

COUNCILLOR BARBARA ASHWORTH, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 9th December 2020

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

**IN ATTENDANCE: Neil Shaw, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
Cath Burns, Director of Economic Development
Adam Allen, Director of Communities
Karen Spencer, Head of Finance / S151 Officer
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager
Jenni Cook, Committee and Member Services Officer**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: David McChesney, Parks and Open Spaces Manager
Guy Darragh, Economic Development Manager
2 Public**

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Farrington and Pendlebury.

It was noted that Councillors Aldred, L. Barnes and Powell would need to leave the meeting at 7.50pm owing to a Whitworth Town Council meeting.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 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

Councillor Steen declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 13 in that he was a Governor of Bacup Nursery.

Councillor Marriott declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 13 in that he was a Governor of Staghills Nursery.

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

There were no communications from the Mayor or Head of Paid Service.

NB Councillor Cheetham entered the meeting.

The Leader of the Council provided the following update:

Member Champion: Councillor Procter had been appointed as Member Champion for Mental Health.

Covid 19 Business Seminar: A seminar for local businesses had been held which provided information on help and funding, along with an update of the work being carried out by PPU.

Rossendale Connected Conference: This had taken place on 12th November and had highlighted the Borough's fantastic community groups and their work.

Community Grants: Information regarding grants available to those self-isolating and information was available on the Council's website.

Test and Trace: Environmental Health staff had been working on test and trace and had reached 70% of those contacts that national test and trace had been unable to reach.

Clean Ups: Clean ups had been taking place across the Borough in areas of high levels of litter and fly tipping. Members would be informed of future clean-ups.

Ski Rossendale: Ski Rossendale had re-opened over half term with excellent attendance figures. Ski England had been back in talks with regards to use of the site for training.

Information on NNDR and Test and Trace would be circulated to members.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

6. Visitor Economy Strategy

The Council considered the Visitor Economy Strategy, which was introduced by the Leader of the Council/ Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Alyson Barnes.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Data was obtained from STREAM.
- Hotel aspirations were included within the Bacup 2040 vision and the Council were open to approaches from other providers.

Resolved:

1. To consider and approve the Visitor Economy Strategy for the whole of Rossendale and accompanying Action Plan.
2. All future minor amendments to the strategy to be delegated to the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.
3. For Full Council to review the strategy on an annual basis and update on the progress of the Action Plan.

Reason for Decision

The strategy will deliver 10 years of action to grow the Visitor Economy sector, creating jobs and increasing the economic impact of the sector.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

7. Haslingden 2040 Masterplan and National Lottery Heritage Fund Bid

The Council considered the Haslingden 2040 Masterplan and National Lottery Heritage Fund Bid, which was introduced by the Leader of the Council/ Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Councillor Alyson Barnes.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The plan could attract further external funding into the area.
- Board arrangements and Terms of Reference were clarified.
- Haslingden assets were noted.
- Thanks were noted to the Economic Development Team and Megan Eastwood.

Councillors Serridge, Walmsley and Marriott requested a named vote.

Members voted as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Adshead	For
Cllr Aldred	For
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr A. Barnes	For
Cllr L. Barnes	For
Cllr Bromley	For
Cllr Cheetham	For
Cllr James Eaton	For
Cllr Janet Eaton	For
Cllr Essex	For
Cllr Fletcher	For
Cllr Gill	For
Cllr Haslam-Jones	For
Cllr Haworth	For
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Johnson	For
Cllr Kempson	For
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Kostyan	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr MacNae	For
Cllr Marriott	For
Cllr Morris	For
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Powell	For
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Roberts	For
Cllr Serridge	For
Cllr Stansfield	For
Cllr Steen	For
Cllr Stevens	For
Cllr Walmsley	For
For:	33
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0

Resolved:

1. Council approve the Haslingden 2040 Vision and Masterplan.
2. Council approve the 'Shop Front Design Guide (Haslingden Addendum).'
3. Council approve the £3.4m 'Deardengate Big Lamp – Shining Light on Haslingden' proposal.

4. Council to delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development in conjunction with the Head of Finance and consultation with the portfolio holder, any minor amendments to the final project prior to implementation.
5. Council to confirm the Environment Cabinet portfolio holder as Chair of the Haslingden Strategic Board.
6. Council authorise the delegation of decision-making authority and implementation of the project to the Haslingden Strategic Board.

