

COUNCILLOR AMANDA ROBERTSON, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 26th March 2014

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Robertson (in the Chair)
Councillors Aldred, Ashworth, Barnes, Cheetham, Crawforth,
Creaser, De Souza, Essex, Farrington, Fletcher, Gill, Hughes,
Jackson, Kenyon, Knowles, Lamb, McInnes, MacNae, Marriott,
Milling, Morris, Neal, Oakes, Pilling, Procter, Sandiford,
Serridge, Shipley, D.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 member of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bleakley, Eaton, Evans, Roberts and M. Smith.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26th February 2014 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 from members of the public.

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

The Mayor thanked everyone who helped with the bag pack, especially Pink Panther, and informed that £511 had been raised for charity.

The Leader informed members that subject to Cabinet approval at Lancashire County Council (LCC), Rossendale along with Pendle would receive £60k health funding to support work to improve participation. She would keep members informed of the outcome. Rossendale had also been allocated the majority share of Pennine Reach funding. LCC were reviewing the X43 corridor from Nelson to Rawtenstall and looking into a right turn at Tup Bridge up Haslingden Old Road. There would also be smart system work on the traffic lights at Tup Bridge and the lights on Newchurch Road would also be part of this mechanism.

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.	Restaurants and takeaways in Haslingden, the Council's Takeaway Policy, and new planning regulations.	Councillor Kenyon	Councillor Barnes updated members on the regulations and asked for concerns to be reported to the Enforcement Team.
2.	Action regarding the sheep roaming freely around Balladen and police action.	Councillor McInnes	Councillor Barnes informed that roaming sheep were a police issue and relating to the school LCC issues. She agreed to take this up with the police.
3.	Praise for Balladen, Helmshore and St Veronica's Primary Schools and staff for achievement in Sunday Times top 10 places to live for primary education.	Councillor Hughes	Councillor Barnes was delighted to support this.
4.	Asking LCC to inform utilities companies not to leave traffic lights up when no road works were taking place.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Barnes agreed to raise through LCC scrutiny.
5.	Side waste, recycling facilities and fly tipping.	Councillor Cheetham	Councillor Barnes agreed to get back regarding fly

			tipping and whether there was any evidence of an increase.
6.	Behaviour of an elected member at a recent Haslingden Task Force meeting.	Councillor Kenyon	Councillor Barnes condoned the behaviour.
7.	Bingo and the possibility of opening Bacup bingo hall.	Councillor Jackson	Councillor Barnes informed that if there was a demand they would look into it.
8.	Promoting unity among members.	Councillor D. Smith	Councillor Barnes informed that she was unsure what was meant.

In relation to question 6, Councillor Morris made a personal statement that he felt he had not been given a fair hearing at the meeting. Councillor Barnes informed that he had asked an abundance of questions and there was a need to work constructively.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

9. Recommendation of the Licensing and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committees: Revised Statement of Licensing Policy

The Council considered the Revised Statement of Licensing Policy.

Resolved:

That Council adopts the revised Statement of Licensing Policy relating to the Licensing Act 2003 for a further five years.

10. Recommendation of the Licensing and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committees: Revised policy statement on guidelines to convictions including statement of policy about relevant convictions

The Council considered the revised policy statement on guidelines to convictions including statement of policy about relevant convictions. The Mayor informed members that an amended recommendation had been circulated and which members were asked to vote on.

Resolved:

1. That Council adopt the Revised Policy Statement on Guidelines to Convictions including Statement of Policy about Relevant Convictions.
2. That all future minor amendments to the policy be delegated to the Director for Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.
3. That Council agree that all other amendments to the policy are delegated to the Licensing Committee, and that the Licensing Committee Terms of Reference in the Constitution are updated to reflect this change.

11. Recommendation of the Governance and Training Working Group: Constitution Review

The Council considered the Constitution Review report.

Councillor Serridge moved and Barnes seconded to approve the recommendations but with an amendment to remove 1.1 to allow further consultation to take place in relation to Overview and Scrutiny.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Support amendment.
- Further discussions required and consultation before changes made to Overview and Scrutiny.
- Workloads had not been reduced.
- Not about saving member allowances.

Members voted on the amendment and it became the substantive motion.

Resolved:

1. To note that the Council amalgamated with, Burnley & Pendle Borough Councils to form one Community Safety Steering Group, to provide support, advice and direction to District community safety delivery forums.
2. To merge Governance and Training Working Group with the Civic Matters Working Group and it will be called Governance Working Group.
3. That the changes detailed in the report commence from May 2014.
4. To agree the amended terms of reference and delegations (Appendix B) and update the Council's Constitution with the required changes.
5. To amend the Standing Orders for Council Meetings to include having a recorded vote for the setting of the Council budget and Council Tax as detailed at Appendix C.

12. Recommendation of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Members Mobile Phone Policy

The Council considered the Members Mobile Phone Policy.

