

COUNCILLOR TREVOR UNSWORTH, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 15th December 2010

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Unsworth (in the Chair)
Councillors Aldred, A. Barnes, Challinor, Cheetham,
Crawforth, Driver, Eaton, Essex, Evans, Gill, Jackson,
Kenyon, Lamb, May, Milling, Morris, Neal, Nuttall, Oakes,
C. Pilling, J. Pilling, Robertson, Sandiford, Serridge, Smith,
H. Steen, P. Steen, Swain and Thorne.

IN ATTENDANCE: Helen Lockwood, Chief Executive
Stuart Sugarman, Director of Business
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services
Manager
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant
Liz Sandiford, Head of People and Policy
Nick Molyneux, Communications Manager

ALSO PRESENT: Denise Odgers, Fire Service
Reverend Sue Davies
County Councillor Winder
1 representative of the press
2 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors L.Barnes, Farrington Gledhill, Graham, McInnes, and Stansfield.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

- That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th October 2010 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were two urgent items of business in relation to Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for Lancashire and closure of services at Rochdale Infirmary.

The Leader informed that in relation to the LEPs a decisions was yet to be made, and as there was no update to report, information would be circulated as soon as it was available.

The Leader moved a recommendation that the Council supports Rochdale Council in its endeavours to prevent further closures of services at Rochdale Infirmary, including accident and emergency and maternity services in the interests of Whitworth and Bacup residents who utilise these and reconfirms its resolution that the Maternity Services at Fairfield General Hospital are retained. Also that accident and emergency, services are retained as these are more accessible for Rossendale residents especially in adverse weather conditions. Rossendale council has passed a resolution about Fairfield maternity some years ago.

Resolved:

- That the Council supports Rochdale Council in its endeavours to prevent further closures of services at Rochdale Infirmary, including accident and emergency and maternity services in the interests of Whitworth and Bacup residents who utilise these and reconfirms its resolution that the Maternity Services at Fairfield General Hospital are retained. Also that accident and emergency, services are retained as these are more accessible for Rossendale residents especially in adverse weather conditions.

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. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE SERVICE

The Mayor welcomed Denise Odgers, Acting Station Manager from the Fire Service to the meeting to give members an update.

The Acting Station Manager gave a presentation to members and informed them of:

- The stations within the area.
- Performance to date.
- Initiatives and events such as:
 - Ban the Pan and Loving the Oven
 - Don't Drink and Fry
- Leaflets and information distributed for the festive season such as the 12 Steps for Christmas.
- Planned changes at Rawtenstall Fire Station for the new accommodation block.
- New shift patterns.

In considering the update members commented on the following to which the Acting Station Manager responded:

- Influence on ensuring empty properties are secured and made safe.
- Working arrangements with Bury and Ramsbottom.

- Need to consider narrow roads, e.g. at Strongstry if using wider vehicles.
- Ensuring Albert Mill is secured.

The Mayor thanked the Acting Station Manager Service for her participation in the meeting.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following issues were raised by members of the public and were answered by the Leader or designated person:

| No | Issue | Questioner | Answered by (and action) |
|----|---|--------------------------|---|
| 1. | A written question had been received in relation to the Pennine Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership. | Mr A. Khan (not present) | Councillor Swain – agreed to write to Mr Khan to ensure he received a response. |
| 2. | Procedure at Development Control, public right of redress and access to planning documents on the web site. | Mr D. Spencer | Councillor Swain |
| 3. | Commitment to new sports facilities given the planned budget cuts. | Mr Bradbury | Councillor Swain |

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

The Mayor had no communications to report.

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. | LCC highways out of hours phone number and gritting. | Councillor Neal | Councillor Swain |
| 2. | Maintenance work at Peel Terrace. | Councillor Aldred | Councillor Swain |
| 3. | Timescales for work at Peel Terrace and a letter to keep residents informed. | Councillor Aldred | Councillor Swain – agreed to send a letter to keep residents informed. |

