

**COUNCILLOR THOMAS ALDRED, MAYOR**

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

**Date of Meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor Councillor Aldred (in the Chair)  
Councillors Ashworth, Barnes, Bleakley, Cheetham, Crawforth,  
De Souza, Essex, Evans, Farrington, Gill, Hughes, Jackson,  
Kempson, Kenyon, Knowles, Lamb, McInnes, MacNae, Marriott,  
Morris, Neal, Oakes, Procter, Robertson, Sandiford, Serridge,  
Shiple, D.Smith, M.Smith and Wilkinson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Helen Lockwood, Chief Executive  
Stuart Sugarman, Director of Business  
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager  
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant  
Stephen Ibbotson, Mayor's Attendant

**ALSO PRESENT:** 1 representative of the press  
19 members of the public

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Creaser, Eaton, Fletcher, Milling and Roberts.

**2. MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

The Mayor informed that he had agreed to take an urgent item of business in relation to the procurement of vehicles, which would be taken as item F3 on the agenda.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this point in the meeting. However declarations were subsequently made under minutes 6a and 11.

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

There were no outstanding items to report.

## 6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 6a. RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT

The Mayor commended the 38th Rossendale (Open) Scouts – Beavers who were the oldest in the country and had just celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. Louise Cooper, 4 Beavers, and Andrew, one of the Team Leader's, came forward to accept a certificate. Louise gave a speech and informed members that they were based in Cloughfold and saw 182 young people each week aged between 6 and 25. To celebrate they had gone to Blackpool, slept in the circus, gone up the tower, and in Jungle Jim's and watched a circus performance. At the end of August they would be taking 60 young people to France for the annual trip abroad.

Councillor Marriott declared an interest that he had previously been a Beaver.

The Leader of the Council informed that Louise and Andrew had been with them right from the start and praised the volunteers for their effort and energy, and dedicating their time to make these activities possible. She had discussed having a roll of honour call at each full Council meeting with the Chief Executive, where Council members could put forward people or groups who they were proud to tell people about as a result of their achievements.

### 6b. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following issues were raised by members of the public and were answered by the Leader or designated person:

No	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
1.	Consultation regarding the Lives and Landscapes document. Engaging with residents to obtain local knowledge. Developing on existing urban boundaries rather than in the countryside.	Peter Wood	Councillor Barnes informed that there had been a large volume of responses to the consultation and that more people were becoming aware of the consultation and starting to engage with the Council. It was a statutory process, the Council was part way through the process and there would be additional consultation and a hearing before it was adopted, so there was still plenty of time to respond. In relation to the request to develop on existing urban boundaries rather than the countryside, she was aware that this was a consideration that most people feel strongly about.

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

The Mayor had no communications to report.

The Leader congratulated Councillor Eaton on being awarded Order of the British Empire medal the in the Queen’s Birthday Honours, and asked if a formal letter to be sent to him congratulating him on his achievement.

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.	Email from constituent regarding the Council’s position in relation to brown bins.	Councillor Essex	Councillor Barnes agreed to investigate the matter.
2.	Difficulties for cyclists owing to the state of the roads on Tonacliffe Road, Tonacliffe Way and Oakenshaw Avenue. Also, raising Whitworth speeding issues with the Police and Crime Commissioner.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Barnes informed that the Lancashire County Councillor would continue to pursue road repairs. She would take up the Whitworth speeding issue with the most appropriate police contact.
3.	In relation to question 1 raised by Councillor Essex, Councillor Crawforth informed that he had a similar issue with a resident. However, he had been informed that Lancashire used to supply the brown bins but there was no scheme any longer and there was no brown bin supply left. This was the current position.	Councillor Crawforth	
4.	Informing objectors of the outcome of planning applications. Not everyone has access to the internet.	Councillor Sandiford	Councillor Barnes informed that there are several ways to get information. People could ring the planning office if they didn’t have access to the internet or they could ask their ward councillor to find out for them.

## ORDINARY BUSINESS

### 9. SCOUT MOOR/ROOLEY MOOR UPDATE

The Council considered the Scout Moor/Rooley Moor update report.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Thanks to the officers for the work done to date.
- Time consuming process.
- Investigating ways to protect the valley through a moratorium on future planning.
- Concerns when other authorities encroach on the boundaries.
- Concerns over alternative transportation routes for turbines, which would take them through Edenfield and Turn Village again.
- If they have to use the alternative route they should pay a toll to support our infrastructure.
- Landscape threats from wind farms.
- Ensuring any community fund to compensate aligns with needs of the borough.
- Learning lessons from the existing scheme.
- Peel contributing to local officer time, but Coronation Power not contributing.
- Two contrasting approaches.
- Peel consultations in local areas with displays.
- Coronation Power were invisible, there was lack of consultation and concerns over the company's intentions e.g. gaining planning permission then selling it on.
- If the two applications were granted Rossendale would be full.
- If a planning application comes before us we have to consider each of them.
- Julie Martin advice proved useful.
- Problems passing through Edenfield last time.
- It was government policy driven in relation to low carbon processes.