Councillor Serridge moved that reference to the requirement to return the box the mobile came in be removed from the policy. This was not seconded.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Inability to open attachments.
- Blackberry opened attachments.
- Raising problems with IT or contact the Portfolio Holder to take issues forward.
- Responsibilities detailed at 3.2 if the device is stolen.
- Harsh if device has to be replaced by the councillor if they have been robbed.
- House insurance cover.

Councillor Serridge moved and Councillor Marriot seconded the recommendations of the report with an amendment to remove the first bullet point of the policy at 3.2 regarding responsibility for financial loss and to remove the requirement to return the original box (also detailed within section 3.2).

Members continued to discuss the following:

- Phones being stolen e.g. handbags snatched.
- Council insurance policy.
- Costs being re-charged to the user.

In response to questions from members the Chief Executive confirmed that the Council had an insurance policy however there was a large excess. The policy was a members policy but the officers policy was the same.

Members voted on the amendment which became the substantive motion.

Resolved:

That the Members Mobile Phone Policy is approved subject to the removal of the first bullet point at 3.2 regarding responsibility for financial loss and the removal of the requirement to return the original box (also at 3.2).

ORDINARY BUSINESS

13. SCOUT MOOR AND ROOLEY MOOR WIND FARM UPDATE

The Council considered the update report.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Agreed planning performance agreement for Scout Moor.
- Peel Energy public exhibitions in April regarding 26 turbines.
- Coronation Power proposal for 17 turbines, 2 within Rossendale.
- Independent consultant views.
- Council will know in 29 days if the projects will be considered as one large one and decided by the Secretary of State.
- Transportation routes for turbines.
- Coronation Power mentioned using Edenfield as a backup contingency route.
- Raise issues with LCC via the 3 Tier Forum.
- S106 agreements on applications not applicants.
- Wind turbines costing in excess of £200 per annum for each dual fuel user.

In response to a question raised by an elected member the Director of Business confirmed that under the Town and Country Planning Act S106 agreements had to be attached to the land and not the owner. Therefore any amendments to a S106 would have to come back to the Council.

Resolved:

That the contents of the Report are noted; that responses on the different consultations and liaison with developers are delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

14. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

The Council considered the Pay Policy Statement report.

Resolved:

That Full Council approves the Pay Policy Statement.

15. NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS – CHANGES FROM APRIL 2014

The Council considered the Neighbourhood Forums report.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- 8.3 should say 2014.
- Support for a lot of community based groups.
- Officer support and lots of projects as a result of the forums.
- Benefits to Whitworth.
- Advantages of small grants.
- Some of organisations receiving bigger grants had their foundations through the forums.
- Important to continue this work.
- Benefits to the communities.

The Leader of the Council thanked staff for the work they had done to support the forums.

Resolved:

1. That Council approves the proposed changes to Neighbourhood Forum arrangements from April 2014 as outlined in the report, to be reviewed annually.
2. That the £20,000 allocated to support the continuation of Neighbourhood Forum grants in 2014/15 be allocated pro rata by size of Forum, with a maximum grant available of £500.
3. That all appropriate changes to the Council Constitution regarding Neighbourhood Forums be put in place.
4. That all future minor amendments to Neighbourhood Forums be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Barnes moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Lamb:

FIXED ODDS BETTING TERMINALS

1. *This council notes the terrible impact on vulnerable people in Rossendale caused by the prevalence of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) in betting shops.*
2. *That, unlike fruit machines in pubs, bingo halls and amusement arcades where cash stakes are limited to £2, gamblers can bet with cash or via a debit card up to £100 every 20 seconds on FOBTs, more than four times as fast as the rate of play in casinos.*
3. *That in 2012, over £1.5bn was lost on FOBTs across the UK. More profit was made from FOBTs than from the National Lottery, when according to the most recent British Gambling Prevalence Survey, 56% of the population play the Lottery, but just 4% play FOBTs.*

4. *Empirical evidence that suggests FOBTs are the most addictive form of gambling.*

That this council asks the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to outline the terms of this motion and demand urgent action against FOBTs by the Government.

In considering the motion members discussed the following:

- Machines used by drug dealers for money laundering.
- Article in the Guardian.
- In 2012 £270 million had been taken from these terminals in East Lancashire.
- £41 million taken in Rossendale and Darwen and £49 million in Hyndburn.
- Chancellor announcement as part of the budget regarding adjustments being made to have a cut-off point on certain premises.
- Was there anything the Council could do to stop this in the borough?
- Tougher planning and licensing rules for betting shops.
- Impact on families and relatives.
- Mary Portas quoted that it was better a betting shop than an empty shop.
- Young people taking lives owing to debt.

Resolved:

That the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to outline the terms of this motion and demand urgent action against FOBTs by the Government, and that issues regarding their use for money laundering would also be highlighted.

17. 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 7.30pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date