

COUNCILLOR JOYCE THORNE, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 25th February 2010

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

IN ATTENDANCE: **Helen Lockwood, Chief Executive**
Stuart Sugarman, Director of Business
Carolyn Sharples, Acting Committee and Member Services
Manager
Jenni Cook, Committee Officer
Phil Seddon, Head of Finance
Mike Riley, Communities Manager
Nick Molyneux, Communications Manager

ALSO PRESENT: **County Councillor Winder**
2 representatives of the press
55 members of the public

MINUTES SILENCE

The Mayor asked Members of the Council to join her in paying tribute to Bernard Divine who was a Co-opted Member of Performance Overview and Scrutiny and an Independent Member of the Standards Committee by observing a minute's silence.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors L.Barnes, Forshaw and Wilson.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th December 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

No declarations were made at this point, however the following declarations were made later in the meeting on the following items:

Minute item 10 – Councillor Aldred declared a personal interest as he was on the board of Rossendale Leisure Trust.

Minute item 10 – Councillor Eaton declared a personal and prejudicial interest as he was supporting a petition to keep Bacup Leisure Hall open.

Minute items 9 and 10 – Councillor Morris declared a personal interest as he was on the board of Rossendale Leisure Trust.

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.	Adopting a business management approach.	Councillor Swain
2.	Improved financial contribution for CLAW and capital investment over the next 5 years. Investment required at Whitworth Pool.	Councillor Gledhill
3.	How will capital spend be self-financing?	Councillor Gledhill
4.	Future of Bacup Leisure Hall and having people from Bacup on the steering group.	Councillor Gledhill

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 had no communications to report.

8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

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

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
1.	Gritting in Whitworth and lodging a complaint to the Leader and Chief Executive of LCC.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Swain – agreed to follow up at a meeting which had been scheduled on 22 nd March.
2.	Public consultation in relation to land filled waste at Whitworth, Facit and Edenfield and requesting the Leader and Chief Executive of LCC to undertake a full investigation.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Swain - agreed to follow up at a meeting which had been scheduled on 22 nd March.
3.	Number of lottery funded projects in Rossendale.	Councillor Robertson	Councillor Swain – agreed to circulate a list of funded projects to members.
4.	Money saved by not replacing Parkwise, and number of complaints received since September 2009.	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Swain
5.	Problems since suspension of disc parking and undertaking sample checks.	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Swain
6.	Letter of thanks to staff at Rossendale Transport for keeping services running through the difficult weather conditions.	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Swain – agreed to send a letter of thanks to Rossendale Transport.
7.	Funding for PCSO's in Rossendale.	Councillor Evans	Councillor Swain
8.	Update on New Hall Hey site, and footpaths issues.	Councillor May	Councillor Swain
9.	Update on the Valley Centre.	Councillor P.Steen	Councillor Swain
10.	Mechanisms for holding LCC to account re: Lancashire Locals.	Councillor Lamb	Councillor Swain
11.	Request for the Leader and Chief Executive to take up the withdrawal of the County Rider Service.	Councillor Cheetham	Councillor Swain – agreed to make representations.
12.	Mechanisms for feeding back on	Councillor	Councillor Swain

	the Rossendale Gateway Steering Group.	C.Pilling	
13.	Had the grit bins been put back?	Councillor Robertson	Councillor Swain - agreed to ask LCC.

POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK ITEMS

9. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Council considered the update to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Treasury Management Strategy (TMS), and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources updated members with the details contained within the report. The MTFS was a 3 year overview of the Council's current and projected finances and outlined the financial issues and challenges that would be faced over the next 3 years, as well as ensuring that the Council maintains appropriate reserves in order to face unforeseen challenges. The Portfolio Holder noted that the Council faced further reductions in funding from government over the next 3 years.

In considering the report members commented on the following issues to which the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources responded:

- Record figures in reserves and ensuring there was no frontline service disruption in making savings.
- Additional grant funding making up reserves.
- Protecting reserves in good years to assist in difficult years.
- Concessionary travel and the costs to enter into and costs when handed back to LCC.
- Increased spending figures for street cleansing compared with other districts.

Resolved:

1. That the update to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy be approved.
2. That any necessary amendments to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy be delegated to the Head of Financial Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources.

10. REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX FOR 2010/11

The Council considered the Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2010/11. The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources outlined the report and noted that it was proposed there be no increase in Council Tax for 2010/11 for Rossendale residents. The Portfolio Holder for Leisure outlined the leisure aspect of the budget report and clarified the proposed plans for the leisure projects.

