

COUNCILLOR JOYCE THORNE, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 24th March 2010

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Thorne (in the Chair)
Councillors Aldred, A. Barnes, L. Barnes, Challinor,
Cheetham, Crawforth, Driver, Eaton, Essex, Farrington,
Gill, Gledhill, Graham, Haworth, Lamb, Milling, Morris,
Neal, Nuttall, C. Pilling, J. Pilling, Robertson, Sandiford,
Smith, Stansfield, P.Steen, Swain, and Unsworth.

IN ATTENDANCE: Helen Lockwood, Chief Executive
Stuart Sugarman, Director of Business
Carolyn Sharples, Acting Committee and Member Services
Manager
Jenni Cook, Committee Officer
Fiona Meechan, Director of Customers and Communities
Liz Murphy, Head of People and Policy
Mike Riley, Communities Manager

ALSO PRESENT: Toni Larter, Help Direct
Jill Webster, Help Direct
1 representative of the press
3 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dickinson, Evans, May, H.Steen and Wilson.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25th February 2010 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Mayor reported that there was one urgent item of business. The Leader of the Council asked members to confirm the appointment of Fiona Meechan as Director of Customers and Communities.

Resolved:

- That Fiona Meechan be agreed as the Direct of Customers and Communities.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

5. OUTSTANDING ITEMS OF BUSINESS FROM THE LAST MEETING

There were no outstanding actions to report.

6. PRESENTATION ON HELP DIRECT

The Mayor welcomed Toni Larter and Jill Webster to the meeting to inform members of the Help Direct Services.

Jill Webster gave an overview of the Help Direct Services across East Lancashire and outlined the key areas where directories of services were available. Help Direct worked towards 7 key outcomes:

- Improved health and wellbeing
- Improved quality of life
- Making a positive contribution
- Increase choice and control
- Freedom from discrimination and harassment
- Economic wellbeing
- Maintaining dignity and respect

Toni Larter informed members of some of the work currently being undertaken by Help Direct and provided examples of customer stories. Information on the service including leaflets and booklets with case study information was offered to members.

In considering the information members commented on the following to which the Help Direct representatives responded:

- How information was published
- Whether the service replaced contact through Social Services?
- Benefits and debt advice
- Plans to expand services

The Leader of the Council and the Mayor thanked Jill and Toni for their participation in the meeting.

7. 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.	Bacup Leisure Hall decisions including evaluation and advertising.	Councillor Gledhill

2.	Deadline for the Bacup Leisure Hall process.	Councillor Gledhill
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8. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR, THE LEADER OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

The Mayor thanked members of the Council for their conduct at Council meetings throughout her Mayoral year as well as Officers of the Council for their support.

The Leader of the Council had no communications to report.

The Chief Executive had no communications to report.

9. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The following issues were raised by Councillors and answered by the Leader or designated person:

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
1.	The format of Area Forum Meetings and consultation on changes.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Graham
2.	Staffing and refreshment costs, and the feedback given from members of the public.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Graham
3.	Reasons why Lancashire County Council had abolished Lancashire Locals.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Swain
4.	Confirmation of budgets set in relation to the General Fund Balance in 2001, 2003 and the details of the Audit Commission Report in April 2002.	Councillor Aldred	Councillor P.Steen and Councillor Swain – agreed to clarify General Fund Balance as at 31 st March 2003.
5.	Amount of benefit the General Fund will receive 2009/10 and 2010/11 if grant schemes allow a portion of salaries to be offset against the grant.	Councillor Aldred	Councillor Swain – agreed to circulate a list of revenue grants to all members.
6.	Peel Terrace, Shawforth and when maintenance works will be carried out.	Councillor Aldred	Councillor Swain
7.	Approaching supermarkets / businesses to keep premises / surroundings tidier.	Councillor Crawforth	Councillor P.Steen
8.	Amount of time Litter Pickers spend picking up litter.	Councillor Crawforth	Councillor P.Steen

9.	Permission for Lee Brook Nurseries to maintain the raised gardens opposite the markets.	Councillor Crawforth	Councillor P.Steen
10.	Process of deploying bailiffs by Capita rather than applying for a direct payment order.	Councillor A.Barnes	Councillor Smith

Councillor P.Steen thanked elected members and officers who had taken part in the litter pick and also thanked the Acting Assistant Operations Manager – Refuse and Street Cleansing for organising the event.

In response to a question from a member, the Leader of the Council confirmed that answers to any written questions submitted which had not yet been asked would be circulated to all councillors for information.

10. RECCOMENDATIONS FROM CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

10a. Recommendation of Cabinet:

Allocation of Performance Reward Grant

The Council considered the recommendations of Cabinet in respect of the Allocation of the Performance Reward Grant.

In considering the report members commented on the following issues to which the Leader of the Council responded:

- CCTV cameras and costings on page 3
- Role of partners
- Allotments

Resolved:

1. That subject to confirmation of the funding from Lancashire County Council, Council agrees the recommendations put forward by the Local Strategic Partnership Executive as detailed in Table 1 of the Committee Report.
2. That Council delegates the establishment of monitoring arrangements for the Performance Reward Grant to Overview and Scrutiny and the Local Strategic Partnership's Executive.

