

COUNCILLOR JOYCE PAWSON, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 7th November 2007

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor J. Pawson (in the Chair)
Councillors Aldred, A. Barnes, L. Barnes, Challinor,
Cheetham, Dickinson, Driver, Essex, Farrington,
Forshaw, Gill, Graham, Hewlett, Lamb, Morris, Neal,
Nuttall, S. Pawson, Pilling, Robertson, Ruddick,
Sandiford, Smith, Steen, Swain, Thorne and Wilson**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive
Linda Fisher, Executive Director of Regulatory Services
Bill Lawley, Interim Legal and Democratic Services Manager
Heather Moore, Committee and Member Services Manager
Carolyn Law, Committee Services Officer**

**ALSO PRESENT: Mr A Neville, Independent Chair of the Standards Committee
County Councillor Serridge
4 Members of the Public
2 Representatives from the Press**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Durkin, Eaton, Haworth, Unsworth and Hancock.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th August 2007 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Council were asked to consider whether they had an interest in any matters to be discussed at the meeting and the following interest was declared:

Councillor Nuttall expressed a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute Number 11 (Lancashire Local – Rossendale) by virtue that a close family member works for Lancashire County Council and represents her Directorate at Lancashire Local Meetings.

4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Mayor reported that there were no items of business.

5. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the Appointment of Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2007/08.

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor. Councillor Christine Gill was proposed by Councillor Alyson Barnes and seconded by Councillor Duncan Ruddick.

Resolved:

1. That the eligibility criteria in relation to the nomination for the Deputy Mayor being in at least their second term of office be suspended for this appointment.
2. That Councillor Christine Gill be appointed Deputy Mayor for the remainder of 2007/08.

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

The Mayor welcomed newly elected Councillors Durkin, Farrington and Nuttall.

The Mayor informed the Council about a Music Event being held in memory of Sophie Lancaster which was taking place on the 30th November 2007 at 7.30pm at Bacup Leisure Hall. Proceeds raised would go to the Sophie Lancaster Memorial Fund.

The Leader of the Council reported that he had no communications.

The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the newly elected members had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions raised under this item.

8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

A number of questions were raised under this item and a summary of those questions and responses are detailed below.

Councillor Lamb asked when the contents of the feasibility study relating to the proposals for a waste transfer station together with the options on locations for the siting of the station would be shared with all elected members. She also enquired about the funding from Lancashire County Council and whether this would be withdrawn if a decision on the location had not been agreed. In response, Councillor Driver, Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale reported that the feasibility study was part of the Council's ongoing waste management strategy and a report would be considered at the next meeting of the Cabinet.

Councillor Robertson submitted a written question in advance of the meeting which was put to Councillor Driver, Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green Rossendale. The question related to the arrangements for the collection of rubbish from Rossendale

schools, and whether recycling was being encouraged. In response, Councillor Driver referred to a report she had presented to the Cabinet earlier in the year which had identified a number of changes in legislation regarding the collection of waste and recycling which had resulted in schools being re-classified as domestic waste from April 2007. Councillor Driver reported that some schools had opted out of receiving a collection by the Council and had made alternative arrangements. She further reported that numerous campaigns had been undertaken in schools to educate on the need to recycle and extra recycling receptacles had been provided. Councillor Driver indicated that she would investigate any specific issues which elected members may have.

Councillor Sandiford asked for an update on an item which had been raised by a member of the British Legion at a previous Cabinet meeting relating to Greenfield Memorial Gardens and how the civic arrangements were proceeding leading up to Remembrance Sunday. The Leader of the Council responded by informing the Council that he had met with the NEAT manager on 14th August 2008 and as a result various work had been carried out and additional work would be carried out closer to Remembrance Sunday. The Leader of the Council also informed the meeting that branches of the British Legion had been contacted to ask for their comments on memorials. Further work was being carried out on other memorials across the Borough.

Councillor Sandiford asked a further question to Councillor Essex, the Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council about the outcomes of the £200,000 which had been allocated in the Building Capital Programme. In response Councillor Essex explained that the Asset Management Plan had been developed and a number of priorities had emerged. A total of £800,000 had been allocated to the Capital Programme over three years to invest in public buildings.

Councillor Neal asked if the Leader of the Council would set up a meeting with the Road Safety Partnership to discuss concerns about road traffic accidents and speeding incidents in Whitworth. The Leader of the Council responded by stating that this could be a topic which could be taken forward for investigation by Overview and Scrutiny and he indicated that he would ask the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to look into the matter.

Councillor Neal asked a further question to the Leader of the Council regarding whether the Council would sign up to World Respect Day with a proposed date of 11th August in remembrance of Sophie Lancaster. The Leader of the Council indicated that he would look into this and any event would need to be discussed with the family.

In response to a further question raised by Councillor Neal relating to Riverside in Whitworth, it was reported that the matter would be looked into by the Legal Services Section.

Councillor Smith asked the Leader of the Council to join him in congratulating Stubbins Residents Association regarding them being awarded runner up in the North West in Bloom competition. The Leader of the Council acknowledged that this was a remarkable achievement in such a short timescale. He reported that the Council had been supportive of the event by way of allocating a grant through the Neighbourhood Forum funding.