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|-----|--|----------------------|---|
| 4. | The Council's commitment and support to the Rossendale Community Safety Partnership. | Councillor H. Steen | Councillor Swain |
| 5. | Advice given by the One Stop Shop on blocked drains/ lights not working? | Councillor Robertson | Councillor Smith |
| 6. | Service offered by the One Stop Shop on planning applications and licensing applications? | Councillor Robertson | Councillor Smith |
| 7. | Update on the New Hall Hey site, clearing of the adjacent site and letting of the buildings. | Councillor A. Barnes | Councillor Swain |
| 8. | The covenant on the land for supermarket development in Bacup. | Councillor Lamb | Councillor Swain |
| 9. | Council's statutory responsibilities on domestic violence and budget? | Councillor Jackson | Councillor Swain |
| 10. | Traffic flow through the road works at Cloughfold. | Councillor Oakes | Councillor Swain |
| 11. | 1674 Royal Charter for Haslingden and the market. | Councillor Kenyon | Councillor Swain |
| 12. | Future plans for Ski Rossendale? | Councillor A. Barnes | Councillor Swain |
| 13. | Final budget settlement for Rossendale? | Councillor A. Barnes | Councillor Swain |
| 14. | Both MP's to raise the Urgent Care at the Health Hub? | Councillor Nuttall | Councillor Swain – agreed to write to the MP's for support for the Urgent Care. |
| 15. | Announcement on response times for Ambulance Services. | Councillor Serridge | Councillor Swain |

Councillor Alyson Barnes moved to suspend the Standing Orders. The Mayor confirmed that Members Question Time had already been extended beyond half an hour and that he had agreed to take an additional two questions. The Mayor informed that he would be honouring his original decision as the meeting had a full agenda.

In relation to question 4, the Leader of the Council informed members that he welcomed the Home Office's commitment to fund Lancashire Constabulary's Police Community Safety Officers for the next 2 years at £8.2 million per annum, and that the Rossendale Council guarantees to fund the PCSO's in Rossendale as per the previous year for at least 2 years.

In relation to questions 5 and 6, the Chief Executive reminded members that if they had any specific issues reported by members of the public, they should contact her or Andrew Buckle immediately so they can be dealt with.

10. RECOMENDATIONS FROM CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

10a. Recommendation of the Licensing and Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees: Home Boarding of Dogs Model Conditions

The Council considered the recommendations of the Licensing and Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees in respect of the Home Boarding of Dogs Model Conditions.

Resolved:

1. That members adopt the Model Licence Conditions for Home Boarding of Dogs.
2. All future minor amendments to these conditions to be delegated to the Head of Health, Housing and Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration.

10b. Recommendation of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Green Travel Plan.

The Council considered the recommendations of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Green Travel Plan.

In considering the report members commented on the following:

- Joining up the cycleway between Rawtenstall and Rochdale.
- Route should be up to the same standard as the Whitworth section.
- Incomplete Pegasus crossing on Market Street.
- Percentage of those in Bacup and Stacksteads who do not own a car
- Survey of staff and responses on public transport.

Councillor Peter Steen, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services informed that there had been two meetings with County Council regarding the Pegasus crossing and that he would ensure Whitworth Town Clerk was kept informed of developments. Councillor Challinor, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration informed that the extended cycle route would not be a tarmaced surface according to the user group.

Resolved:

1. That members commit to the importance of developing and implementing a Green Travel Plan for employees and Elected Members.
2. A clear steer is provided and recommendations on initial actions/initiatives and options identified by the Green Travel Plan Working Group within the Plan.
3. That all future minor amendments to the Green Travel Plan and Policy to be delegated to the Head of People and Policy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder(s).

10c. Recommendation of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Communications Strategy

The Council considered the recommendations of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Communications Strategy.

An amendment was moved and seconded to cease publication of the Rossendale Alive newsletter immediately to make cost savings.

The Chief Executive clarified that the publication could stop but that the Council was contractually tied in to the distribution costs until March and therefore would still incur some of the costs.

Councillor Essex withdrew his seconding of the amendment. Councillor Neal seconded the amendment.

In considering the amendment members discussed the following:

- Indication of distribution costs.
- Savings of approximately £4000.
- Need to know exact costs, need clarification.
- Support saving money.
- Not wanting to waste money if it is committed.

The Chief Executive confirmed that figures could be clarified and the report be brought to the Special Cabinet in January.

Councillor Serridge withdrew his amendment.

A new amendment was moved and seconded to defer the report to the Special Cabinet Meeting in January where exact details of costs could be broken down.

