

## **COUNCILLOR GRANVILLE MORRIS, MAYOR**

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

**Date of Meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor Councillor Morris (in the Chair)  
Councillors Aldred, Ashworth, A. Barnes, Bromley, Cheetham, Crawforth, James Eaton, Janet Eaton, Essex, Farrington, Fletcher, Graham, Hughes, Johnson, Kempson, Lamb, Lythgoe, MacNae, Marriott, McMahon, Neal, Oakes, Procter, Roberts, Robertson, Serridge, Stansfield, Steen and Walmsley.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Stuart Sugarman, Chief Executive  
Clare Birtwistle, Legal Services Manager (Monitoring Officer)  
Sarah Davies, Director of Business  
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager  
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant

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

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### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors L.Barnes, Haworth, Kenyon, Shipley, Smallridge and Smith.

Well wishes were sent to Councillor Haworth who was currently in hospital.

### **2. MINUTES**

#### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016 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**

The following non-pecuniary declarations of interest were made:

- First Choice Credit Union – Councillor Robertson
- Haslingden Task Force – Councillors Morris, Procter and Stansfield
- Rossendale Transport Directors – Councillors Cheetham, Crawforth, Essex, Marriott, Oakes and Walmsley
- Rossendale Leisure Trust Member – Councillor Morris
- RTB Members – Councillors Cheetham and MacNae

- THI Members – Councillors Ashworth, James Eaton, Janet Eaton, Lamb, MacNae, McMahon, Oakes, Steen and Walmsley
- Whitaker Board Member – Councillor A Barnes

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

There were no outstanding items to report.

## 6. 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.	Issuing the latest financial position in relation to empty homes.	Mr A Jowett	Councillor A. Barnes informed that the Council had reported known expenditure in both its regular financial monitoring reports and annual statutory accounts which were publicly available. It was part way through the journey with empty homes but once work was completed information would be updated and available.
2.	With experience from the THI project, was there confidence that Barnfield could deliver on the Town Centre?	Mr M Pickup	Councillor A. Barnes informed that THI took longer to deliver than expected as there were snagging issues, but it had delivered a decent quality scheme. The Council had recognised problems with the scheme and the report on the agenda highlighted changes to remedy the problems that had been incurred in recent months.

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

The Mayor welcomed to Rossendale the new Borough Dean, Rev. Chris Casey, and wished him well.

The Head of Paid Service informed that Councillor Lythgoe had replaced Councillor Oakes on the Audit and Accounts Committee and that Councillors Kempson and James Eaton had replaced Councillors Stansfield and Haworth on the Local Plan Steering Group.

The Leader of the Council updated members on the progress of the Combined Authority. 14 of 15 Lancashire councils had agreed to become a member of the Combined Authority. A Shadow Combined Authority had been formed and the first

meeting was on 11<sup>th</sup> July and would meet monthly thereafter. The Combined Authority proposal had been sent to the Secretary of State in June and a response was currently awaited. Lancashire was home to 1.5 million people and had a sub-regional economy similar to Merseyside. The UK PLC needed Lancashire as an integral part of the Northern Powerhouse.

The Leader also updated the meeting on the Keep Rossendale Valley Green campaign. She was currently waiting for a new date to meet with the MP and had written to the Secretary of State for housing to discuss the challenges in Rossendale.

## 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.	Council support for Civic Pride`s Britain in Bloom application for Rawtenstall. Concern about the gateway approach to Rawtenstall from Edenfield, and clumps of grass as we don't silage it.	Councillor Cheetham	Councillor A. Barnes informed of small grants that had been given. They had been assisted with £3,000 of equipment, plants and materials recently. They were the biggest pride group in the borough, but there were other groups across the borough now. She placed on record her gratitude for the work they all do in making Rossendale look its best all year round. She would ask officers to look at finding arrangements to help groups in an equitable way.
2.	Update on the County Council's plan to close the Helmshore Mills Museum on 30 <sup>th</sup> September. It would be impossible to get legal and financial arrangements in place by this deadline. Ensure it is kept open on a limited basis to maintain one of the prime sites.	Councillor Essex	Councillor A. Barnes informed that both herself and Councillor Essex had attended a closed workshop. Currently LCC were going through an expression of interest process to see if anyone was interested in running the museums. They were keen to secure the future of the mills as they were of international significance (ref. to Queen Street Mill also). A report to the Cabinet Working Group indicated that timescales were too short even though they were looking at a mothball and care plan. There were arguments being put forward that the cost of this was similar to the cost of keeping it open.
3.	Why the Council's accounts had not been signed off for	Councillor Steen	Councillor Marriott informed that the accounts had not been signed off