In considering the report members identified the following issues to which the Leader of the Council responded:

- Bacup baths facility, Bacup Leisure Hall and community facilities in Bacup.
- Positive budget.
- Pensions.
- Deprivation in the East of the valley and concerns for Bacup Leisure Hall and community provision.
- Closure of other facilities in the valley with no consultation e.g. Haslingden Public Hall.
- Hopes for a robust business plan to come forward.
- Appreciation for hard work done on the budget.
- Thanks to Rossendale Leisure Trust for work undertaken and increased customers at Haslingden Sports Centre.
- Clarification on whether Bacup Leisure Hall would remain open until the end of the next financial year.
- Deficit for Ski Rossendale and funding.
- Consider external funding rather than taking out a loan for the next 25 years.
- Success of AB&D Centre in Bacup.
- Getting different facilities at Marl Pits but no sauna / Jacuzzi in the valley.

Councillor Aldred moved an amendment to include a recommendation that Bacup Leisure Hall should remain open until 31st March 2011. Councillor Haworth seconded the amendment.

A named vote was requested by Councillors Aldred, A.Barnes and Lamb.

Voting on the amendment took place the results of which were as follows:

Name	For	Against	Abstain
Cllr Aldred	√		
Cllr A Barnes	√		
Cllr Challinor		√	
Cllr Cheetham		√	
Cllr Crawforth	√		
Cllr Dickinson		√	
Cllr Driver			√
Cllr Eaton			√
Cllr Essex		√	
Cllr Evans		√	
Cllr Farrington	√		
Cllr C Gill	√		
Cllr Gledhill		√	
Cllr Graham		√	
Cllr Haworth	√		
Cllr Lamb	√		
Cllr Lynskey		√	
Cllr May		√	

Cllr Milling		√	
Cllr Morris		√	
Cllr Neal	√		
Cllr Nuttall	√		
Cllr C Pilling	√		
Cllr J Pilling	√		
Cllr Robertson	√		
Cllr Sandiford		√	
Cllr Smith		√	
Cllr Stansfield		√	
Cllr H Steen		√	
Cllr P Steen		√	
Cllr Swain		√	
Cllr Thorne		√	
Cllr Unsworth	√		
Totals	13	18	2

The amendment was lost and members went back to the original recommendation.

A named vote was requested by Councillors Challinor, Essex and Swain.

Voting on the original proposal took place the results of which were as follows:

Name	For	Against	Abstain
Cllr Aldred	√		
Cllr A Barnes	√		
Cllr Challinor	√		
Cllr Cheetham	√		
Cllr Crawforth	√		
Cllr Dickinson	√		
Cllr Driver	√		
Cllr Eaton			√
Cllr Essex	√		
Cllr Evans	√		
Cllr Farrington	√		
Cllr C Gill	√		
Cllr Gledhill	√		
Cllr Graham	√		
Cllr Haworth	√		
Cllr Lamb	√		
Cllr Lynskey	√		
Cllr May	√		
Cllr Milling	√		
Cllr Morris	√		
Cllr Neal		√	
Cllr Nuttall	√		
Cllr C Pilling	√		
Cllr J Pilling		√	
Cllr Robertson		√	

Cllr Sandiford	√		
Cllr Smith	√		
Cllr Stansfield	√		
Cllr H Steen	√		
Cllr P Steen	√		
Cllr Swain	√		
Cllr Thorne	√		
Cllr Unsworth	√		
Totals	29	3	1

Resolved:

1. That Members approve a net budget requirement for Rossendale Borough Council of £11,756,323 for 2010/11 and a Council Tax equating to a Band D equivalent for 2010/11 of £253.40 in accordance with Appendix A.
2. That Members approve the proposed options to mitigate risk in the provision and the financing of new leisure facilities namely the final assessment and implementation of Option H (approved February 2009), Option 1 (approved December 2009), the associated business case and amongst other things:
 - the financial cost relating to supporting Rossendale Ski Slope will cease by March 2011, following the conclusion of the process to appoint a commercial partner.
 - the Council will have available £1.0m of capital resources.
 - the business case and financial plan will generate revenue savings to support £5.26m.

be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

3. That Members approve the fees and charges as per Appendix 4.
4. That Members agree that they do not accept any incremental minimum wage adjustments to Member Allowances during 2010/11.

11. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11

The Council considered the Capital Programme 2010/11. The report advised members of the proposed capital expenditure and resources for the medium term 2011/12 and 2012/13, and financing issues related to future capital expenditure.

