

COUNCILLOR ANN KENYON, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 18th July 2018

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Kenyon (in the Chair)
Councillors Aldred, Ashworth, A. Barnes, Bromley, Cheetham,
James Eaton, Janet Eaton, Essex, Fletcher, Haworth, Hughes,
Johnson, Kempson, Kostyan, Lamb, Lythgoe, MacNae, Marriott,
Morris, Oakes, Procter, Roberts, Robertson, Serridge,
Smallridge, Stansfield, Steen, Stevens and Walmsley.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Stuart Sugarman, Chief Executive
Clare Birtwistle, Legal Services Manager (Monitoring Officer)
Cath Burns, Director of Economic Development
Sam Plum, Director of Communities
Stephanie Carroll, Civic Services Officer/Leader's P.A.
Glenda Ashton, Committee and Member Services Officer
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant**

**ALSO PRESENT: 3 members of the public
0 press**

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors L Barnes, Farrington, Gill, Graham, Neal and Shipley.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors A Barnes, MacNae and Essex declared non-pecuniary interests in the RTB Board. Councillor Morris declared a non-pecuniary interest in Rossendale Leisure Trust.

3. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

4. Outstanding Items of Business

Outstanding items of business from the previous Council meeting were taken under item A4 (Minutes 5-8).

5. Roll of Honour

The Mayor commended Philip Dunne for his service to the borough and communities of Rossendale. Philip was unable to attend the meeting but had invited the Mayor and Leader of the Council to attend the school to present the award. The Mayor advised

that Philip's contributions were as Chairman of the Governing Body at Stubbins Primary School and his 41 years of service on the Governors.

The Mayor noted that people of Rossendale should rightfully be very proud of him.

Councillor Cheetham added her congratulations for his remarkable devotion to the school.

6. Communications from the Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor A. Barnes, informed that Rossendale Council's Planning Team had been one of five Local Authorities nominated for a most prestigious planning award. The Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTPI) Awards for Planning Excellence were the most established and respected awards in the UK planning industry. The team were recognised for their impressive track record in taking development from concept stage to completion in schemes across the Borough, working with developers and delivering high quality outcomes that benefit both residents and visitors. The team had worked on solutions to enable the progression of key local regeneration schemes such as the new bus station, Town Hall and Spinning Point. She congratulated the team for their achievements.

The Leader also congratulated the Communities Team at Rossendale Council, who had won an award for Outstanding Locality Work at the CCG Excellence Awards on 28th June for the Living Well Living Better project. The project, which started in 2016 focussed on the issues of isolation and loneliness in adults. The award recognised projects which improved services to patients by identifying need and making positive and sustainable changes. The project was a great example of partnership working on the issues of loneliness and social isolation.

7. Councillor Essex moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Steen:

That a resolution be passed to change the Council's Constitution and Public Speaking procedures to reflect the following:

- 1. That Question Time for Citizens and Members of the Council be part of the Council Meeting.*
- 2. That Citizens have the right to ask one supplementary question that must arise directly out of the original question or answer.*
- 3. That Citizens' questions, and answers to the same, should not exceed 3 minutes each.*
- 4. That Citizens attending the Council meeting have the right to ask one question each when all written questions have been answered if there is sufficient time left in Public Question Time and the question falls within the scope outlined in the Constitution.*
- 5. That Members have the right to ask one question each when all written questions have been answered if there is sufficient time left in Question Time and the question falls within the scope outlined in the Constitution.*

In considering the motion members discussed the following:

- Many Councils had abolished question time including Lancashire County Council.
- The procedure was similar to what had been in place previously.
- The proposal should be discussed at the Governance Working Group before being brought to full Council.

Councillor Serridge moved and Councillor Hughes seconded that the motion be rejected and Members go straight to a vote on the Notice of Motion.

Following a show of hands the majority of members agreed to go straight to a vote on the Notice of Motion.

A named vote was requested by Councillors Essex, Morris and Serridge.