	2014-15. Empty homes scheme causing the hold up.		by the external auditors, Grant Thornton, as they are awaiting the completion of the Homes and Communities Agency's compliance audit. This had been stated at the Audit and Accounts Committee.
4.	Update on Albert Mill, Whitworth.	Councillor Serridge	Councillor A. Barnes confirmed that it was a complex situation as there were three landowners. Part of the site had been bought by a new company, who had agreed a way forward with one of the developer landowners. This was positive progress for the majority of the site, but a small amount was separately owned. The Council may need to look further at a CPO should the third landowner prove uncooperative.
5.	Concern expressed by community members in Weir about the use of glyphosate and spraying techniques.	Councillor James Eaton	Councillor A. Barnes confirmed that this issue was raised regularly and she would get a note out to members to keep them informed about pesticides.
6.	LCC proposals on library provision and the need to work with local groups.	Councillor Neal	Councillor A. Barnes informed that the Cabinet Working Group she sat on was purely looking at museums, however, she had recently met Friends of Whitworth Library and given them assurance of her support.
7.	Haslingden has had £100k to regenerate itself and the Whitaker has had £90k. Why has it had so much compared to the whole of Haslingden? The new café at the museum was busy yet the Council is paying maintenance and utilities. Any other new business would have to include this in their set up and be totally responsible for.	Councillor Roberts	Councillor A. Barnes informed that Haslingden had been given this money as a one off grant and there had been discussions at the start of the Task Force to see if they wanted to go down a similar route to Bacup with the THI application, but it would have had to become a conservation area. The traders were keen to look at what was detailed in the update report. The money was to help draw in more grant funding, and there was still money in the pot to draw down similar funding. The Whitaker was not a commercial business, it was a cultural offer working within the terms of how it had been taken on.

			The outbuildings were a different offer and the Council was working with the group to help get it on its feet. The longer term plan was to link Council funding to looking after the collection. It was about taking the group on a journey and developing the cultural offer.
8.	Annual meeting calendar and the Council meeting being moved to 8 <sup>th</sup> June, then to 6 <sup>th</sup> July, instead of having Cabinet on that date. If there wasn't a Cabinet meeting for 7 months would the Leader consider reducing allowances?	Councillor Essex	Councillor A. Barnes informed that as there was only one item for the Cabinet agenda it made more sense to have a Council meeting and take all the items together. There was a need to be responsive. She agreed to consider Councillor Essex's proposal.
9.	Could the Leader update on how the Council was working with United Utilities and other authorities following the flooding? Would we become an associate member of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority?	Councillor Cheetham	Councillor A. Barnes informed that she was attending a flood conference tomorrow and was also looking at how to better link in with our neighbours. Greater Manchester had pilot schemes and significant funding to address flooding issues. The Council was working closely with Greater Manchester on this as the River Irwell started in Bacup. The Council had pledged to join Greater Manchester Combined Authority as an associate when they were in a position to let us join.
10.	When there isn't time for public to ask a question at a Council meeting and a written response has to be sent, is it possible for members to have sight of the response?	Councillor Morris	Councillor A. Barnes informed that she was sure it was possible.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

### 9. Recommendation of the Appointments and Appeals Panel: Appointment of Standards Independent Person and Co-opted Member for Overview and Scrutiny

The Council considered the recommendation of the Appointments and Appeals Panel in relation to the recruitment of a Standards Independent Person and a Co-opted Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**Resolved:**

1. That Alison Driver be appointed as Standards Independent Person for a further 4 year term.
2. That Zieda Ali be appointed as Co-opted Member for Overview and Scrutiny for a 2 year term.

