

COUNCILLOR BRIAN ESSEX, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 12th December 2012

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Essex (in the Chair)
Councillors Aldred, Ashworth, Barnes, Bleakley, Cheetham,
Crawforth, Creaser, Eaton, Farrington, Fletcher, Gill, Hughes,
Jackson, Kenyon, Knowles, Lamb, McInnes, MacNae, Marriott,
Milling, Morris, Neal, Oakes, Pilling, Procter, Robertson,
Sandiford, Serridge, Shipley, D.Smith, M.Smith and Wilkinson.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Helen Lockwood, Chief Executive
Stuart Sugarman, Director of Business
Fiona Meechan, Director of Customers and Communities
Michelle Hargreaves, Committee and Member Services Officer
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant**

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Councillors De Souza, Evans and Roberts.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26th September 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 Neal made a declaration of interest in relation to minute 15 and would be making a personal statement on that item.

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.	Consultation on Mytholme House if consultation had been cancelled or postponed.	C. Smith	Councillor Barnes
2.	Potential option of a land swap between GVH land and RBC land.	B. Evril	Councillor Barnes
3.	Following Greenbelt Urban Review, how was RBC increasing awareness to communities of the consultation taking place?	P. Wood	Councillor Barnes

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

The Mayor informed the Council that a letter of thanks and appreciation had been received from the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police regarding the letter of condolences sent following the death of two Police Officers earlier this year.

The Leader had no communications to report.

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.	Supporting veterans and the Armed Forces Community Covenant. Situation now made more severe with cuts to armed forces.	Councillor McInnes	Councillor Barnes
2.	Ensuring those who are genuine and eligible receive all the entitled benefits. Whether RBC was working with LCC to inform families regarding free school meals.	Councillor D.Smith	Councillor Serridge Councillor Barnes

3.	A fairer CTAX benefit scheme. Reference to consultation and incentive to work.	Councillor Milling	Councillor Marriott
4.	Press quote in relation to Haslingden Pool. Clarity if Rossendale Leisure Trust subsidising loan.	Councillor Shipley	Councillor Barnes
5.	Regenerating other towns in the Valley e.g. Haslingden. Promoting Haslingden Market.	Councillor Sandiford	Councillor MacNae
6.	Final cost of the Valley Centre project. Whether the final figure was available at the meeting.	Councillor Morris	Councillor Barnes
7.	Planning department effectiveness in applying conditions to planning applications. Conditions relating to Rossendale Hospital and retaining key features.	Councillor Eaton	Councillor Lamb Councillor Barnes
8.	Efforts to keep Rossendale Museum open. Consideration of all options provided by LCC.	Councillor Cheetham	Councillor MacNae
9.	Cost of the recent re-surfacing work on the car park at Haslingden Sports Centre.	Councillor Evans	To be responded to in writing
10.	Hospital site redevelopment - loss of an iconic heritage asset and possible traffic chaos and government planning policies. Further developments on these types of building in future following government guidance.	Councillor Knowles	Councillor Barnes
11.	Futures Park - solar panels costs/benefits.	Councillor Oakes	Councillor Lamb

As Councillor Evans was unable to attend the meeting it was agreed that the question submitted by Councillor Evans would be answered in writing.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

9. Recommendation of the Cabinet and Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Localisation of Council Tax Support

The Council considered the Localisation of Council Tax Support report.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Preferred option B of the Conservative Party
- Consistency of which option was preferred
- Councils in the north of the country being pilloried
- Reason for introduction of transitional grants
- Taking responsibility for recommendation provided rather than putting onus on others
- Listening to the opinion of 87% of council tax payers
- Reference to previous government in control
- Clarification of the transitional scheme and what it entailed

A recorded vote was requested by Councillors Serridge, Barnes and Marriott.

Voting took place, the results were as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Aldred	For
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr Barnes	For
Cllr Bleakley	For
Cllr Cheetham	Against
Cllr Crawforth	For
Cllr Creaser	For
Cllr Eaton	Against
Cllr Essex	Abstain
Cllr Farrington	For
Cllr Fletcher	For
Cllr Gill	For
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Jackson	For
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Knowles	For
Cllr Lamb	For

Cllr McInnes	For
Cllr MacNae	For
Cllr Marriott	For
Cllr Milling	Against
Cllr Morris	Against
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Pilling	For
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Robertson	For
Cllr Sandiford	Against
Cllr Serridge	For
Cllr Shipley	Against
Cllr D Smith	Against
Cllr M Smith	For
Cllr Wilkinson	For
Total For	25
Total Against	7
Total Abstention	1

Resolved:

1. That Council recommends Option A as its default scheme.
2. That for 2013/14 Council recommends:
 - a. The acceptance of the Department for Communities and Local Government's Transitional Grant and its criteria as set in paragraph 11 of its October 2012 report (Localising support for council tax, Transitional grant scheme).
 - b. That it's 2013/14 Council Tax Support entitlement will be calculated according to existing arrangements and then subject to an 8.5% reduction in order to calculate the final Council Tax support entitlement.
3. That Council approves the Discretionary Additional Relief Scheme and that any future changes are delegated to the Director of Customers and Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources.

