

COUNCILLOR THOMAS ALDRED, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Date of Meeting: 17th December 2014

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Aldred (in the Chair)
Councillors Ashworth, Barnes, Bleakley, Cheetham, Crawforth,
Eaton, Essex, Farrington, Gill, Haworth, Hughes (in part),
Kempson, Kenyon, Knowles, Lamb, McMahon, MacNae,
Marriott, Morris, Neal, Oakes, Procter, Robertson, Sandiford,
Serridge, Shipley, D.Smith, M.Smith and Wilkinson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Stuart Sugarman, Director of Business
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant

ALSO PRESENT: 1 representative of the press
6 members of the public
Whitworth Town Councillor Karen Ruane
Whitworth Town Councillor Maureen Jones

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received for Councillor Creaser, De Souza, Evans, Fletcher and Jackson.

**2. MINUTES
Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th September 2014 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. OUTSTANDING ITEMS OF BUSINESS FROM THE LAST MEETING

There were no outstanding items to report.

6. RETIRING COUNCILLORS - VOTE OF THANKS

Councillor Marriott spoke in relation to Councillors Milling and McInnes and who had resigned from their posts as councillors in August and October, this was seconded by Councillor D.Smith.

Resolved:

That the grateful thanks of this Council be offered to Amanda Milling and Liz McInnes for their hard work throughout their service as elected members of the Borough.

7. ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS

On behalf of the Returning Officer, the Monitoring Officer reported that at the By-Election held on 16th October 2014 Tony Haworth was duly elected as Councillor for Helmshore Ward, and at the By-Election held on 4th December 2014 Annie McMahon was duly elected as Councillor for Longholme Ward, and both councillors had signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

N.B. Councillor Hughes entered the meeting.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, 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.	Whitworth residents concerns regarding HGV access to the Tesco site and why HGV's were still reversing in off the main road.	Ian Brine	Councillor Barnes informed that Lancashire County Council (LCC) Highways were still dealing with these issues along with other concerns.
2.	Plans for replacing the Chief Executive and considering liaising with Hyndburn.	Michael Pickup	Councillor Barnes informed that she would be making an announcement under the next item on the agenda.

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

The Mayor had no communications to report.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Barnes, informed that the Chief Executive Helen Lockwood had been offered the post of Strategic Director at Oldham and would be leaving on 30th January 2015. She thanked her for her hard work and dedication, informed that she would be leaving the Council in a better position and that she had demonstrated a high level of leadership and commitment. She had helped steer the Council through a range of challenges, driven major projects forward, and she wished her well in her career. There was cross party consensus to recruit to the post of Chief Executive in the New Year. There was limited capacity at senior levels and some

important strategic projects underway, which was the reason for making the decision to recruit to this post. Interim arrangements would be put in place in the meantime, and the recruitment would be in line with the Council's Constitution, through a cross party Appointment Panel.

The Monitoring Officer, on behalf of the Head of Paid Service, reported that Councillor Jackson had replaced Liz McInnes as the Health Lead for Rossendale and in this capacity she would be a co-opted member of LCC's Health Scrutiny Committee and would also sit on the East Lancashire Health and Well Being Board. Councillor McMahon would be taking the vacant seat on Partner Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

10. 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.	Update in relation to the lighting, deliveries and parking at the Tesco Express in Whitworth, in addition to delineation between the path and the road.	Councillor Neal	Councillor Barnes informed a temporary measure had been put in place with regards the light on the cash machine, with a view to a more permanent solution; there were no regulatory provisions to enforce in store lighting requests but suggested measures had been proposed in a letter sent by the Planning Manager; the letter also reiterated conditions regarding HGV deliveries; more information was required regarding the reference to human rights; parking concerns had been highlighted to Tesco and with LCC Highways. The situation would be re-evaluated in a few weeks once there had been opportunity to alleviate some of the issues.
2.	Update on the changes to the refuse collection routes and times, and new vehicle delivery.	Councillor Robertson	Councillor Lamb informed that collections were completed as planned within the first two weeks with some minor issues identified and resolved. Customer contacts had returned to normal levels, at least two weeks earlier than anticipated. Two of the new refuse vehicles were delivered 10 th December 2014, with further deliveries planned over the next four weeks. Two vehicles would be going up for auction in the New Year.

3.	Supporting the Lancashire Telegraph campaign to stop critical health services being transferred out of East Lancashire.	Councillor Sandiford	Councillor Barnes agreed to send a letter.
4.	Project update and the Valley of Stone Greenway.	Councillor Ashworth	Councillor MacNae informed that the Council had been awarded £2million to carry out cycleway improvements between Rawtenstall and Rochdale and also for Route 6 between Accrington and Ramsbottom. These would be excellent off road cycleways and improve networks for commuting and leisure, and would attract tourism.
5.	Confirmation whether LCC had cut gritting stock and staffing resources, plus complaints over icy roads at the weekend.	Councillor Morris	Councillor Barnes informed that the LCC winter maintenance had improved year on year and that the budget was needs led. Constituent complaints should be directed to the County Councillor to enable him to take up any issues.
6.	Update on Bacup Library.	Councillor Oakes	Councillor Serridge informed that both Bacup and Whitworth Libraries had been selected to each undergo a £500,000 refurbishment.
7.	Exploring the possibility of being able to use the computer to renew the Blue Badge on STAN.	Councillor Cheetham	Councillor Barnes informed that this would be looked into to see if it was feasible.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

11. SCOUT MOOR/ROOLEY MOOR UPDATE

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

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Excellent updates.
- Residents' concerns being addressed.
- Welcome a potential local decision.
- Peel have done a good job keeping people updated.
- Consultation undertaken with communities and schools.
- Wide consultation methods and leafleting 15,000 homes.
- Questions to be answered by Coronation Power.
- Concerns where the interest is only in gaining planning permission to sell on.
- Credit given to officers for the report.

