

COUNCILLOR GLADYS SANDIFORD, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 21st March 2012

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Helen Lockwood, Chief Executive
Stuart Sugarman, Director of Business
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager
Bernard Gwin, Mayor's Attendant

ALSO PRESENT: 2 representative of the press
5 members of the public
Lancashire County Councillor Steen

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted for Councillors Cheetham, May and Shipley.

2. MINUTES

It was confirmed that the amended minutes for the Council meeting on 14th December 2011 had been replaced on the Council web site.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th February 2012 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

Councillor Gledhill declared a personal interest in minute number 9 as he worked for an organisation that may be involved in financing renewable energy schemes.

5. OUTSTANDING ITEMS OF BUSINESS FROM THE LAST MEETING

There were no outstanding items to report.

6. 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.	Leaflet regarding the opening of Stubblelee vocational centre. Other plans to benefit Bacup.	Mr S. Hughes	Councillor MacNae

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

The Mayor had no communications to report.

The Leader of the Council informed members of the training session on Monday 26th March on Bringing Funding into your Ward. The training was being delivered by Bacup Consortium and members were encouraged to attend this useful session.

The Chief Executive had no communications to report.

8. 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.	Appointing a preferred development partner for the Valley Centre and other sites being considered for regeneration. Safeguards, best value for joint working arrangements and information on assets being released.	Councillor D.Smith	Councillor A.Barnes
2.	Costs to date for Valley Centre and costs relating to landscaping work. Variation in plans for the Valley Centre site? Had a final plan been agreed? Work being undertaken by other companies? Impact on frontline services?	Councillor Morris	Councillor A.Barnes responded and agreed to respond in writing to the additional questions.

The Leader of the Council placed on record her appreciation to all members and officers involved in progressing the Valley Centre project.

Councillor Jackson withdrew her questions as a response had been given during public questions.

Councillor Aldred declared a personal interest prior to asking his question as he was on the board of the Leisure Trust.

No	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
3.	Congratulating CLAW and the Leisure Trust on their excellent work and in providing value for money services. Assurances there would be continued support for both organisations.	Councillor Aldred	Councillor A.Barnes agreed to communicate that assurance would be given.
4.	Ensuring that the level of policing in Rossendale will not be reduced, and returning the Stacksteads PCSO.	Councillor Oakes	Councillor A.Barnes agreed to write to the new Chief Superintendant.
5.	Asset of community groups e.g. Bacup Civic Pride and other established groups, and ability to offer additional capacity to councils.	Councillor MacNae	Councillor A.Barnes
6.	Correspondence from Lancashire County Council (LCC) and the MP Jake Berry, regarding the closure of Rakehead recycling centre. Writing to LCC and the MP to remind them of concerns regarding closure, fly tipping and additional complaints.	Councillor Lamb	Councillor A.Barnes agreed to write to LCC and Jake Berry M.P.
7.	Turning away from illegal loan sharks and joining the local credit union. Figures on how many people will be affected by working family tax credit changes, numbers of unemployed young people affected?	Councillor Robertson	Councillor A.Barnes agreed to respond in writing once figures were confirmed.
8.	First sign of things to come for the Borough re: Valley Centre.	Councillor Marriott	Councillor MacNae
9.	Gritting procedure, will the Leader contact LCC and Green Vale Homes?	Councillor Kenyon	Councillor A.Barnes agreed to contact Green Vales Homes and LCC and raise at a future 3 Tier Forum Meeting.
10.	Olympic flame passing through Rawtenstall update.	Councillor McInnes	Councillor A.Barnes
11.	Demolition of the Valley Centre breathing new life into Rawtenstall. Raising issues on the gateway in relation to the roundabout at New Hall Hey.	Councillor Roberts	Councillor A.Barnes agreed to raise issues through the 3 Tier Forum.

12.	State of the roads, procedure and assistance for making roads adopted.	Councillor Crawforth	Councillor A.Barnes agreed to get information for members on unadopted roads and would raise issues through the 3 Tier Forum.
13.	Modernising the democratic structure. Opening up the 3 Tier Forum to public and councillors?	Councillor Wilkinson	Councillor A.Barnes agreed to put the request to the chair of the 3 Tier Forum.
14.	Regeneration good news for the whole Borough, especially at no financial cost.	Councillor Neal	Councillor A.Barnes
15.	Query regarding LCC plans to remove responsibilities from street lighting on unadopted roads.	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor A.Barnes agreed to find out more information for members.
16.	Damage to shops in Bacup town centre, issues with shutters and reviewing the Conservation Policy.	Councillor Eaton	Councillor MacNae
17.	Has a written agreement been received for S106 monies in relation to Snig Hole park?	Councillor Evans	Councillor A.Barnes
18.	Negotiations of dog fouling contract and animal warden service and the concerns of local young people.	Councillor Driver	Councillor A.Barnes

ORDINARY BUSINESS

9. SCOUT MOOR UPDATE

The Council considered the Scout Moor Update.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Wind turbines over subsidised and spoil landscapes.
- Keeping members informed on this key project.
- Member participation through the sub committee.
- Turbines a blight on landscape.
- Consider, noise, ecological aspects.
- 25 year life span and decommissioning built in.
- Turbines can increase from 20 to 30 feet without advice from planners.
- Section 106 financial agreements.
- Peel Energy consulting with a lot of people.
- PV panels and looking at other ways forward.
- Council does not get a say on where wind farms can or cannot be located.

- Working with other councils and negotiating a planning performance agreement.
- Maximising the benefits for the Borough.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report are noted and that the Director of Business is authorised to negotiate and conclude a Planning Performance Agreement with Peel Energy.

10. URGENT DECISIONS

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

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

11a. Recommendation of the Standards Committee: Annual Report - Standards

The Council considered the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2011/2012.

Councillor Serridge acknowledged the contribution made to the Standards Committee by the late Whitworth Town Councillor Jimmy Grogan.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- The number of cases and number of investigations made.
- Encourage all councillors to consider their actions.
- Adhere to the standards expected.
- The number of complaints submitted by public or by other elected members.
- Details are confidential.
- Moving away from 'tit for tat' complaints.
- Secretary of State abolished Standards Board and regime.
- Need a system with fairness and balance.

Resolved:

That the content of the report and the work of the Standards Committee during 2011/12 is noted.

11b. Recommendation of the Standards Committee: Localism Act 2011 and Standards Arrangements Update

The Council considered the Localism Act 2011 and Standards Arrangements Update.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Important to keep standards regime.
- Important for sub committee to have representation from all groups.
- Using friendly language when recruiting independent persons.
- 10 principles have become 7.
- Importance to include Respect for Others in the new code.
- Not being able to keep the existing independent members.

- Sending a thank you letter to the independent members for their work.
- Legislation states that independents cannot continue if they have served in the last 5 years.
- Independent members could work for another Council.
- The Council would need to decide on the process.
- Until a way forward was agreed the Council would keep the existing process in place.

Resolved:

- That members note the Localism Act 2011 update and the results of the Standards Survey.
- That the Council maintains the existing Code of Conduct and current procedures for dealing with complaints at a local level until full guidance is available, when a report will be brought to full Council.
- That officers are recommended to start the advertising and recruitment process for up to three independent persons.
- That a sub committee be set up to look at matters raised from the public consultation and to review the guidance as it filters through.

The Mayor announced that this was the last council meeting of the 2011/12 municipal year and thanked all members for their attendance, participation and lively contribution to the democratic process.

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

Signed.....
(Chair)
 Date