**Resolved:**

1. That Council note the current situation on Scout Moor and Rooley Moor Wind Farms and the decision making process.
2. All future minor amendments to the Planning Performance Agreements to be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

**10. SITE ALLOCATIONS DPD (LIVES AND LANDSCAPES – BOUNDARY CONSULTATION RESPONSES)**

The Council considered the Site Allocations DPD (Lives and Landscapes – Boundary Consultation Responses) report.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Need as much consultation as possible to address people's concerns.
- Thanking officers for the work they have done to date, it had been a long complicated process.
- Contentious sites raised with officers had been taken into consideration.
- Got to take action to protect areas and this was a good start.
- Mixture of social and private housing.
- Improving people's choice to protect the area as a whole.
- Favouring brownfield sites.
- Haslam Farm, it would be regrettable and detrimental to tourism if it was taken out of the greenbelt.
- Document shows the Council is listening to residents' views.

- It was not yet the end of the process.
- Not having the consultation in December.
- Heritage railway and linking up with Manchester.
- Other areas might like more development.
- It needs to be for the good of the valley and not just to fulfil targets.
- Using brownfield sites first.
- Page 3 reference to Snowking site, the development would not be on that site but in the greenbelt.
- Objected to Sunnybank Community Woodlands being included.
- Need for 5 year supply of housing.
- Planning members should be strong enough to refuse greenbelt development.
- There was a consultation plan and more would be going on social media.
- 3700 houses to be built by 2016.
- If the process was delayed there would be risk of developers developing on land where we do not want them to build.

**Resolved:**

That members note the proposed responses and authorise their publication. The responses will feed into preparation of a first draft Site Allocations document on which consultation is programmed to occur in November/December.

## **11. AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT**

The Council considered the Authority Monitoring Report.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Town centre visions and the definition of “vision”.
- Need for a breakdown on the types of business trading in the town centres.

At this point Councillor Knowles declared an interest that he had a connection with a housing association.

Members continued to discuss the following:

- Policy 4 on affordable supported housing, 50% achieved.
- Recognising the need to supply housing.
- Varied needs of residents.
- Vision is following a journey to achieve your goals.
- The basis is the Core Strategy.
- Social housing in Whitworth was good quality accommodation.
- Future generations will pay back the loan borrowed.
- There is more movement than previously with social housing.
- Cross party group need to meet more often.
- Government targets have to be achieved.
- Ambitions for the towns in the valley.
- The document was produced every year.
- Commitment to increasing affordable housing and working with partners to identify sites.

**Resolved:**

That Council notes for information the Authority Monitoring Report for 1st April 2013-31st March 2014.

**12. WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN SUPPORT**

The Council considered the report in relation to White Ribbon Campaign Support.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Following the assassination and death of two women from the Dominican Republic (Maria and Minerva), they became a symbol of dignity and inspiration around the world.
- 25<sup>th</sup> November will mark the day where men and boys are urged to show their support for the campaign by wearing a white ribbon.
- A charity box was at the front of the Council Chamber where white ribbons could be obtained.
- Monitoring to see what difference it makes.
- Violence can never be condoned.
- Members should not forget about others that suffer such as men.
- Mankind get lots of phone calls from men each year.
- Bringing awareness and helping people understand the fatal consequences of genital mutilation, performed under age and against their will.
- Campaign introduced by Soroptimist Society.
- Helping women and children to get a better quality of life.
- Everyone should be treated with respect.
- Congratulate Soroptimist International on the success of their campaign.
- Very supportive of the campaign and proud to wear the white ribbon.
- Move away from terminology such as "honour crimes".
- Women were 5 times more likely to require medical attention than men.
- Once accredited it will be monitored every 2 years.

**Resolved:**

1. That full Council formally support promotion of the White Ribbon Campaign in Rossendale.
2. That all Councillors, especially our male Councillors, commit to signing up to take the pledge and wear a white ribbon - acting as local ambassadors to promote the campaign and raise awareness.
3. That full Council acknowledges and supports the efforts and work needed to achieve White Ribbon Campaign Town status.

**13. REVIEW OF THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

The Council considered the Review of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Thanks to the Independent Remuneration Panel for undertaking the review.
- Do not concur with recommendations.
- For the last 3 budget meetings, requested reduction in special responsibility allowances and these views were raised with the panel.

- Members can write to the Chief Executive to forego allowances.
- Panel recommendations were ignored in 2009/10.
- O&S Management Committee was created with a double allowance.