10. Recommendation of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles 2013 to 2016

The Council considered the Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles 2013 to 2016 report.

Resolved:

The Council formally adopts the Statement of Principles relating to the Gambling Act 2005 for the period 31st January 2013 to 30th January 2016.

11. Recommendation of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet: Relocation of the One Stop Shop

The Council considered the Relocation of the One Stop Shop report.

Councillor Serridge briefly outlined the purpose of the report to members.

An amendment was moved by Councillor D Smith and seconded by Councillor Milling to amend the wording of recommendation 1.3 to state the following:

‘That a further report is presented to Members, in due course, on the long term future of STAN the van. Should it cease to operate, suitable alternative provision will be put in place to cover the West of the Borough’

A point of order was raised by Councillor Marriott as the proposed amendment would incur financial implications and a decision could not be made by full council without further consideration.

A point of order was also raised by Councillor Aldred in relation to passing resolutions and whether this was legal. The Director of Business clarified this point with Councillor Aldred advising on the potential of the Council fettering its discretion.

The Section 151 Officer responded to the proposed amendment as not being appropriate as it had implications for the 2014/15 Budget.

The meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes in order for the viability of the amendment to be discussed.

On commencement of the meeting, the Leader gave assurances that a further report would be presented to members in due course as to what could be put in place if STAN was to cease to operate.

Following this, Councillor D Smith withdrew the proposed amendment.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Developing, enhancement and improvement for the Rossendale Valley
- Removal of One Stop Shop and concern there would be no Rossendale Borough Council ‘face to face’ contact in the Rawtenstall area
- Reducing cost and increasing services in the borough

Resolved:

1. That the Members approve the capital investment of £160k and the relocation of the One Stop Shop from Rawtenstall to the Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup, with additional use of STAN to the West of the Borough.
2. That Members agree to the immediate marketing of the One Stop Shop in order to seek and secure a tenant. Should that not be successful, Members agree to the demolition of the current OSS once all services and staff have vacated. Timing details and contract matters being delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources.
3. That a further report is presented to Members, in due course, on the long term future of STAN the van and consideration be given to services West of the Borough.

12. Recommendation of the Governance Working Group: Constitution Review

The Council considered the Constitution Review report.

Resolved:

1. To amend the Members Questions wording at Part 4 section 10.1 to “A Member must submit written questions to Committee and Member Services by 9.00am at least 2 days before the day of the meeting (not including weekends or public holidays) to enable the question to be included in the Council Agenda, e.g. if the Council meeting is on a Wednesday the deadline is 9.00am on Monday prior to the meeting, or 9.00am on Friday for bank holiday weekends. Written questions will take priority over verbal questions and will be taken if there is time.”
2. To amend the Speaking Procedures for Development Control at Part 2 Article 3 to “Any elected member who is not a member of the committee may, by prior agreement with the chair, address the committee for a maximum of 5 minutes on each application that is within their ward. A member of another ward may be permitted to speak at the discretion of the chair.”

ORDINARY BUSINESS

13. SCOUT MOOR UPDATE

The Council considered the Scout Moor Update.

Councillor Lamb updated members informing them that due to reasons beyond Rossendale Borough Council’s control, the timescale for this had been pushed back by PEEL.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Welcomed update

- Request to stop further wind farm developments within Rossendale
- Training to be provided to members in the new year in relation to wind farms
- Ideas for venues for consultation in the new year from Coronation Power along with PEEL

Resolved:

That the contents of the report are noted; that any suggestions for venues for public consultation by Coronation Power are made to the Director of Business and that the Scout Moor Members Working Group is engaged in assessment of Coronation Power’s proposals when these are received.

14. LOCALISM ACT 2011 - DISPENSATIONS

The Council considered the Localism Act 2011 – Dispensations report.

Resolved:

1. That a general dispensation be granted to all members of the Council for the period of four years from 12th December 2012 in the following circumstances:
 - a. any allowance payment or indemnity granted to a member.
 - b. setting the Council Tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
2. In all other circumstances the decision to grant a dispensation is delegated to the Monitoring Officer.

15. STANDARDS UPDATE

The Council considered the Monitoring Officers report in relation to Standards.

The Monitoring Officer stated that there was no further information to be provided.

Councillor Neal made a personal statement on the report and referred to timescales of the payment to the Trust.

Resolved:

That Members note the outcome of the Standard Panel hearing on 27th September 2012.

16. 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 8.25pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date