

COUNCILLOR TREVOR UNSWORTH, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 1st July 2010

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Unsworth (in the Chair)
Councillors Aldred, A. Barnes, Challinor, Cheetham,
Christie, Driver, Eaton, Essex, Evans, Farrington, Gledhill,
Graham, Kenyon, Lamb, McInnes, Milling, Morris, Neal,
Nuttall, Oakes, C. Pilling, J. Pilling, Robertson, Sandiford,
Smith, and Thorne.

IN ATTENDANCE: Helen Lockwood, Chief Executive
Stuart Sugarman, Director of Business
Fiona Meechan, Director of Customers and Communities
Liz Murphy, Head of People and Policy
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services
Manager
Michael Tipper, Mayor's Attendant
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Sellars, Primary Care Trust (PCT)
Sue Warburton, Primary Care Trust (PCT)
2 representatives of the press
5 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors L. Barnes, Crawforth, Gill, May, Stansfield, H.Steen, P.Steen, Swain, and Wilson.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 19th May 2010 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Mayor reported that there was one urgent item of business regarding the proposals to close both the Magistrates, and County Courts in Rawtenstall. The proposed changes were out for public consultation until September.

A recommendation was proposed to set up a Consultation Group to allow a full response to be given on behalf of the Council, and that any comments made at the meeting to be fed into the response.

The Mayor invited comments and feedback from members. In considering the item members commented on the following issues:

- Impact on community and officers if the facilities move out of the Borough.
- Vital to respond.
- More facilities being taken away from Rossendale.
- Detrimental on local justice in the community.
- Magistrates are volunteers, so it could create impact on the number of volunteers with knowledge of local issues.
- Access and travel implications.
- Those who want to keep the facilities to submit comments.

Resolved:

That a Consultation Group be set up to allow a full response to be given on behalf of the Council, and that the comments made be fed into the response.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

5. OUTSTANDING ITEMS OF BUSINESS FROM THE LAST MEETING

There were no outstanding actions to report.

6. PRESENTATIONS ON KEY PROJECTS

- 6a. The Mayor welcomed Peter Sellars and Sue Warburton from the PCT to the meeting to inform members of work on phase 1 and progress towards phase 2 of the new health facility in Rawtenstall.

Peter Sellars informed members that the building had been completed a month ahead of schedule and was handed over on 15th March. A public open day was held on 25th March where over 500 people attended to view the new facilities and lots of positive feedback was received. All services due to move and open as part of phase 1 had been achieved and he gave an overview of the services moving as part of phase 2 and the expected date of opening. The dates were still to be confirmed for the Urgent Care, Minor Injuries and Birthing Centre. The car park would be handed over on the 2nd July, eight weeks ahead of schedule.

There were no questions from members of the public. In considering the presentation members commented on the following to which Mr Sellars responded:

- Albion Mill sign being obscured by the two NHS parking signs.
- Timescale for Urgent Care and Birthing Centre.
- Monitoring and regulating parking.
- Percentage of services moving from the hospital and x-ray equipment.
- Out of hours service.
- Number of people able to use the Birthing Centre at any one time.

- Design of building, paramedic doors opening onto a footpath.
- Rehabilitation facilities.
- Communicating the services available to members of the public.
- How is it financed?
- Facilities for community use?
- Design of the building an asset.
- Hospice facility is excellent, but the lift/stairs are difficult to find as there is no signage.
- The name of the facility.
- Ongoing relationship and commitment.

In response to questions from elected members Mr Sellars agreed to feed back the issues in relation to the signage; the dates for the opening of Urgent Care, Minor Injuries and Birthing Centre, and take up the issue of the doors opening onto the footpath.

The Mayor thanked the representatives of the PCT for their participation in the meeting.

- 6b. The Mayor invited Stuart Sugarman, Director of Business to update members on key Rawtenstall projects. This included an update on the Valley Centre and the Rawtenstall to Manchester commuter rail service.

There was a Council led steering group to ensure the Valley Centre remained a key area of focus. Legal proceedings had been instigated before Christmas to ensure Ashcap tidied up the site. An agreement was reached following a few months of negotiations and wraps had gone up around the site. The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Rawtenstall Town Centre was being developed with viable solutions and options and the Council was working together with key stakeholders to achieve this. The Council had been looking for interest from developers in order to secure a development partner. A Prior Information Notice (PIN) would need to be done as it was a requirement as part of the European Union treaty to allow other EU countries to bid into the process. The first draft of a Compulsory Purchase Order had been done but would only be used as a last resort option.

The Rawtenstall to Manchester commuter rail service was part of the Greater Manchester Transport Plan to improve transport and connectivity. The link would cost approximately £25 million. The project was included in the Multi Area Agreement and the Joint Investment Plan and was currently at the evidence and options stages. Lobbying activity was ongoing and a decision would be expected around November.

There were no questions from members of the public. In considering the presentation members commented on the following to which the Director of Business and Chief Executive responded:

- Problems with pigeons in the Valley Centre even though spikes had been introduced.