Resolved:

- That the item be deferred to the January Cabinet meeting where cost savings would be provided on ceasing the production of the Rossendale Alive newsletter.

10d. Recommendation of Cabinet: Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Forum Update: One Year On

The Council considered the recommendations of Cabinet in respect of the Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Forum Update: One Year On.

In considering the report members commented on the following:

- Broader issues such as Sports Partnership funding.
- Free travel passes for young people.
- Loss of Educational Maintenance Allowance.

- Incorporating issues from a Lancashire level into Neighbourhood Plans.

In response to questions from members Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources confirmed that the government were reconsidering their position on the Sports Partnership and that Educational Maintenance Allowances would be replaced by more targeted support. The Leader of the Council also confirmed that a Lancashire County Council representative was on each Neighbourhood Forum for Lancashire wide input.

Resolved:

1. That the development of the Neighbourhood Plans is noted.
2. That the Council approve the Neighbourhood Plans and that following approval, these be circulated to the Council's partners for their approval.
3. That Council note the feedback from the 12-month review and continues with the Neighbourhood Forums as outlined in the Operational Framework.
4. That future minor amendments to the Neighbourhood Forum Operational Framework and the Neighbourhood Plans be delegated to the Director of Customers and Communities in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

10e. Recommendation of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Governance Model Consultation

The Council considered the recommendations of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Governance Model Consultation.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that recommendation 9.4 was to make changes to the Constitution resulting from the decisions made at 9.1 to 9.3 only.

Councillor Essex, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources informed Councillors that the document was a result of a statutory instrument and that districts were required to make a decision on their governance arrangements. He also informed that there had previously been a local campaign for an Elected Mayor which had been unsuccessful.

Resolved:

1. That members agree Option 2: the Leader and Cabinet Executive Model and agree the timescales and transitional arrangements as detailed at 4.8 of the report.
2. That members agree Option 3: that there will be no changes to the number of Councillors per Ward.
3. That members agree Option 2: to make no changes to the frequency of elections.

4. That any changes required to the Constitution in relation to the decisions made at 9.1 to 9.3 of the report, be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

10f. Recommendation of the Licensing Committee: Statement of Licensing Policy

The Council considered the recommendations of the Licensing Committee in respect of the Statement of Licensing Policy.

Resolved:

- That the Council notes the report and approves the amended Statement of Licensing Policy.

11. CORE STRATEGY DPD –SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXAMINATION. ADOPTION OF THE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Council considered the Core Strategy DPD – Submission to the Secretary of State for examination and adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement.

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and the Leader of the Council expressed their thanks to all staff who had worked on these important documents.

The Chief Executive confirmed that hard copies of the Core Strategy publication were available on request, and that the Forward Planning Team would be available to do a presentation to members if required.

Resolved:

1. That approval is granted for Rossendale’s Core Strategy DPD “The Way Forward” to be formally submitted to the Secretary of State for examination, together with the Schedule of Proposed Changes and other documents which need to accompany submission of the Core Strategy, including the Evidence Base studies and the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment.
2. That authority is delegated to the Planning Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration to agree any minor amendments to the wording in the Core Strategy during the examination of this Development Plan Document.
3. That approval is granted for adoption of the revised Statement of Community Involvement.

12. MINUTES OF PLACE JOINT COMMITTEE ON 21st OCTOBER 2010

The Council considered the minutes of the PLACE Joint Committee Meeting on 21st October 2010.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Interesting meeting, worth attending to find out what is happening across Pennine Lancashire.
- Cancellation of the next meeting.
- Attendance
- Could be marginalised if the meeting became county wide.
- Focus on cycling rather than wider culture, leisure and sport aspects.
- Digital Strategy and broadband provision.

In response to a question on the Culture Leisure and Sport item the Chief Executive confirmed that cycling was just one aspect of this, but a presentation had been given on it at the meeting. This presentation would also be brought to Rossendale Council in the New Year.

Councillor Swain informed that he would send an email to enable members to respond to BT on supporting better broadband provision, similar to the one on the Greater Manchester rail link. He encouraged all members to respond to these.

Resolved:

- That members note the minutes.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Alyson Barnes withdrew the Notice of Motion owing to the announcement made regarding funding support for Police Community Safety Officers during Members Question Time.

14. URGENT DECISIONS

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

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

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date