted by a member of the public, some of the questions related to issues being raised in the meeting and would be answered at the appropriate time, and unanswered questions would be responded to in writing.

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

The Mayor welcomed the newly elected member for Helmshore Ward, Councillor Amanda Milling to her first Council meeting.

The Leader of the Council had no communications to report.

The Chief Executive announced that Councillor Amanda Milling would replace Councillor Peter Evans on Policy Overview and Scrutiny and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Leader of the Council answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:-

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
1.	Clarification on the amount of funding given to the leisure facilities at the High School and the Swimming Baths in Whitworth.	Councillor Stansfield on behalf of Councillor L.Barnes	Councillor Swain
2.	Assurances concerning the future of Ski Rosendale.	Councillor Evans	Councillor Swain
3.	Confirmation that the Council is still working with the owners of the Valley Centre site.	Councillor May	Councillor Swain

4.	Amount of external funding (not Pennine Lancashire related) attracted over the last 5 years.	Councillor C.Pilling	Councillor Swain would respond in writing to the question and copy the response to all Councillors.
5.	Elected members being able to speak on behalf of constituents at future Forum meetings.	Councillor C.Pilling	Councillor Swain would respond in writing to the question and copy the response to all Councillors.
6.	Full-time market superintendent to promote the markets.	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Swain
7.	Council procedures for advertising Waterfoot neighbourhood office and repairs.	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Swain
8.	Providing better communication and timescales for answering written questions.	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Swain
9.	Advance background papers on confidential items.	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Swain
10.	Restoration of a commuter rail link from Rawtenstall, and feasibility study into a direct bus service from Bacup to Rochdale railway station.	Councillor P.Steen	Councillor Swain
11.	Working together with County Councillors to improve Rossendale.	Councillor Stansfield	Councillor Swain
12.	Update on New Hall Hey site and S106 agreements.	Councillor A.Barnes	Councillor Swain
13.	Update on the Bus Station	Councillor Gill	Councillor Swain
14.	Confirmation on £20k to kick-start Whitworth High School project.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Swain
15.	Collapsed wall connected to car park at Bacup Health Centre	Councillor Neal	Councillor Swain agreed to get back with a response.
16.	Review the Cabinet process and length of time to discuss items, in addition to length of time taken over Task and Finish Groups.	Councillor A.Barnes	Councillor Swain

9. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

9a. Recommendation of the Cabinet and Governance Working Group Neighbourhood Forums – Putting Communities First

The Council considered the recommendations of the Cabinet on 15th April 2009, and the recommendations of the Governance Working Group on 22nd June 2009 in respect of the Neighbourhood Forums – Putting Communities First report.

In considering the report Members identified the following issues to which the

Leader of the Council responded:

- Feedback from the Haslingden, Helmshore and Edenfield Forum
- Pilot scheme for one area
- Greater consultation with groups
- Inclusive and open to public
- How community groups will be represented
- Improving partnership working
- Some resistance to change
- Date for start of a pilot
- Good attendance in Whitworth
- Working towards neighbourhood plan
- Other meetings to bring issues to

The Leader of the Council confirmed that although the recommendations of the Governance Working Group would be considered, the recommendation before the Council was as detailed in 10.1 to 10.6 of the report to Council.

The Leader of the Council proposed an additional recommendation that the recommendations of the Governance Working Group would be taken into account and that the new arrangements would be continually monitored.

Resolved

1. That Full Council recommends the Neighbourhood Forum boundaries remain in their present form as identified at Option 1 in section 5.12.
2. That membership of the refreshed Neighbourhood Forum's are extended as outlined at 5.8 and that it meets four times a year as a business group to develop and oversee the delivery of Neighbourhood Plans.
3. That two community meetings are held per year allowing all members of the public to attend to discuss any emerging policies and what their priorities are for the area.
4. That Full Council accept the amendments to the Constitution as detailed in Article 8 (see appendix 3) and adopt the terms of reference at appendix 4.
5. If changes are required following consultation with Standards Committee on 2nd July 2009 a revised report will be submitted to August 2009 Council meeting.
6. That any amendments to the Neighbourhood Forum arrangements be reviewed after 12 months to allow them to be developed or even revert back to their present arrangements.
7. That the comments and recommendations of the Governance Working Group be taken into account and that the new arrangements would be continually monitored.

**9b. Recommendation of the Standards Committee
Local Code of Corporate Governance and Annual Review of Corporate Governance Arrangements**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Standards Committee on 24th February 2009, in respect of the Local Code of Corporate Governance and Annual Review of Corporate Governance Arrangements.

Resolved:

1. That Full Council approve the Local Code of Corporate Governance.
2. That Member's receive a report on the compliance with the Local Code of Corporate Governance annually and that a mid-year review be undertaken jointly with Overview and Scrutiny.

10. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

The Council considered the Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny for 2008/09.

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

- Process for speeding up Task and Finish Groups
- Improving public toilets in the valley
- Dog fouling and education in schools
- Informing Ward Councillors when going into schools

Resolved:

1. That Full Council agrees the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2008/09.
2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report be forwarded to all Directors, Heads of Service, Lancashire County Council and other relevant organisations to promote the work of scrutiny.

11. 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.

12. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

13. PAY AND GRADING REVIEW

The Council considered the Pay and Grading Review report and the Leader of the Council explained the reason for confidentiality.

Resolved:

That the recommendations as detailed in the report be agreed.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and concluded at 8.00pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)
Date