

COUNCILLOR BARBARA ASHWORTH, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 17th March 2021

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Ashworth (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Aldred, A. Barnes, Bromley, Cheetham,
James Eaton, Janet Eaton, Essex, Haworth, Hughes, Johnson,
Kempson, Kenyon, Kostyan, Lythgoe, 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
Adam Allen, Director of Communities
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Craig Finn, Finance Manager
1 Public
1 Press**

At the start of the meeting a moment of silence was observed following the death of former serving councillor Terry Haslam-Jones. A tribute to Terry was also delivered by Councillor Jackie Oakes with additional tributes from Councillors James Eaton, Steen, Morris and Neil Shaw, Chief Executive.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors L.Barnes, Farrington, Fletcher, Gill and Pendlebury.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2021 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

There were no declarations of interest.

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

The Mayor announced the winners of the photo competition and displays the photographs. Third place went to Richard Cowley for his photo of Hallfold & Parish Church, second place went to Julie Ryder for her photo of the Beehive, Bacup and first place went to Anthony Black for his photo of Glen Tunnel, Waterfoot. The Mayor would be getting prizes to winners shortly. Some excellent photos had been received and she congratulated the winners and thanked people for taking part and for raising money for the Mayor's Charity Fund. She also reminded councillors of the Easter raffle, which would be her final fundraiser as Mayor.

There were no communications from the Head of Paid Service.

The Leader of the Council provided the following updates:

Economic Development working with the Boo Theatre had secured £90k additional funding to support the HS HAZ project in Bacup for cultural activities and events.

Rawtenstall Market had been handed over to Play Ltd on the 8th March for an initial 6 years following a successful tender process bringing new vision and energy to the facility.

Rawtenstall Town Square had secured collectively £300k of funding (£150k Rossendale Borough Council and £150k Lancashire County Council) to deliver a new town square and events space.

The £1.8m Haslingden Nation Lottery Heritage Funding stage 2 bid had been submitted in late February with a decision expected in June. This would improve historic retail properties in Deardengate, create a new public realm and events area ,and establish a regular events programme.

The first Climate Emergency Network Meetings were held in January and February and the Council would soon be publishing the final Climate Change Strategy. This year would focus on replacing the Council's cars with electric vehicles, completing a full audit of the Council's Carbon emissions, organising a climate change conference in June and establishing plans for a Rossendale Forrest tree planting scheme.

The Council had started working with local businesses to ensure that they could carry out rapid testing for Covid. This would be essential in getting business back up and running in Rossendale.

The Planning Committee had granted approval for a new Aldi food store subject to the Applicant contributing to new pedestrian and cycle routes, which would improve connectivity to Bacup Town Centre. The supermarket would secure the regeneration of a derelict, brownfield site and bring up to 50 jobs.

The principle of a new development to be operated by American Golf at Marl Pits had recently been established. This would secure around 30 new jobs following a £700,000 investment by the company, which would further enhance the leisure offer in the borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

6. Constitution Review

The Council considered the Constitution Review report, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, Councillor Sean Serridge.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The agenda pack had been sent to all councillors via email in PDF format.
- The procedure for questions was in line with other authorities and would continue in that way.

Resolved:

That Council agree to the proposed changes to the Constitution as outlined in Appendix 1.

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.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

7. Water Hygiene and Asbestos Management Contract

The Council considered the Water Hygiene and Asbestos Management Contract, which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Andrew Walmsley.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The contract had rolled on without extra cost.
- The contracts concerned all Council owned buildings.

Resolved:

Full council approved the tendering process of works for both the Water Hygiene and Asbestos management contracts.

Reason for Decision

To approve the tendering process.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. Futures Park Infrastructure

The Council considered the Futures Park Infrastructure report, which was introduced by the Leader of the Council/Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Councillor Alyson Barnes.

Resolved:

1. Members agree to executing the s278 process to deliver the required road/pedestrian infrastructure to bring forward the development plots at Futures Park in accordance with the LEP Growth Deal approval.
2. Members agree an adjustment to the Capital Programme amending the Futures Park Infrastructure scheme to £175K, funded by LEP grant of £46.2K and £128.8K of Council borrowing.
3. All future amendments to the scheme to be delegated to the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

The proposed infrastructure improvements are essential to support the nursery school, providing pedestrian and highways safety. The infrastructure improvements will also have the added benefit of bringing forward further plots at Futures Park with associated regeneration and job creation benefits in one of the most deprived parts of the borough.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their support throughout her term as Mayor as this would be her last full Council meeting.

Councillor Neal gave thanks to the Mayor as well as Terry Haslam-Jones and all councillors stepping down at the election for their service to the communities of Rossendale.

(The meeting commenced at 6.50pm and concluded at 7.25pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date