10b. Recommendation of Overview and Scrutiny:

Ombudsman Maladministration Report

The Council considered the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny in respect of the Ombudsman Maladministration Report.

In considering the report members identified the following issues to which the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration responded:

- Cross boundary case and better partnership working from relevant organisations.
- Learning from the report.
- Overview and Scrutiny comments and thanks for their contributions.
- Compensation amount.
- Considering rural areas.
- Annex B and the details listed.

Resolved:

1. That Members note the findings and recommendations of the joint report of the Local Government Ombudsman and Parliamentary Ombudsman.
2. That the service improvements identified in paragraph 8.2 be noted.

10c. Recommendation of the Standards Committee:

Annual Report of the Standards Committee

The Council considered the recommendations of the Standards Committee in respect of the Annual Report of the Standards Committee.

In considering the report members identified the following issues to which the Councillor Sandiford responded:

- The good work of the former Vice-chairman.

Resolved:

- That Council note the Annual Report and work of the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2009/2010.

11. CORE STRATEGY

The Council considered the update to members on the progress of the Core Strategy DPD and associated evidence base following the recent consultation on *The Proposed Way Forward* in November and December 2009.

In considering the report members identified the following issues to which the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration responded:

- Using terms other than upcoming as in 4.12.

Resolved:

1. That members note the information contained in the report and give authorisation for the bespoke consultation.

2. That any changes to the Core Strategy as a result of the consultation be delegated to the Planning Manager and the Portfolio Holder.

12. RE-USE OF BUILDINGS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

The Council considered the Re-use of Buildings in the Countryside Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration informed members that the document had been amended based on the representations received.

Resolved

1. That the information contained in the report and the accompanying documents be noted.
2. That Council agrees to adopt this Supplementary Planning Document.
3. That Council agrees that this SPD be used for Development Control purposes.
4. That all future minor amendments to the Conversions and Re-use of Buildings in the Countryside SPD be delegated to the Planning Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

13. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Council considered the updated Statement of Community Involvement. The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration informed members that it would guide consultation on future Local Development Framework (LDF) documents and planning applications.

In considering the report members identified the following to which the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration responded:

- Consultation as detailed in 4.2.

Resolved

- That Council approves the document as the basis for community involvement in the Local Development Framework and on future planning applications with any additional amendments resulting from the consultation exercise delegated to the Planning Manager in consultation with the Portfolio holder.

14. EQUALITIES POLICY, STRATEGY AND SCHEME

The Council considered amendments to the Equalities Policy, Strategy and Scheme to take account of new guidance on public sector duties from Human Rights and Equalities Commission and any legislative changes.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources informed members that these were important documents in achieving social cohesion and that they emphasise respect and equality as a result of positive action through communities. The Leader of the Council informed members that the documents identified the approach the Council would take and the real impact that would be made. The Member Champion for Equalities would be driving these forward and Overview and Scrutiny would continue to assess equalities through the various stages of policy development. The Leader of the Council thanked everyone for the work done so far and emphasised the importance of support from all members in making sure the strategy was delivered.

In considering the report members identified the following:

- The need for a Community Impact Assessment for the Allocation of Grants Cabinet report?

In response to the question the Leader of the Council agreed to look into and provide a response.

The Leader of the Council moved an amendment for part two of the recommendation to read “all future minor amendments”. The amendment was seconded voted on.

Resolved

1. That Council approve the Equalities Strategy, Equality Scheme and Equal Opportunities Policy for adoption.
2. That all future minor amendments to these documents be delegated to the Head of People and Policy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

15. COMMUNITY COHESION POLICY STATEMENT

The Council considered the Community Cohesion Policy Statement. The Leader of the Council informed that the policy statement explained how the Council would achieve its objectives.

In considering the report members identified the following:

- Being respectful in the community and with others.

Resolved

1. That Council approve and adopt the Community Cohesion Policy Statement.
2. That all future amendments to the Community Cohesion Policy Statement be delegated to the Head of People and Policy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

16. PLACE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISIONS OF 18TH MARCH 2010

The Council noted the decisions of the PLACE Joint Committee held on 18th March 2010.

In considering the decisions notice members commented on the following:

- More subject matter in the notice.

The Leader of the Council informed that the minutes would be circulated when they were made available and informed members that the next meeting would be in May. He also informed members of the hard work of officers in lobbying on the Joint Investment Plan a copy of which was available on request.

17. URGENT DECISIONS

The Mayor asked members to note that one urgent decision had been taken by Cabinet since the last meeting. The decision related to the approval of the funding contract for the Roaming One Stop Shop Bus.

In considering the urgent decision members commented on the following to which the Leader of the Council responded:

- The purpose/route of the roving bus.

18. 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.

19. RECOMMENDATION OF CABINET:

Disposal of Land at Bacup

The Council considered the recommendation of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources in relation to the disposal of land in Bacup.

Resolved:

- That the recommendations as detailed in the report be approved.

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.15pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)
Date