

**COUNCILLOR JOYCE THORNE, MAYOR**

**MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE**

**Date of Meeting: 19th AUGUST 2009**

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Thorne (in the Chair)  
Councillors Aldred, Challinor, Cheetham, Dickinson,  
Essex, Evans, Farrington, Forshaw, Gledhill, Graham,  
Haworth, Lamb, May, Milling, Morris, Neal, Nuttall,  
C.Pilling, J.Pilling, Robertson, Sandiford, Smith, H.Steen,  
P.Steen, Swain, Unsworth and Wilson.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Helen Lockwood, Chief Executive  
Stuart Sugarman, Executive Director -Business  
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Officer  
Phil Seddon, Head of Finance  
Liz Murphy, Head of People and Policy**

**ALSO PRESENT: 6 Members of the Public**

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors A Barnes, L Barnes, Crawforth, Driver, Eaton, Gill, Lynskey and Stansfield.

**2. MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th June 2009 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

The Mayor reported that there were no urgent items of business.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Cheetham, Dickinson, Essex, Robertson and Unsworth declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 14 by virtue that they were on the Board of Rossendale Transport.

**5. OUTSTANDING ITEMS OF BUSINESS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

There were no outstanding actions to report.

**6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Leader of the Council answered questions raised by members of the public on the following issues:

No.	Issue	Answered by (and action)
1.	The Valley Centre, the moving of the old Town Hall and the widening of Bacup Road for bus stops.	Councillor Swain
2.	Scrutiny of payments for the feasibility study and change of use of Henrietta Street for a waste transfer facility.	Councillor Swain
3.	The planned move of the Council Chamber to Futures Park and long term intentions.	Councillor Swain
4.	An open debate and consultation in relation to Rawtenstall bus station.	Councillor Swain
5.	The position relating to the New Hall Hey site following the deferral of the amended conditions.	Councillor Swain

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

The Mayor had no communications to report.

The Leader of the Council had no communications to report.

The Chief Executive welcomed Stuart Sugarman, the new Executive Director – Business to the meeting.

## 8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Leader of the Council answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:-

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
1.	The Council holding meetings in August.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Swain
2.	Hardman Mill accommodation and best value for money.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Swain
3.	Number of Members on Development Control and Licensing.	Councillor C Pilling	Councillor Swain
4.	Supporting Outcome 12 of the Sustainable Community Strategy.	Councillor C Pilling	Councillor Swain
5.	Staffing and promotion of the markets.	Councillor C Pilling	Councillor Swain
6.	Update reports from Portfolio Holders at Full Council.	Councillor C Pilling	Councillor Swain
7.	Unadopted streets and planning permission on small	Councillor Sandiford	Councillor Swain would ask for more information on the query

	developments.		and would circulate the response.
8.	Zero tolerance for dog fouling.	Councillor Sandiford	Councillor Swain
9.	E-coli and follow up visits by Environmental Health.	Councillor Unsworth	Councillor Swain would send a more detailed response to all Councillors.
10.	Notice given for Environmental Heath visits, and staffing levels.	Councillor Robertson	Councillor Swain
11.	Members Bulletin article and empty stalls on Rawtenstall Market.	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Swain would look into the matter.
12.	Inspection and monitoring of landfill sites re: toxic waste.	Councillor Cheetham	Councillor Swain would investigate the matter.
13.	Waterfoot and the empty shops project.	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Swain
14.	Assurance that business rates would not change as a result of the empty shops project.	Councillor Robertson	Councillor Essex
15.	Progress on the roll out of the public conveniences scheme as piloted in Bacup.	Councillor Aldred	Councillor P Steen agreed to get back with a response.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

### 9a. Recommendation of the Governance Working Group: Councillor Call for Action

The Council considered the recommendations of the Governance Working Group on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009 in respect of the Councillor Call for Action report.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources praised the work done through Overview and Scrutiny and the ability to put items on the work plan. He also noted the requirement to work with the County Council on a joint approach in relation to the Councillor Call for Action.

In addition to the recommendation of the report the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny proposed an amendment to Appendix C to include consulting the local County Councillor and Lancashire Local for items relating to the County Council.

The amendment was voted on and was declared the substantive motion.

In considering the amendment, Members identified the following issues to which the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny responded:

- Using the Councillor Call for Action as a last resort.
- Grass Cutting Task and Finish Group findings and speeding up the process.

### **Resolved**

1. That Council agrees the procedure for the Councillor Call for Action.

2. That Appendix C Section 2 is amended to include the local County Councillor and Lancashire Local for items relating to Lancashire County Council.

**9b. Recommendation of the Governance Working Group and Cabinet: Changes to the Constitution for Pennine Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives Board (PLLACE) and Pennine Lancashire Development Company (PLDC)**

The Mayor announced that the item had been withdrawn from the agenda and asked the Leader to comment.

The Leader announced that the report would come back to Members in October with more information for debate since further meetings of PLDC and PLLACE had been scheduled for September. Legal comments would be required following the meetings.

**10. ACCOMMODATION REPORT**

The Council considered the Accommodation report and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources updated Members with the details contained within the report.

In considering the report Members identified the following issues to which the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder responded:

- Clarification of Option B: 4.1 relating to the One Stop Shop and Revenues and Benefits section
- Staffing support at the One Stop Shop
- Plans for college facilities at Futures Park
- Long term plans or interim?
- Town Hall facility to be central
- Type of support available to businesses at Futures Park and in the Bacup area
- Fit for purpose facilities
- Costs incurred over the last few years for the use of Hardman Mill

**Resolved:**

1. That Members agree to pursue Option B.
2. That Members approve the commencement of Phase 1.
3. That Members approve phase 2 and its options implications, based on a final business case to be determined by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of Council.
4. That members delegate responsibility for decisions regarding layout, signage and access of the new Civic Suite at Futures Park to the Member Accommodation Working Group (4.11.4). This group to take into account the

responses to a full consultation exercise with all members, users and interested parties.

5. That members authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with Leader of Council to complete final negotiations with Futures Park (Rossendale) Limited.
6. That Members see this as a pragmatic, albeit, interim solution in reducing Council's own operating costs and supporting local businesses in the medium term. Longer term aspirations remain for a single site presence within a newly developed Rawtenstall Valley Centre.

## **11. CORPORATE PLAN**

The Council considered the Corporate Plan. In response to questions from Members the Chief Executive clarified that a list of amendments would be circulated to enable changes to be identified since the publication of the final Corporate Plan.

In considering the report Members identified the following issues to which the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder responded:

- Polling Stations
- The location of the photograph on page 5

### **Resolved:**

That Council approves the Corporate Plan 2009-12, subject to any minor final amendments delegated to Head of People and Policy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Chief Executive.

## **12. URGENT DECISIONS**

The Mayor reported that the Cabinet had not taken any urgent decisions since the last meeting.

## **13. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

### **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.

## **14. ROSSENDALE TRANSPORT**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Leader of the Council in relation to Rossendale Transport.

### **Resolved:**

- 1. That due to the Councils reserve price not being achieved, Members agreed to end the test marketing exercise of Rossendale Transport Limited.
- 2. That Members were most grateful to the staff and customers of Rossendale Transport Limited for their comments, feedback and patience during this exercise.

**(The meeting started at 7.00pm and concluded at 8.30pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....