

THE MAYOR, MR TREVOR UNSWORTH

MINUTES OF: THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AND THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO CONFER THE TITLE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN

Date of Meeting: 20th May 2011

**PRESENT: The Mayor Mr Unsworth (in the Chair)
Councillors Aldred, A. Barnes, L. Barnes, Cheetham, Crawforth, Driver, Eaton, Essex, Evans, Farrington, Gill, Gledhill, Graham, Jackson, Kenyon, Lamb, McInnes, MacNae, Marriott, May, Milling, Morris, Neal, Nuttall, Oakes, Pilling, Roberts, Robertson, Sandiford, Serridge, Shipley, D. Smith, M. Smith, Stansfield, Steen and Wilkinson**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Helen Lockwood, Chief Executive
Stuart Sugarman, Director of Business
Fiona Meechan, Director of Customers and Communities
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager
Elaine Craven, Civic Services Officer and Leader's Personal Assistant
Michael Tipper, Mayor's Attendant
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant**

**ALSO PRESENT: 1 representative of the press
55 members of the public**

1. ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2011/2012. Councillor Gladys Sandiford was proposed by Councillor Cheetham and seconded by Councillor A.Barnes.

Resolved:

That Councillor Gladys Sandiford be appointed as the Mayor for the Municipal Year 2011/2012.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies submitted.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23th March 2011 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

4. URGENT ITEMS

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

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

6. RETIRING COUNCILLORS VOTE OF THANKS

Councillor Essex spoke in relation to those Councillors who had retired or who had not been returned following the Elections on 5th May 2011 and was seconded by Councillor Pilling.

Resolved:

That the grateful thanks of this Council be offered to Bill Challinor, Catherine Pilling, Peter Steen, Tony Swain, Joyce Thorne and Trevor Unsworth for their hard work throughout their service as elected members of the Borough.

7. ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS

The Chief Executive reported that the following persons had been elected Councillors on 5th May 2011 and had each made the necessary Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Mayor welcomed all new and returned Councillors to the Council.

Resolved:

That it be noted that the following persons were elected on 5th May 2011.

<u>Name of Person Elected</u>	<u>Ward</u>
Christine Gill	Cribden
Thomas Aldred	Facit and Shawforth
Annabel Jane Shipley	Greenfield
Andrew MacNae	Greensclough
Michael Patrick Marriott	Hareholme
Sean Serridge	Healey and Whitworth
Amanda Anne Milling	Helmshore
Michelle Smith	Irwell
Peter Roberts	Longholme
Christine Lamb	Stacksteads
Amanda Robertson	Whitewell
Robert Wilkinson	Worsley

8. APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL 2011 TO 2015

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Leader of the Council for the period 2011 to 2015.

Councillor Serridge moved and Councillor Nuttall seconded that Councillor Alyson Barnes be appointed Leader of the Council.

Resolved:

That Councillor Alyson Barnes be appointed Leader of the Council for 2011/2015.

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

The Mayor reported that a letter of thanks had been received from Keiichi Hayashi, Ambassador at the Embassy of Japan, for the Council's words of kindness and concern following the earthquake and tsunami on 11th March 2011.

The Chief Executive reported that a spokesperson, Whitworth Town Councillor Karen Ruane, who was acting on behalf of members of the public opposing cuts to the 464 bus service, was in attendance and would like to address the Leader of the Council to raise their concerns. The Mayor agreed that representations could be made to the Leader and the following was raised:

- The effect on shift workers who rely on the evening service.
- It is the only means of travel for people with low income.
- There will be an impact on people's ability to continue working

In response, the Leader of the Council informed that a cross party working group would be meeting on Monday to take these issues up with Lancashire County Council and that the Council would do all it could to ensure that the service was retained.

10. CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL

Members considered the report of the Director – Business (Monitoring Officer) on the adoption of the Constitution of the Council.

Resolved:

1. That the Council adopts the Constitution, as amended.
2. That future minor amendments to the Constitution be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

11. POLITICAL BALANCE, COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2011/12

Members considered the report of the Chief Executive on the size of and appointments to Committees; the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees; the allocation of seats to the Political Groups, and appointments to Outside Bodies of the Council for the year.

The Leader of the Council, Alyson Barnes, confirmed that the Portfolio Holders would be as follows:

Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Leisure – Councillor Alyson Barnes
Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Customer Services – Councillor Sean Serridge
Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources – Councillor Robert Wilkinson
Portfolio Holder for Regeneration – Councillor Andrew MacNae
Portfolio Holder for Communities and Neighbourhoods – Councillor Helen Jackson
Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services – Councillor Christine Lamb

Resolved:

That the Council confirm appointments proposed by the various political groups as set out in the following appendices:

Appendix A – Political balance calculation

Appendix B - Committees of the Council, Working Groups, other meetings and Member Champions.

Appendix C – Representatives on outside bodies

12. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for 2011/2012.

Councillor A.Barnes moved that this item be deferred to a future Council meeting and Councillor Sean Serridge seconded.

Resolved:

That the appointment of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2011/2012 be deferred.

13. PRESENTATION AND VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR, AND MAYORESS

Councillor Crawforth moved the vote of thanks and spoke in relation to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress, seconded by Councillor Essex, to which Mr Unsworth responded.

Resolved:

That the grateful thanks of this Council be offered to Mr Trevor Unsworth and Mrs Anne Unsworth for the excellent manner in which they have fulfilled their duties as Mayor and Mayoress.

14. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MINI MAYOR AND APPOINTMENT OF THE MINI MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011/2012

Mr Unsworth, the retiring Mayor, thanked Charlie Bishop, the retiring Mini Mayor, for the work he had done during 2010 to 2011.

The Mayor announced that Carl Ashworth had been appointed as Mini Mayor for 2011/2012 and she was looking forward to working with him during his Mayoral year.

15. HONORARY ALDERMEN

In accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council considered nominations to receive the title of Honorary Alderman in recognition of eminent service to the Borough.

Councillor Evans proposed Mrs Anne Goldsworthy, seconded by Councillor Neal. Councillor Lamb proposed Mr Nicholas Pilling, seconded by Councillor Essex.

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on the following individuals in recognition of their service and dedication to the local community as a Councillor for the Borough of Rossendale:

Mrs Anne Goldsworthy
Mr Nicholas Pilling

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.55pm)

_____ CHAIR