The Portfolio Holder for Operational Services and Development Control, Councillor Lamb, agreed to pass on members' comments as appropriate.

Resolved:

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

Reason for Decision

There have been significant changes to the position on these schemes since the last report to Council. Owing to the Scout Moor expansion now becoming a locally determined scheme and the submission of further information on the Rooley Moor proposal, both applications will be subject to consideration on very similar time scales. There would be significant workload considerations.

Alternative Options Considered

None

12. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2015/16

The Council considered the Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2015/16 report.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, Councillor Marriott, informed that the report maintained the status quo with a few minor technical adjustments.

Resolved:

That Full Council approve the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2015/16 as set out in the report.

Reason for Decision

To continue with the scheme approved in December 2013, but include benefit uprating and support legislative changes for 2015/16.

Alternative Options Considered

None

13. PUBLIC MEETINGS: COMMITTEE SCHEDULE 2015/2016

The Council considered the Public Meetings Schedule for 2015/2016.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- The number of Licensing Committee Meetings.

In response to a question from Councillor Neal, the Portfolio Holder for Customers, Legal and Licensing, Councillor Serridge, informed that over the last 12 month Licensing Hearings had been conducted by a sub-committee. Full Licensing Committees were being held as and when required and there were still regular meetings with the Taxi Trade where they could raise any issues.

Resolved:

That members agree the Committee Schedule containing dates of public meetings for 2015/2016 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Reason for Decision

It is important to agree a committee schedule in order to ensure that the Council can effectively conduct its business.

Alternative Options Considered

None

14. UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME AND STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Council considered the update on the Local Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement.

The Portfolio Holder for Operational Services and Development Control, Councillor Lamb, informed that the report included a copy of the new timetable. The timescale for the inspectors report would not be extended as there was a need to adopt the document as soon as possible to protect unwanted development.

Resolved:

1. That the draft Local Development Scheme be adopted as the Council's timetable for Local Plan preparation. The Statement of Community Involvement also be adopted as the Council's approach to consultation on planning issues, subject to feedback from public consultation.
2. That all future minor amendments be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

The updated Local Development Scheme will enable the authority to progress Local Plan Part 2 "Lives and Landscapes" in order to still achieve adoption by January 2017. Delaying the preparation of the document would increase the risk of development occurring in places that the Council has not prioritised.

An updated Statement of Community Involvement will enable the Council to reflect the latest legal situation and take on board current good practice.

Alternative Options Considered

None

15. URGENT DECISIONS

The Mayor asked members to note that there had been one urgent key decision taken under the Special Urgency Procedure since the last meeting of the Council – this was in relation to the final mortgage rescue scheme application and details of the decision had been included on the agenda for the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

16. Recommendation of the Governance Working Group: Constitution Review

The Council considered the Constitution Review report.

The Portfolio Holder for Customers, Legal and Licensing, Councillor Serridge, brought members' attention to 1.1 of the report and welcomed nominations for the Roll of Honour.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- 1998 Human Rights Act.

In response to a question from Councillor Neal, the Portfolio Holder for Customers, Legal and Licensing, Councillor Serridge, and the Director of Business confirmed that the Act remains relevant and was quoted as necessary.

Resolved:

1. That Council agrees the following addition to the Council Procedure Rules in paragraph 2 part 4 of the Constitution: *xij) to receive an announcement on the names of people/groups who the Council considers proud of their achievements (Roll of Honour – to be added to the agenda as/when required and nominations will be made in agreement with the Group Leaders and the Chief Executive.*
2. That Council agrees the amended wording and inclusion of the Appeals Hearing Procedure in the Council's Constitution in Part 4 Section 10 (Employment Procedure Rules) as detailed in Appendix B.
3. That Council agrees the amended wording in the Council's Constitution to comply with The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 as detailed in Appendix C.

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

17. Recommendation of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Committee: Parks and Open Spaces Update

The Council considered the Parks and Open Spaces update.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Improvements in grass cutting services, but a need to continue monitoring.
- Good report.
- Expertise and knowledge of team members.
- Outbreaks of Japanese Knotweed and Ragwort.
- Ensuring problems with vicious weeds are picked up.
- Good update.

In response to comments from councillors, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Barnes, thanked the Parks and Open Spaces Manager Tamzin Percival for her efforts over the last 3-4 years and informed that the role was being reviewed. The Portfolio Holder for Operational Services and Development Control, Councillor Lamb, also thanked Tamzin and her team who had listened to council members' and public responses, attended site visits and made adjustments to improve scheduled work. Comments and feedback would continue to be considered and work schedules monitored.

Resolved:

1. That Full Council notes the update to the grounds maintenance schedules as detailed within the report and approves the changes to the grounds maintenance schedule as detailed in the report and appendix 3.
2. That Full Council approves that all future minor amendments to the Parks and Open Spaces grounds maintenance schedules be delegated to the Head of Operations in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

Changes have been suggested taking in to account the feedback received from all sources to form a schedule which will suit the needs of more residents and is considered workable by the teams carrying out the work.

Alternative Options Considered

None

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.45pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date