

COUNCILLOR BRIAN ESSEX, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 20th March 2013

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: 1 representative of the press
3 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Crawforth, Eaton. McInnes and Milling.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27th February 2013 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

There were no declarations of interest.

5. OUTSTANDING ITEMS OF BUSINESS FROM THE LAST MEETING

There were no outstanding items to report.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions asked by members of the public.

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

The Leader informed members that this evening they had signed the heads of terms with Together Housing and Barnfield regarding the joint venture. They would proceed to work in partnership and have published their first year's work programme at Cabinet.

The Leader also thanked everyone in the organisation including staff and members who participated in the Big Clean-up, and informed that 120 bags of rubbish had been collected which was a great achievement.

The Mayor and 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.	How today's budget will effect local people in Rossendale?	Councillor Serridge	Councillor Marriot informed there would be debt not growth and recession after recession. It will be harder for people and living standards will fall.
2.	Overflowing dog fouling bins at Cowm Reservoir BWSC and HGVs tipping into the quarries at back Cowm. Fine dust in the area had traces of asbestos.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Lamb informed that there were 3 bins which were emptied on Monday and Thursdays and that the issue with the lorries needed to be followed up with Lancashire County Council (LCC). Councillor Barnes informed she was glad he had taken it up with LCC and hoped they took the matter seriously.
3.	Update on work being done by the financial inclusion group and lack of LCC support to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).	Councillor Procter	Councillor Jackson informed that the group of key stakeholders had met over the last 8-10 months and agreed terms of reference. They were an action group and had set priorities for the next 6 months and would promote good work to support vulnerable people. Councillor Barnes informed she would be responding and lobbying LCC regarding CAB support.
4.	Impacts of cuts to the Lancashire police budget and funding for PCSO's.	Councillor Oakes	Councillor Barnes read a response from the Police and Crime Commissioner and informed she would ensure all members received a copy of the Police and Crime Plan. She also informed that

			she would be happy to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner outlining any issues.
5.	Impact of bedroom tax on Rossendale families.	Councillor Gill	Councillor Barnes informed of differences in circumstances which would impact on families. Foster carers would still be penalised, as well as single people with more than one bedroom.
6.	Congratulating the Whitworth Vale and Healey Band on their success in the North West Area Brass Band Championships, and the event on 20 th April.	Councillor Aldred	Councillor Barnes was delighted to hear about their success and congratulated them on behalf of the Council. She also urged everyone to buy tickets to their event.
7.	A recently re-lined bus stop in Haslingden that had not been a bus stop for 20 years and 20mph signage.	Councillor Kenyon	Councillor Barnes informed that this was a minor incident in the scheme of things especially with the 20mph signs, and it was not good timing when there was so much pressure on resources.
8.	How many looked after children from outside the borough.	Councillor Robertson	Councillor Barnes agreed to raise this issue with LCC.
9.	The future of, and plans for Rossendale Museum. Staff concerns and ensuring the site did not become vulnerable to vandalism.	Councillor Cheetham	Councillor MacNae informed that they have given notice to end the contract with LCC on 31 st March. They had asked for a 6 month extension but LCC had rejected this. There had been expressions of interest in the Museum, but in the interim the Council was looking at arrangements for weekends. There was a need to maintain custodial arrangements.
10.	Cost of production and delivery of the LCC magazine.	Councillor Lamb	Councillor Barnes informed that it had cost £70,000 and the money could have been better spent e.g. on the Museum or youth services.
11.	Bus travel costs for young people.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Barnes informed that we do not have a one card arrangement owing to the different transport services involved.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

9. Recommendation of the Licensing and Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees: Sexual Entertainment Venues

The Council considered the Sexual Entertainment Venues report.

Resolved:

1. That Council adopt the policy for the control of sexual entertainment venues under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
2. That Council approve the standard conditions applicable to licences for Sexual Entertainment Venues.
3. That all future minor amendments to the policy be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

10. SCOUT MOOR UPDATE

The Council considered the Scout Moor Update report.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Coronation power plan delayed for consultation.
- Peel to submit plans next year after two consultation phases.
- Performance Plan agreement was in place ready to be signed soon.
- The member steering group would reconvene after Purdah.
- Revisit the policy on wind farms and look into introducing a moratorium.
- Peel negotiations to sell to a German company.
- Being watchful on the number of turbines.
- Protect grazing countryside.

In response to a question from Councillor Neal, the Leader of the Council informed that she could not comment on Peel negotiations to sell as it was their business.

Councillor Smith agreed to pass on details in relation to the moratorium.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report are noted and that negotiations on a Planning Performance Agreement be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

11. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

The Council considered the Pay Policy Statement report.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Radio item and academic study on what makes people happy at work.
- Remuneration.
- Welcome the Living Wage.

- Pay ration 1:5 would be more suitable.
- Welcome work on pay conditions for staff on lower grades.
- Should remuneration be decreasing with less services?
- No work responsibilities are going away.
- Fewer people with increased workloads.
- Not just about remuneration but also about challenge.
- Challenges are greater.
- Urge to ensure council suppliers and contractors support the Living Wage.
- Difference between public and private sector.

Resolved:

That Full Council approves the Pay Policy Statement.

12. CORPORATE PLAN

The Council considered the Corporate Plan report.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Haslingden and Whitworth not mentioned.
- Plan brings into details the corporate priorities.
- Balances value for money with investment and growth.
- Lots of regeneration in Whitworth with social and private sector development.
- Albert Mill complex regeneration.
- Positive comments increase confidence and investments.
- Regeneration of the whole borough.
- Focussed plan.

Resolved:

1. That full Council approves the Council's Corporate Plan for 2013-16.
2. That all future minor amendments during the period of the plan to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

13. COMMITTEE SCHEDULE 2013/2014 (PUBLIC MEETINGS)

The Council considered the Committee Schedule of public meetings for 2013/2014.

Resolved:

That members agree the Committee Schedule containing dates of public meetings for 2013/2014.

14. URGENT DECISIONS

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

The Leader of the Council thanked the Mayor on the way he had conducted himself during his term of office and wished him well for the future.

The Mayor announced that this was the last council meeting of the 2012/13 municipal year and thanked all members for their participation and conduct over the last year.

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.45pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date