Councillor Serridge moved an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Barnes: To accept the recommendation of the report in addition to the following two extra recommendations:

- To remind members that any member can write to the Chief Executive to forego part of all of their allowance.
- This Council will not repeat the decision taken by the previous administration back in 2008 when the recommendations by the Independent Remuneration Panel were ignored by the Conservative Administration, and Conservative Councillors then claimed additional allowances, despite the Independent Panel finding they were not justified.

Members continued to discuss the following:

- Request for 3% reduction in allowances at LCC were not taken by Conservative Councillors.

A recorded vote was requested by Councillors Serridge, Barnes and Lamb.

Voting took place as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Cllr Aldred	Abstain
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr Barnes	For
Cllr Bleakley	For
Cllr Cheetham	Against
Cllr Crawforth	For
Cllr De Souza	For
Cllr Essex	Abstain
Cllr Evans	Abstain
Cllr Farrington	For
Cllr Gill	For
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Jackson	For
Cllr Kempson	Abstain
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Knowles	For
Cllr Lamb	For

Cllr McInnes	For
Cllr MacNae	For
Cllr Marriott	For
Cllr Morris	Abstain
Cllr Neal	Against
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Robertson	For
Cllr Sandiford	Abstain
Cllr Serridge	For
Cllr Shipley	Abstain
Cllr D Smith	Abstain
Cllr M Smith	For
Cllr Wilkinson	For
<b>Total For</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total Against</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Abstain</b>	<b>8</b>

The amendment became the substantive motion.

For clarity the Chief Executive read the wording of the substantive motion.

A recorded vote was requested by Councillors Serridge, Barnes and Lamb.

Councillor Morris raised a point of order that the recorded vote should have been requested before the vote had taken place. The Mayor informed that the vote had not been counted, therefore the request for recorded vote would be accepted.

Voting took place as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Cllr Aldred	Abstain
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr Barnes	For
Cllr Bleakley	For
Cllr Cheetham	Against
Cllr Crawforth	For
Cllr De Souza	For

Cllr Essex	Abstain
Cllr Evans	Abstain
Cllr Farrington	For
Cllr Gill	For
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Jackson	For
Cllr Kempson	Abstain
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Knowles	For
Cllr Lamb	For
Cllr McInnes	For
Cllr MacNae	For
Cllr Marriott	For
Cllr Morris	Abstain
Cllr Neal	Against
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Robertson	For
Cllr Sandiford	Abstain
Cllr Serridge	For
Cllr Shipley	Abstain
Cllr D Smith	Abstain
Cllr M Smith	For
Cllr Wilkinson	For
<b>Total For</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total Against</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Abstain</b>	<b>8</b>

**Resolved:**

1. That no changes be made to the Members' Allowances Scheme for the remainder of this year or for 2015/2016.
2. To remind members that any member can write to the Chief Executive to forego part or all of their allowance.
3. This Council will not repeat the decision taken by the previous administration back in 2008 when the recommendations by the Independent Remuneration Panel were ignored by the Conservative Administration, and Conservative Councillors then

claimed additional allowances, despite the Independent Panel finding they were not justified.

#### 14. NOTICE OF MOTION

The Chief Executive clarified that the last paragraph should say Member Champion for Younger People rather than Lead for Children and Young People and this is what members would be voting on.

**Councillor Hughes moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Serridge:**

*This council notes that 16 and 17 year olds who can: consent to medical treatment, work full-time, pay taxes, get married or enter a civil partnership and join the armed forces, should also have the right to vote.*

*In recent years, the debate on Votes@16 has become more and more prominent and campaigns have popped up across the county, often lead by young people.*

*We all know there is a disconnect with young people and the political establishment. This move, coupled with a reform of education around voting and its implications will help this continuing problem and refusing to allow 16 and 17 year old to vote is only likely to further depress turnout and encourage young people to give up on formal political structures.*

*It is clear from the work our young people do on a daily basis that they are interested in politics and have valid views and contributions on issues that affect them.*

*This council resolves to support moves to lower the voting age for all public elections to 16 and that the leader of the Council and Member Champion for Younger People write to the MPs & the Deputy Prime Minister – Nick Clegg MP to show this Council's commitment to pushing for votes for 16 and 17 year olds and requesting that the government seriously considers decreasing the voting age.*

In considering the motion members discussed the following:

- Campaigns led by young people.
- Encourage them to engage.
- None event topic.
- Here to run the Council not the country.
- It is a Labour supported national issue.
- Consultation with young people.
- Enough pressure from exams at 16.
- No evidence to show that lowering the voting age would increase engagement.
- No evidence it was needed or wanted.
- The proposals were discussed at the NALC Conference AGM.
- In 2004 it was popular with the Liberals.
- In the last election more young people were coming out to vote than the 50+ age group.
- Not doing young people a disservice.