**Reason for Decision**

To recruit to two vacant positions.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None

**10. Recommendation of the Governance Working Group and Independent Remuneration Panel: Constitution Review**

The Council considered the proposed changes to the Constitution in relation to public speaking procedures and the Members' Allowances Scheme.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Public speaking and being able to ask a supplementary question.
- People can't always get through to their councillor.
- Taking on concerns and listening to everyone.
- It was discussed at great length at the Governance Working Group.
- The group looked at what other districts did in relation to public speaking.
- Do we want everyone to put their question in writing?
- Is it discriminatory as not everyone can read and write?
- Supplementary questions are at the Mayor's discretion.
- The report recommendations had been agreed by the cross party working group.
- What if something happens on the day that they want to raise?
- People take the time and trouble to attend.
- The system we have works well.
- Why follow other councils?
- People can ring through to the council and councillors at any time if they have a problem.
- All councillors are available, it's their role.
- Questions can also be asked at Cabinet and other meetings.
- People cannot always get here.
- Bringing urgent matters to members' attention.
- Restricting democracy.
- Stopping democracy is unfounded as residents can get in touch by phone, email, door, letter and social media etc.

In response to members questions the Portfolio Holder for Legal and Democratic Services, Councillor Oakes, informed that members had reviewed what other councils did and had looked to bring together the best practice from other councils. There were other means of asking questions, forms were available to complete, and councillors were contactable and accessible at any time if people had any concerns. The process was to make the business of the Council more efficient and to make improvements. People attend to ask questions with a view to getting information, if there is notification

of the question, it is possible to get them the information they are asking for. It wasn't restricting democracy as there were plenty of alternative means and opportunities to ask questions. It was helping democracy by being able to get the relevant information for people.

**Resolved:**

1. Members agree the amendments detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B in relation to the Constitution and public speaking procedures.
2. Members agree the changes to the Constitution and Members' Allowances Scheme in relation to the special responsibility allowances for Licensing Chair and Vice-chair as detailed in Appendix C, and that the change to the allowances is effective from 20th May 2016.

**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

**11. Recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report and Workplan**

The Council considered the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report and Workplan.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Dog fouling and dog warden, was anyone in post?
- Post had been advertised.

In response to questions by members the Portfolio Holder for Legal and Democratic Services, Councillor Oakes, and Portfolio Holder for Operational Services and Development Control, Councillor Lamb, informed that the Dog Fouling Task and Finish Group had not yet finished and that interviews had been held for an Enforcement Officer.

**Resolved:**

1. That Council approves the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016 (Appendix A).
2. That Council notes the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2016/2017 (Appendix B).
3. That the final reports of the Task and Finish Groups be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, prior to being considered by the Cabinet, Council or other relevant organisation.

**Reason for Decision**

That Overview and Scrutiny continues to develop its work over the next 12 months. A commitment to the Work Programme will ensure that Overview and Scrutiny continues to improve its way of working.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

None

## **ORDINARY BUSINESS**

### **12. URGENT DECISIONS**

The Mayor reported that a Special Urgency Decision had been taken on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016. This was in relation to the acceptance of a grant for clean bus technology and agreement to enter into a contractual arrangement for the provision of clean bus technology. The reason for special urgency was that tenders were to be returned in the last week of April and evaluations made in early May 2016.

### **13. FINANCIAL OUT-TURN AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS)**

The Council considered the Financial Out-turn and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), which was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, Councillor Marriott.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Incorrect figures on pages 2 and 4.
- Thanks to officers and the Portfolio Holder for their diligent work over the last 12 months.
- Excellent social mobility figures.
- It was a tribute to hard working people and their families, schools, colleges and community.
- Noting the direction on financial aspects of economic growth.
- People bringing entrepreneurial prosperity to the borough.

In response to questions from members the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, Councillor Marriott, informed that the figures on pages 2 and 4 should have had “k” after the figure and were typos.

#### **Resolved:**

That members note the contents of the report.