Reason for Decision

To authorise the 20-year Vision and Masterplan for Haslingden Town Centre as well as the NLHF bid which will begin the delivery of a programme of works. The NLHF bid will deliver £3.4m of town centre enhancements if successful for the significant redevelopment of Haslingden town centre.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2021/22

The Council considered the Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2021/22 report, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Councillor Hughes.

In response to questions from members:

- The impact of the pandemic and the burden on local authorities was noted.
- The Leader of the Council would lobby the Government regarding this.

Resolved:

That Full Council approve the Rossendale Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22 as set out in the report.

Reason for Decision

To retain the existing scheme of council tax support unchanged, with the exception of any inflationary upgrades to national benefit entitlements. Adoption of the scheme by full council before 11th March meets the Councils statutory duty.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

9. Stubblee & Moorlands Park Green Flag Management Plan

The Council considered the Stubblee and Moorlands Park Green Flag Management Plan report, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Councillor Lythgoe.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- This was the culmination of over a decade of work and the work of volunteers and the community was noted.
- People visited Stubblee from all over the North West.
- Other areas could replicate the model.

NB Councillor L. Barnes left the meeting.

Resolved:

That Council approves the submission of a Green Flag Award application for Stubblee and Moorlands Park 2021.

Reason for Decision

To proceed with the entry for the Green Flag award in January 2021.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

NB Councillors Aldred, MacNae and Powell left the meeting.

10. Public Meeting Schedule

The Council considered the Public Meeting Schedule.

Resolved:

That Council agree the Public Meeting Schedule containing dates of public meetings for 2021/2022 as detailed at Appendix A.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Council can effectively conduct its business.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

NOTICES OF MOTION

11. Notice of motion

Councillor Adshead moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Stevens:

This Council notes:

The publication by Government of the White Paper, 'Planning for the Future' on 6 August 2020, which set out proposals on reforms to the planning process for the future.

This Council Further Notes:

The Royal Institute for British Architects view on the negative impact of these proposals on the delivery of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes.

This Council is concerned that the proposals seek to:

- 1. Reduce or remove the right of residents to object to applications near them.*
- 2. Grant automatic rights for developers to build on land identified as 'for growth'.*
- 3. Remove section 106 payments for infrastructure and affordable housing and replace them with a consolidated national levy.*
- 4. Abolish the sustainability appraisal and replace the existing tests for the grant of planning permission with a single test of sustainable development.*

This Council Believes:

- 1. That existing planning procedures, as currently administered by our own team in Rossendale, allow for local democratic control over future development and give local people a say in planning proposals that affect them.*
- 2. That proposals for automatic rights to build in 'growth' areas risk unregulated growth and unsustainable communities.*
- 3. That rigorous environmental impact assessment is necessary to protect our countryside and ecosystems.*

This Council resolves to:

- 1. Take part in any further consultations on the planning proposals and to make representations against the current proposals as outlined in this motion.*
- 2. Write to and lobby both of our Members of Parliament, urging them to oppose these proposals and to circulate their replies to members.*

3. Highlight its concerns over these proposals with the public, our local residents and the media.

In response to questions from members:

- Concerns regarding the impact on local democracy were noted.
- Cross-party support was confirmed.

Councillors Marriott, Serridge and Ashworth requested a named vote.

Members voted as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Adshead	For
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr A. Barnes	For
Cllr Bromley	For
Cllr Cheetham	For
Cllr James Eaton	For
Cllr Janet Eaton	For
Cllr Essex	For
Cllr Fletcher	For
Cllr Gill	For
Cllr Haslam-Jones	For
Cllr Haworth	For
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Johnson	For
Cllr Kempson	For
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Kostyan	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr Marriott	For
Cllr Morris	For
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Roberts	For
Cllr Serridge	For
Cllr Stansfield	For
Cllr Steen	For
Cllr Stevens	For
Cllr Walmsley	For
For:	29
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0

Resolved:

1. To take part in any further consultations on the planning proposals and to make representations against the current proposals as outlined in this motion.
2. Write to and lobby both of our Members of Parliament, urging them to oppose these proposals and to circulate their replies to members.
3. Highlight concerns over these proposals with the public, our local residents and the media.

Reason for Decision

To support the motion.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

12. Notice of motion

Councillor Marriott moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Ashworth:

This Council notes that:

Throughout the year fireworks are widely and responsibly enjoyed to mark public and private celebrations, as well as traditional events.

