

COUNCILLOR TREVOR UNSWORTH, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 23rd March 2011

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Unsworth (in the Chair)
Councillors Aldred, A. Barnes, L. Barnes, Challinor,
Cheetham, Crawforth, Essex, Evans, Farrington, Gill,
Gledhill, Graham, Kenyon, Lamb, McInnes, Milling, Morris,
Neal, Nuttall, Oakes, C. Pilling, J. Pilling, Robertson,
Sandiford, Serridge, Smith, Stansfield, 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
Andrew Buckle, Head of Customer Services and ICT
Reverend Sue Davies, Mayor's Chaplain
Michael Tipper, Mayor's Attendant
Tim Butcher, Assistant Director Ambulance Service
Ian Walmsley, Operations Manager Ambulance Service
Adrian Leather, Chief Executive Lancashire Sports
Partnership

ALSO PRESENT: 2 representatives of the press
2 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Driver, Eaton, Jackson and May.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

- That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd February be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

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. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS FOR MEMBERS

6a. Update from the Ambulance Service

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Ian Walmsley and Mr. Tim Butcher from the Ambulance Service to the meeting to give members an update on the new Foundation Trust.

Mr Butcher gave a presentation to members and informed them of:

- The Foundation Trust Consultation.
- The services provided by the North West Ambulance Service.
- Resources, funding and coverage of the North West Ambulance Service.
- Community involvement, such as community first responders and volunteer drivers and community events.
- Future plans to deliver the right care at the right time and in the right place.
- Training for paramedics and patient transport.
- Changes when the service becomes a Foundation Trust such as greater accountability and independent monitoring.
- Membership and how to sign up.
- The role of the Council of Governors.
- The makeup of the Board of Directors.
- How to take part in the consultation

In considering the update members commented on the following:

- Membership offered to staff?
- Ramsbottom Ambulance Station and the future of ambulance stations.
- Increased distances and time taken to arrive at hospital with the closure of services at some hospitals.
- Additional ambulances to deal with increased distances?
- Patients having to wait at Blackburn to receive treatment on arrival.
- Where do rapid response fit in?
- Would the Urgent Care Unit in Rawtenstall assist, as services would be available locally?
- Would the extra ambulance be 24 hour or which 12 hour shift would be covered?

In response to members questions Mr Butcher and Mr Walmsley clarified that:

- Membership was offered to all staff.
- Location of stations was not key, but the location of the vehicles at the time the call is received. The estate was currently being reviewed but no stations had yet been identified for closure.
- There would be an extra ambulance for Rossendale from 1st April.

- Patients needs would be assessed and they would be taken to the location where they had greatest benefit from the services and expertise available.
- At certain times of the year there are surges of activity but this is monitored and there was now an Ambulance Liaison Officer working with the hospital on such issues.
- There were four rapid response vehicles in East Lancashire one of which was based in Stacksteads, there was also a local advanced paramedic.
- Self-help is always useful if services are available and making people aware of other services available to them.
- The extra ambulance would be based at Rawtenstall and would be 12 hour either 10 until 10, or 2 until 2.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Walmsley and Mr. Butcher for their participation in the meeting.

6b. Presentation on Cycling

The Mayor welcomed Mr Adrian Leather from Lancashire Sports Partnership to the meeting to give members an update on cycling.

Mr. Leather gave a presentation to members and informed them of:

- The vision of Pennine Lancashire as a premier cycling destination.
- Target outcomes, such as increasing cycling participation, encouraging tourism and opportunities for regeneration and employment.
- Work with the steering group on economic development and tourism.
- Promoting cycling to link in with health and education.
- Creating improved networks and resources such as accommodation, bars, cafés and toilet facilities.
- Governance structure.
- Image and branding.

In considering the update members commented on the following to which Mr Leather responded:

- Need for funding for cycle-ways to encourage beginners to take up cycling.
- More liaison with Lancashire County Council to improve road cycling.
- Provision of toilets.
- Will money be redirected back post Olympics?
- Was there any competition from other regions with similar facilities?
- Railway track development.
- Improved media coverage for the facilities we have at Lee Quarry.
- Cycleway between Britannia Greenway and Whitworth.

In response to members questions Mr Leather clarified that:

- The steering group were looking at connectivity from area to area.
- Funding was limited but there were opportunities through Inspired By and Iconic.

- There was no immediate competition.
- There were opportunities in every community to improve cycleways.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Leather for his 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.	Projected monthly cost to secure the Ski Rossendale site and the costs to close it.	Mr Marriott	Councillor Gledhill

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

The Mayor urged anyone who had not signed the petition for the Urgent Care Centre to support the petition.

The Leader of the Council had been contacted by the Metric Martyr Defence Fund to allow traders to advertise in imperial units rather than metric. With Councils consent he agreed to write to give support to the campaign.