#### **Reason for Decision**

Robust monitoring of the General Fund and MTFS is essential to control risks expressed in section 4. Despite a continued cost reduction programme, the challenge remains for Council to continue its efficiency agenda in order to realise its medium term saving target. Members, collectively, continue to face difficult choices in order to balance expenditure with available resources over the medium term.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

None



## 14. PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The Council considered the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Portfolio Holder for Operational Services and Development Control, Councillor Lamb, introduced the report and informed members of the following:

- The aim was to adopt the Playing Pitch Strategy as a working document and in preparation of the Local Plan.
- It identified the quantity and quality and use of playing pitches.
- There was opportunity to bid for additional funding.
- There was a shortage of rugby and football pitches.
- There were issues for the re-development of lapsed pitches.
- Sport England would normally object to development on lapsed pitches.
- The strategy would be reviewed yearly.
- The full strategy was on the Council web site with the action plan.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Dark Lane used to be a good sports complex.
- Shortage of good facilities.
- Walking football is taking off.
- Weir playing area has drainage problems.
- Plans for the £120k S106 money?
- No suitable hockey pitches.
- Need for team sports especially mixed sports.
- Keeping young people active.
- Drainage problems at Chatterton and Edenfield Rec.
- Working with education authorities to have good facilities.
- Could CPO be used for private pitches, such as the one at Ewood Bridge?

In response to questions from members the Portfolio Holder for Operational Services and Development Control, Councillor Lamb, agreed to check on whether the drainage issues had been dealt with at Weir. She also informed that the S106 monies were part of the masterplan for Stubbylee Park. The study would be the basis for identifying change where it was needed.

### **Resolved:**

1. To adopt the Playing Pitch Strategy as a working document for guiding playing pitch investment and the preparation of the Local Plan.
2. All future minor amendments to the Study to be delegated to the Planning Manager and Head of Operations in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

### **Reason for Decision**

The Playing Pitch Strategy is an important document which identifies the quantity and quality of the Borough's stock of Playing Pitches. Because of its sign off by the Sport Governing Bodies it does create the opportunity to bid for additional funding.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None

## 15. HASLINGDEN TASK FORCE PROJECTS UPDATE

The Council considered the Haslingden Task Force Projects update. The Leader of the Council, Councillor A.Barnes, introduced the report and brought members attention to the following:

- Good news: improvements in Haslingden.
- There was robust partnership working involving traders.
- £100k had been ring fenced.
- Clean up works had taken place including removal of graffiti and chewing gum.
- Funding had also provided hanging baskets and signage.
- There would be a 50/50 shop front funding scheme, with grants of up to £2k per property and there had been 28 expressions of interest.
- There were web site proposals and promotional activities.
- It was focussing on the smaller things as that's what they had asked for.
- It was getting the forum working for local residents.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Hanging baskets only had flowers last year.
- Cleaning chewing gum from pavements was welcomed.
- Work done with signs on lampposts was hampered with bins being left out on Manchester Road and Blackburn Road.
- The place to raise issues was at the task group meetings.
- Money to finish the project was supposed to be being requested from LCC.
- What a difference a small amount of money can make to a town.
- Traders and community were pulling together.
- People were visiting and returning.
- Some people leave bins out as they have no yards, gardens or alternative place to put them.
- The backbone is small businesses.
- Helping people to do better and succeed.
- Small businesses have done a lot to improve the façades and needs the Council's cooperation.
- Need for weeding around monuments on occasions such as the Somme, to make sure they are pristine.
- In 1990 Haslingden secured £35 million SRB funding which was looked at by a working group. It has had as much funding as Rawtenstall and Bacup.
- Victoria Park got railings and Deardengate got cobble stones.
- Look at the wider picture, don't be parochial.
- SRB grant to Bacup was £5k.
- The £100k was aimed at bringing in match finding.
- No one thought it would work, but there had been collaborative working and there was now a Traders Association in Haslingden.
- The Love Haslingden Group came out of the Task Force and promoted Haslingden on a range of things.
- It had not been a quick solution, but the people of Haslingden were grateful for it.
- Difficulty with town centres was that you had to keep at it.
- Waterfoot looked clean and the sweeper was going round on Sunday.

