

COUNCILLOR THOMAS ALDRED, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 24th September 2014

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

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
4 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Bleakley, Crawforth, Eaton, Evans, Kenyon, Knowles and McInnes.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16th July 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

The following declarations of interest were made:

- Councillor Kempson declared a personal interest in minute 9 as he was a commoner.
- Councillors Aldred and Morris declared an interest in item 11 as they were directors on the board of the Leisure Trust.

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.	Why was the Council guarantor for the Leisure Trust lease, why was the decision urgent and what was the lease for? If it was for equipment for Haslingden, had it not already been replaced in 2012?	Mrs Freeman	Councillor Barnes informed that the lease was for replacement equipment for Haslingden gym and that the need for a guarantor was not known until the eleventh hour as they had not needed one for their existing lease. Renewal of equipment was done on a regular basis. The Mayor informed that the lease was not for replacement of all equipment but partial replacement for equipment from 2008 that hadn't yet been replaced.

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

The Mayor had no communications to report.

The Leader had no communications to report.

The Chief Executive informed members that Councillor Sandiford would be replacing Councillor Milling on the Rossendale 3 Tier Forum.

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.	Different approaches to grass cutting in different parts of the Borough. Consider removing some grassed areas, or replacing them with wildflower meadows.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Barnes informed that sites were assessed individually and sites were being monitored and any feedback received was being reviewed. She would feed back Councillor Neal's views to the service area.
2.	Did the enthusiasm and intelligence shown by the 16 to 18 year olds on Question	Councillor Hughes	Councillor Barnes agreed.

	Time validate the Council's recent decision to support lowering the voting age to 16?		
3.	Improvements in communication and consultation with all members, specifically in relation to major developments such as the Valley Centre.	Councillor D.Smith	Councillor Barnes informed that an update had been provided to the Chamber of Commerce AGM as it was important to keep stakeholders updated, but this was just an update. A more detailed drop in session for all members had been organised for 20 th October between 4.30-6.30pm in room 110.
4.	Assurance that everything was being done to safeguard children in Rossendale from all kinds of abuse.	Councillor Shipley	Councillor Barnes informed that it was a serious matter and lots of work was being undertaken by the higher tier authority. More awareness for members was required and more information would be obtained from county and circulated to members.
5.	Refuse collection changes in Greenfield and Worsley wards and concerns that some people would have a 3 – 3½ week wait for a food waste collection.	Councillor Morris	Councillor Barnes informed that she would investigate.
6.	Refuse collection changes in Helmshore and storage advice for those having to wait 3 weeks for a green waste collection.	Councillor Essex	Councillor Barnes informed that she would investigate.
7.	Encouraging members to promote and nominate for Rossendale Business Awards – closing date 30 th September.	Councillor MacNae	Councillor Barnes encouraged members to nominate local businesses and that it would be good to see more member involvement.
8.	Planning conditions not always being adhered to by some applicants. Loss of residential amenity and there was now LED lighting around the site.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Barnes informed that enforcement officers had investigated the area in question and the low timber wall was unacceptable. A higher closed boarded wooden fence was proposed and this was considered acceptable as it addressed the purposes of the original condition. A wooden fence was also seen as acceptable as there wasn't any

			stone frontages around the site.
9.	Replacement of the litter bin in the bus stop in Edenfield. Reported the issue but it hasn't been replaced.	Councillor Cheetham	Councillor Barnes informed that she would investigate.
10.	Urge members to report any racial hatred notices being placed in bus shelters in Haslingden, and also incidents in Rawtenstall.	Councillor Sandiford	Councillor Barnes urged members to report any incidents to the Police and Council immediately.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

9. SCOUT MOOR/ROOLEY MOOR UPDATE

The Council considered the Scout Moor/Rooley Moor update report.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Welcome report and update.
- Major development and impact.
- Reminding developers to respond to residents concerns in a timely manner.

In response to a request from Councillor D.Smith, Councillor Barnes agreed to write to the developers to remind them of their responsibilities in responding to residents concerns.

Resolved:

1. That Council note the current situation on Scout Moor and Rooley Moor Wind Farms and the decision making process.
2. All future minor amendments to the Planning Performance Agreements to be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

To keep members updated on the current position regarding progress on major wind farms in the area.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

10. LIVES AND LANDSCAPES LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

The Council considered the Lives and Landscapes Local Plan Consultation report.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Important piece of work.
- Impact for years to come.
- Regular updates and consultation.
- Continuing to consult and listen to residents.
- Was Victoria Park designated as a protected site?

- Excellent work.
- Ensuring case officers consult with Forward Planning when applications come forward.
- Taken on extra consultation.
- Writing to people bordering land.
- Listening to residents.
- Meeting with Rawtenstall residents about sites they were concerned about.
- Work is important in safeguarding against unwanted development.
- Council is under pressure to build and meet housing targets.
- Documents will be reviewed and updated.
- Only by delivering housing targets, reviewing boundaries and developing a plan, can we protect sites.

In response to a question from Councillor Morris, Councillor Lamb confirmed that Victoria Park would be listed as a recreational area, and that he would need to check with Forward Planning in relation to whether it was a protected site. In response to Councillor Neal, she informed that case officers did consult with Forward Planning on planning applications.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report are noted.

Reason for Decision

To ensure members are aware of the progress that is being made in respect of developing *Lives and Landscapes*, the Site Allocations and Development Management DPD, also known as Local Plan Part 2, and in particular the 6-week consultation scheduled for November/December 2014 on an Initial Draft of the Local Plan Part 2, which will identify potential allocations and designations as well as a list of proposed Development Management policies.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

11. URGENT DECISIONS

The Mayor asked members to note that one special urgency decision had been taken by the Cabinet since the last meeting. This was in relation to the Council acting as guarantor for the lease agreement of £101,400 for gym equipment for Rossendale Leisure Trust.

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.30pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date