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.	Road works and road surface remedy.	Councillor Crawforth	Councillor Swain
2.	Did the Leader write to the MPs regarding the out of hours emergency care facility at Rawtenstall Health Hub?	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Swain
3.	Has Jake Berry MP signed the petition for saving the facilities?	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Swain
4.	Monitoring following the Ombudsman case on bailiff activity as reported in the Big Issue.	Councillor Gill	Councillor Smith
5.	Possibility of having a Code of Conduct for bailiffs.	Councillor Gill	Councillor Smith
6.	How long the S215 process will take at New Hall Hey and why so long to take	Councillor A Barnes	Councillor Swain

	action?		
7.	When will the new vocational centre at Stubblelee Hall be taking its first students?	Councillor A Barnes	Councillor Challinor
8.	Abolition of Standards Board and concern over lack of local accountability of Councillors.	Councillor McInnes	Councillor Swain
9.	Thanks to members and officers assisting in the litter picks and the possibility of continuing activity into the summer.	Councillor P Steen	Councillor Swain
10.	Costs of master plans for Rawtenstall and using information from previous exercises.	Councillor A Barnes	Councillor Swain – costs of the master plans would be provided to all members.
11.	Education and enforcement to tackle littering problems.	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Swain
12.	Progress on State of the Borough Debate.	Councillor Aldred	Councillor Swain
13.	Costs of closing the ski slope compared with costs of keeping it open.	Councillor Aldred	Councillor Gledhill
14.	Possibility of keeping the County Court open in Rawtenstall.	Councillor Cheetham	Councillor Swain – agreed to write to the Lord Chancellor.
15.	Littering problem and litter bins required on the by-pass lay-bys at Haslingden-Rising Bridge.	Councillor Kenyon	Councillor Swain – agreed to contact the Highways Agency.
16.	Contacting the Japanese Mayor to express concern and sympathy.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Swain – agreed to write to the Japanese Ambassador on behalf of the Council.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

10. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2011/12

The Council considered the nomination of Councillor Brian Essex as Deputy Mayor in 2011/12.

Resolved:

That Councillor Brian Essex be nominated as Deputy Mayor in 2011/12 at the Annual Meeting in May.

11. ANNUAL REPORT - STANDARDS

The Council considered the Standards Annual Report which detailed the work of the Standards Committee in 2010/2011.

Resolved:

That Council note the Annual Report and work of the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2010/2011.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

The Council considered the Notice of Motion which had been submitted by Councillors A.Neal, T.Aldred and T.Nuttall.

Councillor Neal formally moved the motion which was seconded by Councillor Aldred as follows: "that elected members be given a minimum of one hour at full council for asking their questions."

In considering the notice of motion members discussed the following:

- Mayor has the privileged right to extend question time.
- Council to show democracy at its best.
- Written replies not circulated to all members.
- Responses given in the meeting not minuted.
- Extra questions crop up during the course of the meeting.
- More time required for questions.
- Adding remaining public question time to members' question time.
- Concern over length of time of the meeting.
- Minimum of one hour for all questions.
- Clarification on the motion.

Councillor Neal clarified that the motion was to extend question time to one hour, and included public question time.

Councillor Swain moved an amendment to the notice of motion that:

- Part 4 section 10 of the Constitution on members' questions goes back to Governance Working Group to be reviewed.
- The time for both public questions and members' questions be for up to an hour.
- The recommendations from Governance Working Group go to Council in July.

Councillor Essex seconded the amendment.

Members discussed the amendment as follows:

- In the past it was rare to have written questions.
- Definition of democracy.
- Holding controlling party and Portfolio Holders to account.
- Written questions should only be for technical purposes.

Members voted on the amendment which was carried and became the substantive motion.

No further amendments were made.

Members voted on the substantive motion.

Resolved:

1. That Part 4 section 10 of the Constitution on members' questions goes back to Governance Working Group to be reviewed.
2. That the time for both public questions and members' questions be for up to an hour.
3. That the recommendations from Governance Working Group go to Council in July.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

13a. Recommendation of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Governance Working Group: Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act – Revised Codes of Practice

The Council considered the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) – Revised Codes of Practice Report.

Resolved:

1. That the changes to the Council's Policy Statement attached at Appendix A be approved and be adopted with immediate effect; and
2. The Director of Business be appointed as the "Senior Responsible Officer" for the purposes of RIPA (and the Constitution be updated to reflect this); and
3. Cabinet be authorised to review the Council's RIPA Policy and the use of RIPA annually and report to the Portfolio Holder, should they be of the opinion that it is not fit for purpose; and
4. Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee be authorised to consider the Council's use of RIPA every quarter to ensure that it is being used consistently with the Council's Policy.
5. All future minor amendments to the Policy to be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

**13b. Recommendation of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
Consultation on Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy**

The Council considered the Consultation on Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy Report and the supplementary statements.

In considering the report members commented on the following:

- Problems with some private landlords.
- Did the enforcement policy on empty buildings extend to Greenvale Homes?

The Chief Executive informed that clarification on this would be sent to all members. The Leader of the Council informed that the policy before Council was about private sector and not public sector.

Resolved:

1. That members adopt the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy and supplementary statements.
2. That any further minor amendments to the Policy be delegated to the Head of Health, Housing and Regeneration in consultation with the Director of Business and the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration.

14. URGENT DECISIONS

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

The Mayor thanked all members and officers for their support and help during the Municipal Year.

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.50pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date