

COUNCILLOR BARBARA ASHWORTH, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 15th July 2020

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Ashworth (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Aldred, Brennan, Bromley, Cheetham, James Eaton, Janet Eaton, Essex, Farrington (in part), Fletcher, Gill, Haslam-Jones, Haworth, Hughes, Johnson, Kempson, Kostyan, Lythgoe, MacNae, Marriott, Morris, Neal, Oakes, Pendlebury, Powell, Procter, Roberts (in part), Serridge, Stansfield (in part), Steen, Stevens and Walmsley.

IN ATTENDANCE: Neil Shaw, Chief Executive
Clare Birtwistle, Legal Services Manager (Monitoring Officer)
Cath Burns, Director of Economic Development
Adam Allen, Director of Communities
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager
Jenni Cook, Committee and Member Services

ALSO PRESENT: 1 member of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors A.Barnes, L.Barnes and Kenyon.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2020 and 24th June 2020 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

Councillors Lythgoe and Morris declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 12 and Councillor Cheetham declared a non-pecuniary interest under Minute 8.

5. Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service

There were no communications.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

6. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report & Work Programme

The Council considered the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to their Annual Report & Work Programme, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, Councillor Serridge, who placed on record his thanks to Councillor Johnson and the members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved:

That members approve the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20 and the Work Programme for 2020/21.

Reason for Decision

The Annual Report 2019/20 summarises the work carried out by the O&S Committee and the Work Programme 2020/21 provides an outline of the work to be carried out during the 2020/21 municipal year.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

N.B. Councillor Kempson entered the meeting

7. Constitution Review

The Council considered the recommendation of the Governance Working Group in relation to the Constitution Review report, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, Councillor Serridge.

Resolved:

That Council agree to the proposed changes to the Constitution in relation to: Annual Review of the Constitution and Roll of Honour (as detailed in Appendices A and B of the report).

Reason for Decision

The Council is required by law to implement a Constitution and it is in the interests of the Council to regularly review and update the document.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. Standards Independent Person

The Council considered the recommendation of the Appointments and Appeals Committee in relation to the Standards Independent Person, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, Councillor Serridge.

Councillor Cheetham declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as both herself and the Independent Person were members of the Soroptimists.

In response to comments from members it was confirmed that:

- The Independent Person had been excellent in the role and would continue to be an asset to the Council.

Resolved:

That Council appoint Alison Driver as Standards Independent Person for 4 years commencing July 2020.

Reason for Decision

Appointment of Alison Driver as the Standards Independent Person will provide continuation of advice on alleged breaches of the code of conduct.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

9. Reconstruction of River Wall

The Council considered the Reconstruction of River Wall at Victoria Way Rawtenstall report, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Walmsley.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The Council's insurance did not cover the works.
- The Council's application to the Bellwin Scheme had been rejected as this was not designed to fund capital works.
- Was the Environment Agency checking other areas of potential breach along the river banks in Rossendale? The Flood Champion confirmed that works were taking place on the River Irwell, and works in Strongstry and Irwell Vale were imminent.
- The East Lancs Railway had funded the works along their section of the river bank.

Resolved:

1. To approve up to £250,000 in capital funding for works for the reconstruction of the retaining river wall at Victoria Way, Rawtenstall, to enable the works to be undertaken urgently.
2. To authorise officers to tender for the works contract as required by the Council's Constitution.

Reason for Decision

Works were required to repair and protect the Council's asset.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

NOTICES OF MOTION

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Steen moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor James Eaton:

The Council agrees to the naming of the proposed new market square in Bacup as the Sir Everton Weekes Square in recognition of the services of Sir Everton Weekes to Bacup Cricket Club and pioneering work in Race Relations.

In discussing the motion the following was noted:

- The funding bid for the new market square had not yet been secured. To amend the motion to ensure a memorial could still be created.

Councillor Ashworth moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Walmsley:

Council notes with great sadness the recent death of Sir Everton Weekes. Council wishes to recognise Sir Everton's enormous contribution to both Bacup Cricket Club and race relations in the 1950's and therefore resolves to create a lasting memorial to Sir Everton in Bacup Town Centre as part of the exciting plans for Bacup Market.

Members voted on the amended motion becoming the substantive motion, which was carried.

N.B. Councillors Roberts and Stansfield left the meeting

Resolved:

Council notes with great sadness the recent death of Sir Everton Weekes. Council wishes to recognise Sir Everton's enormous contribution to both Bacup Cricket Club and race relations in the 1950's and therefore resolves to create a lasting memorial to Sir Everton in Bacup Town Centre as part of the exciting plans for Bacup Market.

Reason for Decision

To support the amended notice of motion.

Alternative Options Considered

The original notice of motion.

11. Exclusion of Public and Press

In response to a Point of Order, it was clarified that Item 12 had been published on the agenda as Item F1 in line with the Local Government Act 1972 and members had received a copy of the report via secure email.

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. Councillor Farrington left the meeting

12. Ski Rossendale

The Council considered the Ski Rossendale report, which was introduced by the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health and Leisure, Councillor Oakes.

Discussion took place on the item and clarification was provided where requested.

Councillors Haworth, Pendlebury and Serridge requested a named vote.

Members voted as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Adshead	For
Cllr Aldred	For
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr Brennan	For
Cllr Bromley	For
Cllr Cheetham	Against
Cllr James Eaton	Against
Cllr Janet Eaton	Against
Cllr Essex	Against
Cllr Fletcher	For
Cllr Gill	For
Cllr Haslam-Jones	For
Cllr Haworth	Against
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Johnson	For
Cllr Kempson	Against
Cllr Kostyan	Against
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr MacNae	For
Cllr Marriott	For
Cllr Morris	Abstain
Cllr Neal	Against

Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Pendlebury	Against
Cllr Powell	Abstain
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Serridge	For
Cllr Steen	Against
Cllr Stevens	For
Cllr Walmsley	For
For:	18
Against:	10
Abstentions:	2

Resolved:

To approve the recommendations as detailed in the report in relation to Option 2.

Reason for Decision

To confirm the preferred option.

Alternative Options Considered

Option 1.

(The meeting commenced at 6.40pm and concluded at 8.20pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date