Name	Vote
Cllr Aldred	Against
Cllr Ashworth	Against
Cllr Alyson Barnes	Against
Cllr Bromley	Against
Cllr Cheetham	For
Cllr James Eaton	For
Cllr Janet Eaton	For
Cllr Essex	For
Cllr Fletcher	Against
Cllr Haworth	For
Cllr Hughes	Against
Cllr Johnson	Against
Cllr Kempson	For
Cllr Kenyon	Abstain
Cllr Kostyan	For
Cllr Lamb	Against
Cllr Lythgoe	Against
Cllr MacNae	Against
Cllr Marriott	Against
Cllr Morris	For
Cllr Oakes	Against
Cllr Procter	Against
Cllr Roberts	For
Cllr Robertson	Against
Cllr Serridge	Against
Cllr Smallridge	Against
Cllr Stansfield	For
Cllr Steen	For
Cllr Stevens	Against
Cllr Walmsley	Against
Total For	11
Total Against	18
Total Abstentions	1

Resolved:

The motion was lost.

Reason for Decision

To reject the motion.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. Notice of Motion by Councillors Serridge and Marriott

The motion was withdrawn.

9. Councillor Serridge moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Hughes:

Councillor Essex raised a point of order, that the Leader of the Council had already written to the Secretary of State for Education and that the Notice of Motion was not necessary. The Mayor confirmed that the Leader of the Council had written a letter personally and that this motion was to send a letter from the Council. The Notice of Motion could be heard.

This Council shares the frustration, upset and concern felt by the local community, local parents and now even pupils about the current situation of secondary school placements in the east of the borough.

Council asks the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Education and ask him to personally intervene in what is becoming an untenable situation.

In considering the motion members discussed the following:

- The school had been failing for a number of years. Why were concerns only just being raised.
- The Head Teacher was happy with the support being given and pupils and parents opposed the motion.
- The issue was too important to politicise.
- Meetings had taken place with the Head Teacher, Governors, LCC and parents.
- The school's reputation and the negative impact reports on Social Media were having.
- Concerns about falling numbers and consequently reduced funding.

A named vote was requested by Councillors Essex, Morris and Serridge.

Name	Vote
Cllr Aldred	For
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr Alyson Barnes	For
Cllr Bromley	For
Cllr Cheetham	Abstain
Cllr James Eaton	Abstain

Cllr Janet Eaton	Abstain
Cllr Essex	Abstain
Cllr Fletcher	For
Cllr Haworth	Abstain
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Johnson	For
Cllr Kempson	Abstain
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Kostyan	Abstain
Cllr Lamb	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr MacNae	For
Cllr Marriott	For
Cllr Morris	Abstain
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Roberts	Abstain
Cllr Robertson	For
Cllr Serridge	For
Cllr Smallridge	For
Cllr Stansfield	Abstain
Cllr Steen	Abstain
Cllr Stevens	For
Cllr Walmsley	For
Total For	19
Total Against	0
Total Abstentions	11

Resolved:

The motion was carried.

Reason for Decision

To support the notice of motion.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

10. Exclusion of Public and Press

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

N.B. A break was taken at this point.

11. Investment Property Purchase

The Council considered and discussed the Investment Property Purchase report, which was introduced by Councillor Walmsley, Portfolio Holder for Resources.

Resolved:

That the recommendations of the report be agreed.

Reason for Decision

This investment opportunity was key to delivering the Council’s Corporate Strategy, Medium Term Financial Strategy and the emerging Economic Development Strategy for Rossendale.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

12. Spinning Point Phase 2

The Council considered and discussed the Spinning Point Phase 2 report, which was introduced by Councillor MacNae, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Tourism. A presentation was made by the Director of Economic Development.

Resolved:

That the recommendations of the report be agreed.

Reason for Decision

Spinning Point Phase 2 was key to delivering the Vision for Rawtenstall and the Council’s Corporate Strategy.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.35pm and concluded at 8.50pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date