- Encourage investment in the railway and ensure Pennine Lancashire understand the importance of this investment.
- Lancashire County Council wanting to support Todmorden Curve instead.
- How long before a development partner comes forward?
- Challenging economic climate.
- Funding for the rail link.
- Tidy up the Council owned properties on Kay St.
- Consultation on the new bus station.
- Reinstatement of economic development at a local level.
- Local Transport Plan 3 to recognise the rail link as a strategic necessity.
- Keeping up the pressure to achieve the rail link.

Thanks was given to the Director of Business and Leader of the Council for their contribution towards the redevelopment of the Valley Centre and for getting partners together to ensure it is achieved.

The Mayor thanked the Director of Business for the update.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources answered questions raised by a member of the public on the following issue:

No.	Issue	Answered by (and action)
1.	Public transport, the rise in bus fares and why Rossendale Transport has to pay a dividend to the Council.	Councillor Essex

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

The Mayor informed members of the Council that his first charity event would be on Wednesday 14th July at St Nicholas Church, Newchurch, and there would be entertainment and refreshments. Support would be welcomed and the event would be from 2.00-4.00pm.

The Deputy Leader of the Council had no communications to report.

The Chief Executive reminded members that a training session would be held at 6.00pm on Tuesday 6th July in the Council Chamber. The session would be led by the Chief Executive and Management Team and the theme would be financial challenges and Council policy.

9. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The following issues were raised by Councillors and answered by the Deputy Leader or designated person:

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
1.	Update on Peel Terrace since the March meeting.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Essex
2.	Accident on Bacup Road near Sandy Bank and asking LCC to review the possibility of putting a zebra crossing in the locality.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Challinor/ Councillor Cheetham
3.	Cleaning services provided by Green Vale Homes to the communal areas of the flats in Haslingden.	Councillor Kenyon	Councillor Driver – agreed to pass on comments and send a response.
4.	What youth services will be cut back owing to government funding cuts?	Councillor A.Barnes	Councillor Essex
5.	What is being doing to ensure that the zero council tax increase will not affect Rossendale adversely?	Councillor A.Barnes	Councillor Essex
6.	What issues affecting the borough were raised at the meeting with County Councillor G. Driver and what arrangements will be in place to make up for the loss of Lancashire Local?	Councillor Lamb	Councillor Challinor – would pass on details when the Leader of the Council returns.
7.	What improvements are planned to facilitate access for disabled people and cars to Stubbylee Park?	Councillor Oakes	Councillor Challinor
8.	How do you get County grants, how do you communicate and who do you get them to?	Councillor Robertson	Councillor Eaton

10. RECCOMENDATIONS FROM CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

10a. Recommendation of the Appointments and Appeals Committee:

Appointment of the Co-opted Member of the Audit and Accounts Committee

The Council considered the recommendations of the Appointments and Appeals Committee in respect of the appointment of Mr Mumtaz Ali as the Co-opted Member of the Audit and Accounts Committee.

Resolved:

- That Mr Mumtaz Ali be appointed as the Co-opted Member of the Audit and Accounts Committee.

10b. Recommendation of Overview and Scrutiny:

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/2010

The Council considered the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny in respect of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/2010.

An amendment was moved and seconded to amend page 12 of the report to read:

“A joint workshop will be held in June or July between Lancashire County Council and Rossendale Borough Council to discuss how to take forward initiatives such as winter gritting and grass cutting, which would go some way to ensuring a positive approach to grass cutting in the future”.

Voting on the amendment took place and the amendment became the substantive motion.

In considering the report and the amendment, a member commented on the following to which the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny responded:

- When was the community toilet scheme being rolled out?

Resolved:

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10 be approved.
2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report be forwarded to all Directors, Heads of Service, Lancashire County Council and other relevant organisations to promote the work of scrutiny, including the Centre for Public Scrutiny website.

10c. Recommendation of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Petitions Scheme

The Council considered the recommendations of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Petitions Scheme: Scheme for Handling Petitions made to the Authority.

In considering the report a member commented on the following:

- Petition to County for road crossings.

Resolved:

1. That members approve the Petitions Scheme and that all future minor amendments be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.
2. That a review of the Petitions Scheme be undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny within 12 months of the scheme being implemented.
3. That members consider the additional recommendations made by the Policy Scrutiny Committee at 10.2 of the report.

10d. Recommendation of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Bullying and Harassment Policy and Dignity at Work Policy

The Council considered the recommendations of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Bullying and Harassment Policy and Dignity at Work Policy.

An amendment was moved and seconded to change the recommendation at 9.1 to read “agree” instead of “note”.

Voting on the amendment took place and the amendment became the substantive motion.

In considering the report and the amendment, the Equalities Champion made the following comments:

- Treating others with respect including customers.
- Promoting high standards of conduct.
- Providing a framework to fulfil the Council’s commitments.

Resolved:

- That the contents of the policy be agreed.

11. 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 8.45pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)
Date