In considering the report members identified the following issues to which the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources responded:

Resolved:

1. That the following capital expenditure for 2010/11 (excluding 2009/10 slippage) be approved:

Detail	£000's
Vehicle replacement Programme (07/08 - 5 year programme)	0
Playgrounds (06/07 - 5 year programme)	50
Cemeteries (06/07 - 5 year programme)	30
Pride in Rossendale Programme (08/09 – 4 year programme)	80
Pathways (06/07 - 5 year programme)	30
Wheeled Bins (06/07 - 5 year programme)	45
Bacup Town Centre Culvert	0
Sport Playing Fields (06/07 - 5 year programme)	45
Museum (06/07 - 5 year programme)	15
Car Park Upgrading (06/07 - 5 year programme)	30
Building Maintenance (06/07 - 5 year programme)	200
War Memorials (08/09 - 4 year programme)	5
Total	530

2. That the ELEVATE and Disabled Facilities capital programme be approved.
3. That, subject to confirmation of the final Housing Programme grants shown in Appendix 1, the Housing Programme be approved and the Head of Financial Services be authorised to amend the programme in the light of final grant allocations.
4. That the 2009/10 capital programme, not incurred in 2009/10 be carried forward to 2010/11.
5. That the Cabinet's Capital Monitoring Group meets at regular intervals during 2010/11 to review capital expenditure and resources, and report back to members any material findings and recommendations.
6. That given the Council's ability to access low interest rates, approval be given, when beneficial, to transfer from lease financing arrangements to purchase.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

12. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2010/2011

The Council considered the nomination of Councillor Gladys Sandiford as Deputy Mayor for 2010/11.

In making the nomination members commented on the following:

- Looking after older persons interests
- Asset to health and safety

Councillor Sandiford thanked members for the nomination and informed members that she would champion issues for disabled people and promote inclusion.

Resolved:

That Councillor Gladys Sandiford be nominated as Deputy Mayor in 2010/11 at the Annual Meeting in May.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

13a. Recommendation of Standards and Governance Working Group:

Protocol on the Recruitment of Independent Members

The Council considered the recommendations of Standards and Governance Working Group in respect of the Protocol on the Recruitment of Independent Members.

In considering the report members identified the following:

- Being able to recruit and promoting positions to suitable people in the community.

Resolved

That Council approves the procedure for the appointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee.

13b. Recommendation of Cabinet:

Use of Resources 2008/2009 and Comprehensive Area Assessment Feedback

The Council considered the recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of the Use of Resources 2008/2009 and Comprehensive Area Assessment Feedback. An assessment had been undertaken by the Audit Commission in 2008/09 which scrutinised how well the Council was managing and using its resources to deliver value for money and better sustainable outcomes for local people. The Council had been awarded a Level 3 overall score, which denotes an organisation that 'exceeds minimum requirements – performs well'.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

13c. Recommendation of Cabinet:

Local Development Scheme

The Council considered the recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of the Local Development Scheme. The report sought member approval for the content of the proposed revised Local Development Scheme (LDS). The Local Development Scheme was part of the Local Development Framework which sets out which Local Development Documents that the authority proposes to produce. Members were being asked to consider key changes to the existing Local Development Scheme which would be submitted to the Government Office North West.

Resolved

1. That the following key changes be made to the existing Local Development Scheme which will be submitted to Government Office North West:
 - The Area Action Plans for Rawtenstall Town Centre and Bacup, Stacksteads and Britannia can be more effectively delivered by using Supplementary Planning Documents while retaining the work already undertaken as part of the evidence base.
 - Not produce a Development Management Development Plan Document.
 - Amend the existing timescales.
 - Remove Supplementary Planning Documents from the Local Development Scheme.
 - Report Supplementary Planning Documents in the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)
 - Produce Supplementary Planning Documents for other town centres such as Haslingden and Waterfoot.
 - Production of a Supplementary Planning Document on Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Climate Change.
 - Update the Statement of Community Involvement.
2. That all future minor amendments to the Local Development Scheme be delegated to the Planning Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

14. COMMITTEE SCHEDULE 2010/2011

The Council considered the Committee Schedule for 2010/2011. The schedule contained dates of committee meetings that members of the public would be able to attend in 2010/2011.

In considering the report members identified the following issues to which the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources responded:

- Election date.
- Final list and keeping August free.
- Member training sessions.
- Group meetings to be considered.
- Ensuring there were not meetings on every day of the week which would impact on community activity or family.
- Making more efficient use of vice-chairs rather than re-scheduling meetings.

Resolved

1. That the Committee Schedule for 2010/11 be agreed.
2. That authority for any further changes/amendments to the schedule and meetings be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

15. PLACE JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 21st JANUARY 2010

The Council considered the minutes of the PLACE Joint Committee held on 21st January 2010.

Resolved

That the minutes of the PLACE Joint Committee held on 21st January 2010 be noted.

16. 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 8.30pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date