

Minutes of: THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF BURY

Date of Meeting: 9 January 2003

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor J Smith) in the Chair; Councillors K Audin, R A Bibby, D Boden, K S Briggs, J Byrne, G Campbell, W A Campbell, D M Cassidy, T P Chamberlain, F A Chaudhry, M Connolly, J P Costello, Y Creswell, A J Cummings, V D D'Albert, W J Davison, C M Fitzgerald, E K Grime, D L Gunther, D M Higgin, T Holt, B M Hope, A Isherwood, W Johnson, S P Magnall, S Mason, A K Matthews, P J Nesbit, S R Perkins, T D Pickstone, G Sharkey, S M Smith, J W H Taylor, B Theckston, P Timperley, S Treadgold, B Vincent, P Walker, R E Walker, J F Walton, R A Watts and Y S Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors E B Briggs, S Costello, J Grimshaw, A P Hughes and W Ramsey

Public attendance: 10 members of the public attended the meeting

C.895 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 November 2002 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C.896 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared by Members in relation to any matter considered at the meeting.

C.897 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Death of The Reverend Alan Entwistle

The Worshipful the Mayor was saddened to refer to the recent death of The Reverend Alan Entwistle.

The Reverend Entwistle was a former Headteacher of the Hazelhurst Primary School, Ramsbottom and also the Religious Education Advisor to the Council. He had previously also served the community of Bury as the Curate of Holy Trinity Church.

He had served the Council and the People of the Borough for many years and was well respected and highly regarded and made an important contribution to our community.

The sympathy and condolences of the Council have been conveyed to Mrs Entwistle and members of her family.

All present stood in silence as a mark of respect and in memory of The Reverend Entwistle.

(b) Birth of Councillor Hughes' son

The Worshipful the Mayor offered congratulations on behalf of all Members and Officers of the Council, to Councillor Andrea Hughes and her husband, John, upon the birth of their son, Thomas John.

Both mother and baby are making good progress and the Mayor offered them, and also father, our very good wishes for the future.

C.898 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions were asked on the following issues during public question time:-

- From Mr K Rothwell concerning the loyalty, trust and confidence of members of staff
- From Mr A Ingham concerning the maintenance of public footpath No 175
- Lack of response to a complaint about the connection of a lamppost
- From Mrs Sullivan concerning the level of sickness absence
- From Mr R Miles concerning the condition of the roads in the Borough
- From Mrs D Bigg concerning the state of the footpaths, pavements and roads
- From Mrs D Bigg concerning consultations on the proposed closure of Elderly Persons Homes

C.899 COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The Worshipful the Mayor reported that this Extraordinary Meeting had been requisitioned by 5 Members, namely Councillors D M Higgin, R E Walker, J F Walton, B Theckston and S P Magnall, to discuss the Comprehensive Performance Assessment Report and make recommendations as required.

A Notice of Motion on the Comprehensive Performance Assessment Report signed by Councillors J Byrne, P Walker and D Boden had been received.

(i) It was moved by Councillor Byrne and seconded by Councillor W A Campbell that the following Notice of Motion submitted under Council Procedure Rule 12 be approved:-

“That this Council welcomes collaborative inspection which identifies strengths and weaknesses and helps the process of modernising our structures to improve the quality of delivery of services which are relevant to the needs of our local communities.

However, we have no confidence in a system which fails to recognise the very different nature of authorities and the complexity and diversity of interests.

Nor can we support a system which is not transparent or open to challenge and is capable of manipulation. Neither can we accept a system which does not recognise the issue of resource."

(ii) Questions were then asked on the Motion and the Comprehensive Performance Assessment Report and answers were given by the Leader of the Council or the appropriate Executive Member.

(iii) An amendment was moved by Councillor Higgin and seconded by Councillor R E Walker that paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Motion be deleted and substituted with the following paragraph:-

"This Council urgently requests that the Corporate Performance Assessment Report be considered in detail by all Scrutiny Panels and Commissions at the earliest opportunity, in order that the Council Tax payers of Bury may be assured that positive action is being taken to address the shortcomings and weaknesses detailed by the Audit Commission in the CPA Report."

On being put, 12 voted for, 30 against with one abstention and the amendment was declared lost.

(iv) A debate then took place on the Notice of Motion.

(v) In accordance with Rule 9 of the Council Procedure Rules, at 10.15 pm the Mayor interrupted the meeting and called for a vote on the Notice of Motion.

(vi) On being put, 30 voted for, 12 against with one abstention and the Motion was declared carried and it was -

RESOLVED:

That the Motion set out in (i) above be approved and adopted.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(Note: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 10.15 pm)