- Crawshawbooth cenotaph had a lovely decoration.
- Council did not have the capacity it once did, as it had £11 million cut since 2010.

In response to questions from members the Leader of the Council, Councillor A.Barnes, informed that the hanging baskets had been provided with a view to traders maintaining them going forward. This would be taken back to the next meeting and should not be used to overlook the success of the scheme.

The Portfolio Holder for Operational Services and Development Control, Councillor Lamb, agreed to pass on Councillor Cheetham's comments about special events. She asked members to contact the Head of Operations and to keep the team notified of any significant events.

**Resolved:**

1. That Council confirms the allocation of a maximum of £50,000 from the £100,000 Haslingden Task Force budget to the Haslingden Shop Front Improvement Scheme with a maximum grant of £2000.00 per individual business.
2. That Council notes the progress on the Haslingden Task Force priority projects.
3. That all future minor amendments to the Haslingden Task Force projects be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

**Reason for Decision**

The aim of the Shop Front Improvement Scheme is to give all shops in the town centre the opportunity to improve the appearance of their premises with a view to supporting the growth of local businesses, improving the local environment, promoting the image of the local area and encouraging visitors to the town.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None

**16. PENNINE LANCASHIRE EMPTY HOMES - PROCUREMENT OF THE HOUSING MANAGEMENT SERVICE**

The Council considered the Pennine Lancashire Empty Homes - procurement of the housing management service report. The Leader of the Council, Councillor A.Barnes, informed that the report was an update on progress and to tender for the management service.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Would members get regular updates?

Councillor Neal moved an amendment that the Leader of the Opposition should be on any working group.

Members continued to discuss the following:

- Leader or Deputy Leader of the Opposition should be on any working group.
- Support bringing back empty homes into occupation.
- Why didn't we tender in the first place?
- Note the comments made by the S151 Officer.
- 30% of rent as a management fee seems a large figure.

- Audit and Accounts should monitor the scheme to ensure best quality and value for money.
- Maintain pressure on partners.
- Costs were well over £0.5 million.
- Not raised Council Tax, had the highest balance and then lost money.

In response to questions from members the Leader of the Council, Councillor A.Barnes, informed that they had been open and transparent and the internal audit report demonstrated that. The Opposition Leader had update meetings with the Chief Executive and had the opportunity to be kept informed. The report was dealing with delivering to the HCA's satisfaction and tendering for an organisation to take over the management service. The scheme was now fit for purpose. The 30% would be met by rent allowance and not by the Council.

Councillor Neal moved an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Essex to include that the Leader of the Opposition work closely with the Leader and Chief Executive on the matter.

Members voted on the amendment which became the substantive motion.

**Resolved:**

1. That the Empty Homes Project housing management service be procured and the day to day management of the scheme be sub contracted to a housing specialist.
2. Officers to accept the tender and award the contract in consultation with the portfolio holder in line with Council procedure and that the Leader of the Opposition work closely with the Leader and Chief Executive on the matter.

**Reason for Decision**

Whilst the original arrangement with AAW Ltd was unsuccessful, Rossendale Borough Council has ensured that it has put the project back on track. The cost to the council will remain if the current housing team continues to provide the service. By seeking to appoint a competent and experienced housing specialist as a sub-contractor, the council will save on average £200,000 per annum over 5 years. The arrangement would be covered by robust contractual agreements to ensure clear lines of responsibility and accountability, that performance targets are met and regular monitoring takes place.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None

**17. THI GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW**

The Council considered the THI Governance and Delivery Arrangements Review report. The Leader of the Council, Councillor A.Barnes, informed that there had been over 200 improvements in Bacup. There had been issues with weather and structural delays in Phase 1. They were looking to make changes to governance, delivery and contracting partners to resolve issues and agree to proceed with the remaining projects and seek an alternative contractor for phase 2.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Project was good for Bacup.