- Going with parents to voting booth.
- Similar views were put forward for women regarding the vote “that they didn’t want it”.
- 16-17 year olds were under enough pressure.
- Democracy depends on new life.
- Voting rights were previously based on property.
- Constitution needs to be strengthened.
- It will come eventually.
- Wording of the motion assumes young people can consent to medical treatment, work full-time, pay taxes, get married, enter a civil partnership and join the armed forces, but this is not the case, e.g. if an under 18 year old refuses medical treatment it can still be carried out if the parent consents, so much of this is only with parental consent.
- Rights for young people are a minefield.
- It’s about preparing young people to vote at 18.
- Young people are interested and this is evidence through school councils.
- Motion has come from young people across the borough who speak passionately about it.
- It is part of the Youth MP’s campaign.

**Resolved:**

That the Leader of the Council and Member Champion for Younger People write to the MPs and the Deputy Prime Minister – Nick Clegg MP to show this Council’s commitment to pushing for votes for 16 and 17 year olds and requesting that the government seriously considers decreasing the voting age.

**15. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**Councillor McInnes moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Hughes:**

*This council believes that work should pay and therefore opposes the introduction of schemes which force job seekers into unpaid work or face losing their benefits – schemes known popularly as workfare.*

*This council is concerned that there is no evidence workfare assists job seekers in finding work and in fact working a 30-hour week makes that more difficult; that workfare is replacing paid work; and that workfare stigmatises benefits claimants and locks them further into poverty.*

*This council pledges not to use any workfare placements and will also encourage contractors not to use the schemes.*

In considering the motion members discussed the following:

- Signing up to the no workfare pledge.
- Fair wage for fair work.
- Demeans the work of volunteers.
- Helping people into sustainable jobs.
- A minority need extra help.

- Back to work schemes help personalise support for claimants.
- Creation of 300,000 new jobs.
- Mandatory is not acceptable for everyone.
- Fairness and responsibility.
- Sanctions used as a last resort.
- CAB see people with sanctions.
- Sanctions are a Job Centre target to be met.
- Reintegrate people and give them a chance.
- Knock on effect on long term mentally ill or disabled, it can make them more ill.
- Welfare Reform Task and Finish Group saw evidence that travel can be to unrealistic distances.

**Resolved:**

That this council pledges not to use any workfare placements and will also encourage contractors not to use the schemes.

**16. URGENT DECISIONS**

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES**

**17. RECOMMENDATION OF CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AND PARTNER OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14 AND WORK PROGRAMME 2014/2015**

The Council considered the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2013/14 and Work Programme 2014/2015.

**Resolved:**

1. That Council approves the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2013/2014 (Appendix A).
2. That Council notes the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/2015 (Appendix B).
3. That the final reports of the Task and Finish Groups be presented to the relevant Scrutiny Committee, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, prior to being considered by the Cabinet, Council or other relevant organisation.

**18. RECOMMENDATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP: REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The Council considered the Review of the Constitution report.

**Resolved:**

That Council agrees the amendments to the Constitution in relation to the Employment Procedure Rules as detailed in Appendix 1.

**19. URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS: PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES**

The Council considered an urgent item of business in relation to the procurement of vehicles. The reason for urgency was that the decision could not wait until the September Council meeting owing to the need to commence the procurement process for replacement.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- £2 million is a lot of money.
- Other options explored, such as looking at sharing with other authorities.
- Was it good value for money?
- Finding more efficiencies.
- Report details the considerations.
- In 2010 it was concluded that the right decision was to purchase a fleet of vehicles.
- There were no alterations to the report but it was detailed that the impact on the capital programme may occur in the final quarter of 2014/2015 rather than 2015/16.
- Lifespan of 4 years.
- Creating a residual pot for purchase again 4 years hence.
- Older fleet means breakdowns are more likely.
- 55,000 collections a week and 2.86 million a year.
- 5.3 details that leasing was looked into but purchasing was more efficient.
- Fleet will last for 5 years.
- Local terrain is difficult and the borough has no tip facilities of its own.
- Need to provide an efficient service for residents.
- A weeks hire to cover a breakdown is £850 plus maintenance.
- Engaging with the work of the Council through a Shadow Portfolio system.
- It's right to question and scrutinise.

In response to a question from Councillor Neal, the Chief Executive confirmed that the Capital budget was approved by Council at the budget setting meeting in February 2014.

**Resolved:**

That Council approve the procurement of 10 frontline vehicles and to note that the impact on the capital programme may well occur in the final quarter of 2014/15.

**(The meeting started at 6.30pm and concluded at 9.05pm)**

Signed.....  
(Chair)

Date .....