However, this Council notes a recent and worrying rise in the misuse of fireworks – this includes impact of the of newer larger multiple firework launchers, the increased availability of fireworks through online sales and the illegal use of fireworks during anti-social hours.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) argues the law is failing. It does not prevent or sufficiently reduce the risk of fireworks causing distress, injury or anxiety to people, as well as death, injury or distress to animals.

We note that further research is needed to properly understand the impact of noise on animals and people.

In the meantime, several things can be done to improve the situation for wildlife and people at risk of being affected by firework explosions.

This Council resolves to:

Write to government and recommend that:

Government work with local authorities, police and fire services to review the systems in place for people to report concerns about misuse of fireworks, including breaches of the night-time curfew, use of fireworks in inappropriately small domestic gardens and other antisocial behaviour, with a view to establishing a consistent approach to data collection and publication.

Government increase resources available to police, fire services and local authorities to tackle the misuse of fireworks.

Government conduct a review of online sales of fireworks.

Government take steps to ensure that these age restricted products are not packaged in a way which is designed to appeal to children.

We recommend the government lead a review, working with animal welfare experts and the fireworks industry, of the effects of fireworks noise on animal welfare, with a view to setting a workable reduced maximum decibel limit which would diminish the risks to animal health.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Fireworks had caused injuries to animals.
- Councillor Neal would take this matter to the AGM of the Executive of Lancashire District Councils and NALC.

Resolved:

Write to government and recommend that:

1. Government work with local authorities, police and fire services to review the systems in place for people to report concerns about misuse of fireworks, including breaches of the night-time curfew, use of fireworks in inappropriately small domestic gardens and other antisocial behaviour, with a view to establishing a consistent approach to data collection and publication.
2. Government increase resources available to police, fire services and local authorities to tackle the misuse of fireworks.
3. Government conduct a review of online sales of fireworks.
4. Government take steps to ensure that these age restricted products are not packaged in a way which is designed to appeal to children.
5. We recommend the government lead a review, working with animal welfare experts and the fireworks industry, of the effects of fireworks noise on animal welfare, with a view to setting a workable reduced maximum decibel limit which would diminish the risks to animal health.

Reason for Decision

To support the motion.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

13. Notice of motion

Councillor Serridge moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Marriott:

Maintained nursery schools are some of the highest performing education institutions in our education system. They offer an inclusive ethos and have experience in early intervention and effective support for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

With more and more children living in poverty, we should support sustainable nursery school provision in every community, staffed by qualified teachers working alongside qualified support staff.

The vast majority of Maintained Nursery Schools remained open during the pandemic and took in children from other settings which were closed. By remaining open to meet the needs of vulnerable communities they have incurred additional costs and lost vital fee income. As a result, 64% expect to be in deficit in the current financial year, compared to 33% which were in deficit at the end of 2019-20.

This Council believes that all early year's settings need extra funding to pay staff decent pay and provide quality services to children. However, we also believe that the maintained nurseries need extra as they have unavoidable additional costs, particularly those that are required to employ teachers.

Despite their vital role and achievements, however, the future of maintained nursery schools is in jeopardy because the Government has so far failed to guarantee their funding.

This Council commits to writing to the Chancellor and education ministers to urge them to replace the temporary arrangements for supplementary funding with a new strand of the Early Years National Funding Formula for maintained nursery schools.

This must end the historical anomalies of the supplementary funding and provide a fair and viable national system for funding the distinct role and costs of maintained nursery schools.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- This was not about pitting maintained nurseries against other providers.
- Previous campaigns regarding nurseries were noted.
- Work with Lancashire County Council was ongoing.

Councillors Hughes, Ashworth and Oakes requested a named vote.

Members voted as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Adshead	For
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr A. Barnes	For
Cllr Bromley	For
Cllr Cheetham	For
Cllr James Eaton	For
Cllr Janet Eaton	For
Cllr Essex	For
Cllr Fletcher	For
Cllr Gill	For
Cllr Haslam-Jones	For
Cllr Haworth	For
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Johnson	For
Cllr Kempson	For
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Kostyan	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr Marriott	For
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Roberts	For
Cllr Serridge	For
Cllr Stansfield	For
Cllr Steen	For
Cllr Walmsley	For
For:	27
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0

Resolved:

This Council commits to writing to the Chancellor and education ministers to urge them to replace the temporary arrangements for supplementary funding with a new strand of the Early Years National Funding Formula for maintained nursery schools.

Reason for Decision

To support the motion.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.55pm and concluded at 8.25pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date