- Disappointing that LCC highways project was withdrawn as there were no costings done.
- Hope new contractor is aware of problems at phase 1 e.g. dry rot in buildings.
- Need to look at the empty buildings to see what problems exist as some have been shut up for over 20 years.
- Owners need to be aware of their financial commitments.
- Concerns with highways arrangements and bus movements.
- At the last board meeting Rosso hadn't decided.
- Membership of Greensclough should be 3 not 2.
- Is Accrington and Rossendale College being removed as they are no longer on the Stubblelee site but they are still showing as having a vote?
- THI did say phase 1 would be completed by the end of July.
- LCC put forward plans for the public realm and after consultation amended the plans. It has not been done as we need to know whether we can afford the new plans.
- Rosso had looked at the new scheme to make sure it was acceptable.
- It is reassuring that we are not spending money on a scheme if we are not happy with it.
- There was strong feedback from non-councillors and concerns about shared space.
- Concerns have been listened to and have seen a better scheme going forward.
- Focus on quality of delivery and making it fit for purpose.
- Previous arrangements weren't working so it's changing to do something better, appropriate and robust looking for the future.
- Page 4 Bacup Consortium Trust has been replaced by Bacup Pride.
- The terms of reference were old, could member see the new terms?

In response to questions from members the Leader of the Council, Councillor A.Barnes, informed that they were consulting on the new proposals and permission was sought to go forward, once this was agreed the new terms of reference would filter through. The old membership shown in the report would be updated with the new membership, this included amending the Greensclough members and the removal of Accrington and Rossendale College.

#### **Resolved:**

1. To review the paper and consider its findings.
2. To agree to the proposed changes to governance, to be put into effect following this meeting, with a TOR agreed with the HLF and Board and updated accordingly.
3. To agree to the replacement of the existing JV arrangements by revised project delivery arrangements including a competitively tendered contractual arrangement and to proceed with Phase 2 of the Bacup THI project.
4. To delegate the establishment for the revised arrangements and their agreement with HLF to the Director of Business, Chair of the THI Board and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration.

#### **Reason for Decision**

The Bacup THI project will deliver significant regeneration benefits to the area. In order to ensure the efficient, effective delivery of the project and reflect changes in key stakeholders, changes to governance, project management and delivery arrangements are required.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

None

### **18. WHITAKER HERITAGE GRANT**

The Council considered the Whitaker Heritage Grant report. The Leader of the Council, Councillor A.Barnes, informed that the report sought a grant to upgrade the location and a longer lease. It would upgrade facilities and be a heritage asset.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Welcomed the proposal to match fund.
- Pg 22 of financial report makes no mention of any sums earmarked. It just shows £300k earmarked, some of which have been there for some time.
- As it becomes more successful gas and electricity goes up, but this is still supported by the Council.
- Building is too small for its success.
- Meals are excellent.
- Would like to see it prosper.
- Would welcome a move to make it more self-sufficient e.g. within 3 years.
- There were no other arts centres between Bury and Towneley in Burnley, so Whitaker provides such provision in between.
- Opening up the ground floor has been more attractive.
- Hope the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) will give the grant.
- Fantastic to see progress over a short time.
- Essential it becomes self-funded.
- When started, the Whitaker cost £105k a year and this was consistently reducing.
- Concern about HLF funding requirements as detailed on page 2.
- Wish success with the bid.

#### **Resolved:**

1. Members note the positive progress and opportunities brought about through strong partnership work for these projects.
2. Members approve in principle financial support to the sums proposed in the grant application.
3. Members approve the introduction of a lease over a longer term than the existing license to cover the additional property to be improved.
4. All future negotiations and minor amendments to be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

#### **Reason for Decision**

Regenerating Rossendale is one of the Council's Key Corporate Priorities and the two projects which are the subject of this report are focussed on realising the real potential of two of Rossendale's key attractions.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

None

## 19. SPINNING POINT DEVELOPMENT PHASE 1

The Council considered the Spinning Point Development Phase 1 report.

Councillor A. Barnes moved an amendment to add an additional recommendation as follows:

1.7 Members agree to proceed with phase 1 of the spinning point development.

In delivering the report the Leader of the Council, Councillor A. Barnes, brought members attention to the following:

- Phase 1 parking amenities were funded as detailed in Part 2.
- It was in two parts so members had access to all information.
- It sought to proceed with the work.
- There had been a detailed briefing for members on the scheme.