Councillor Aldred asked the Leader of the Council about the progress of a question he

had raised at a previous meeting of the Council regarding a request for a schedule of grass cutting throughout the Borough. The Leader of the Council responded by saying this would be investigated and reported back on.

Councillor Aldred asked a further question regarding a report on litter bins which had been considered at the last meeting of the Cabinet and he asked for clarification of the decision made by the Cabinet as two reports had been submitted. The Leader of the Council responded by indicating that the Cabinet had accepted the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny report and the report of the Portfolio Holder was circulated as background information.

Councillor Robertson asked a related question to the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee concerning why there were two reports on the same subject. The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny informed Council that a report was produced by the Task and Finish Group. A report was also prepared by the Portfolio Holder and the Head of Street Scene and Neighbourhood Services which was submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee but this was not agreed by the Committee and the original report of the Task and Finish Group was recommended to Cabinet.

Councillor A. Barnes asked a question to the Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale regarding textile collections and what plans there were for more efficient ways to collect textiles. Councillor A. Barnes reported that older collection vehicles had a space behind the driver for textiles but the new vehicles had no room for textiles. In response, the Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green Rossendale stated that there were no changes planned for textile recycling currently as there wasn't much demand for that service.

Councillor A. Barnes asked an additional question to the Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale regarding the charge of £21 that had to be paid for green waste bins and whether it could be waived for elderly people obtaining their first bin. The Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green Rossendale responded by stating that the price is the same for everyone for obtaining green bins, however recycling bins were free. She indicated that it may be appropriate for the household to have an authorised bag collection and the individual case could be looked into.

Councillor Lamb asked a question to the Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale concerning side waste and the use of authorised side waste labels for those with no green bins and whether this approach had been implemented. The Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale confirmed that the labels had been produced and were being distributed and up to four black bags per household would be taken for people using the labels.

Councillor Steen asked a question to the Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale regarding textile waste and whether charities would collect textile waste and if Streetscene would look into this. In response, the Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green Rossendale reported that there were textile recycling bins situated at local recycling sites, for example, at Haslingden Leisure Centre and at Whitworth.

Councillor A. Barnes asked a question to the Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale regarding recycling side waste and whether it would be collected. The Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale responded by stating that she was not aware of this as an issue and would look into it further and copy all members into

the reply.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

9a. CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS – 19th SEPTEMBER 2007 FALL BARN CONSERVATION AREA

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet to agree to the designation of the Fall Barn Conservation Area.

Councillor A. Barnes enquired about whether Crawshawbooth would be included in future proposals for conservation areas. In response Councillor Challinor reported that surveys were being undertaken for the designation of other areas and a booklet was being produced.

Resolved:

That the Council agrees to the designation of the Fall Barn Conservation Area.

10. POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive which outlined the proposed changes to Polling Districts and Polling Places in order to comply with the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

The Executive Director of Regulatory Services outlined an amendment to section 4.1 of the report which was in respect of the Greenfield Ward whereby the RHF1 and RHF2 split would be removed when Parliament is dissolved as it would be required if there were a Parliamentary by-election.

In response to several questions, the Executive Director of Regulatory Services clarified that the designation of the Polling Districts and Polling Places were the responsibility of the Council, whilst Polling Stations were the responsibility of the Returning Officer.

Councillor A. Barnes requested a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Polling Station Task and Finish Group to consider the proposals relating to Polling Stations set out by the Returning Officer. The Council considered the process by which Overview and Scrutiny's comments would be fed back to the Returning Officer and it was agreed that the Task and Finish Group's report would be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee who would then submit recommendations to the Chief Executive as Returning Officer for her consideration.

Resolved:

1. That approval be given to the proposed changes to polling districts and places as set out in 4.1 of the report and subject to the amendment set out below:

The RHF1 and RHF2 split be removed when Parliament is dissolved as it would be required if there were a Parliamentary by-election.

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Polling Station Task and Finish Group meets to discuss the Returning Officers proposals relating to polling stations and that

they submit their report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee who can then submit their recommendations to the Returning Officer for her consideration.

11. LANCASHIRE LOCAL - ROSSENDALE

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the proposed adoption of the Constitution of Lancashire Local – Rossendale.

The Executive Director of Regulatory Services reported on a number of items within the Constitution that required clarification prior to adoption including the consideration of key executive decisions and delegations around the street scene function. She recommended that Council delegated the adoption of the Constitution to the Chief Executive following clarification of those matters.

Resolved:

That the Council delegates the formal adoption of the Constitution of Lancashire Local – Rossendale to the Chief Executive so that items such as key executive decisions and street scene can be further clarified with Lancashire County Council’s District Partnership Officer for Rossendale.

12. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER ON THE POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Council considered the appointment of Mr. M. Christie as Co-Opted Member on the Policy Scrutiny Committee.

The Executive Director of Regulatory Services agreed to collate members’ individual responses.

Resolved:

That the appointment be delegated to the Chief Executive.

13. CHAIR OF POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Mayor invited nominations for the Chair of the Policy Scrutiny Committee.

One nomination was received for Councillor Cheetham which was proposed by Councillor Sandiford and seconded by Councillor Thorne.

Resolved:

That Councillor Cheetham be appointed to serve as Chair of the Policy Scrutiny Committee.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and concluded at 9.00pm)