In considering the report members discussed the following:

- Date of the briefing.
- Plans for the old Liberal Club and the seed and animal feed place.

Councillor Lamb seconded the amendment made by Councillor A. Barnes to add an additional recommendation at 1.7.

Councillor Essex moved an amendment to 1.5 as follows:

Members agree that all future negotiations and minor amendments to strategy and programme be delegated to the Chief Executive, Leader, Portfolio Holder and Leader of the Opposition or nominee.

Members continued to discuss the following:

- Assurances on LCC money, as it was a large amount to build a bus station.
- Look at the small print.
- Liberal Club side door is subsiding.
- Can the bus station be delivered with the cost LCC is giving us?
- Would the Council be liable for any further expenditure?

In response to questions from members the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, Councillor Marriott and Leader of the Council, Councillor A. Barnes informed that additional costs over £100k would come to Council and that it was impossible with a scheme of this nature to say you were spending an exact fixed amount. The Leader of the Council was confident the scheme would be managed within budget.

The Chief Executive confirmed that there would be a fixed cost contract and there would always be contingencies built in. The scheme also had £1.9 million LEP regional growth fund monies to cover contingencies.

Councillor Steen seconded the amendment proposed by Councillor Essex.

The first amendment was taken, that the recommendations of the report be approved with the addition of the following:

1.7 Members agree to proceed with phase 1 of the spinning point development.

Voting took place on the first amendment, which became the substantive motion.

The second amendment was taken, that the recommendations of the report be approved with the following amendment to 1.5:

1.5 Members agree that all future negotiations and minor amendments to strategy and programme be delegated to the Chief Executive, Leader, Portfolio Holder and Leader of the Opposition or nominee.

Voting took place on the second amendment, which was lost.

Voting took place on the substantive motion which included the addition of 1.7 that members agree to proceed with phase 1 of the spinning point development.

#### **Resolved:**

1. Members agree, subject to LCC final approval to the transfer of cc.£3.5m from LCC to RBC for a new bus station.
2. Members agree to accept the funding for RBC to build and own the bus station and also to manage the bus station facility through a 25 year management agreement with LCC to include the provision of a commuted sum of cc. £512K from LCC for structural maintenance.
3. Members agree to the RTB accepting a cc.£1.9m LEP Growth Deal grant to fund infrastructure costs for phase 2 with a Phase 1 contribution to refurbishment of the Old Town Hall (£400K to be agreed).
4. Members agree to RBC initially front funding the refurbishment of the Old Town Hall at a total cost of cc.£1.3m which will be repaid by cc.£400k of a cc.£1.9m LEP Growth Fund monies and a 25 year lease with Together Housing (Green Vale) with a break at 10 years.
5. Members agree that all future negotiations and minor amendments to strategy and programme be delegated to the Chief Executive, Leader and Portfolio Holder.
6. Members agree to approve the further development of income generation measures proposed in the report to ensure the long term financial success of the broader regeneration scheme.
7. Members agree to proceed with phase 1 of the spinning point development.

#### **Reason for Decision**

Redevelopment of the site of the former valley centre is a key priority of the Council and it has taken many years to reach its current stage with realistic development proposals being put forward. The transfer of the Council's land into the development 'pot' is key to achieving the Council's regeneration ambitions but at the same time the value of the land needs to be properly reflected in the redevelopment deal and recouped in later years.

#### **Alternative Options Considered**



None

**20. 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.

**21. SALE OF LAND**

The Council considered the Sale of Land report, which was introduced by the Leader of the Council.

**Resolved:**

Members to agree to the sale of land as detailed in the report.

**Reason for Decision**

The sale of the land will retain jobs in the borough, enable future job creation and achieves a capital receipt for the Council. The development will also bring into use land which has lain vacant for some time.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None

**22. INSURANCE**

The Council considered the Insurance report.

**Resolved:**

That members approve the purchase of Environmental Insurance as detailed in the report.

**Reason for Decision**

Purchase of a new policy represents the best value for Council.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None

**(The meeting started at 6.30pm and concluded at 9.20pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....