

**Minutes of:** THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF BURY

**Date of Meeting:** 6 February 2008

**Present:** The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor F A Chaudhry) in the Chair;  
Councillors D M Ashworth, P Ashworth, K Audin, L E Baucutt, R L Baum, C A Berry, R A Bibby, D B Bigg, D Boden, K S Briggs, R C A Brown, J Byrne, W A Campbell, D M Cassidy, T P Chamberlain, S Cohen, M Connolly, S Costello, Y Creswell, A J Cummings, V D D'Albert, W J Davison, I B Gartside, M A Gibb, J Grimshaw, D L Gunther, M Hankey, D M Higgin, T Holt, A Isherwood, S P Magnall, A K Matthews, D O'Hanlon, S P Penketh, T D Pickstone, P H Redstone, K Rothwell, S J Southworth, B J Sullivan, J W H Taylor, B Theckston, B Vincent, R E Walker, J F Walton, M J Wiseman, S D Wright and Y S Wright

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors A J Garner, A S Garner and J Smith (Clash)

**Public attendance:** 13 members of the public attended the meeting.

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## **C.621 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

- (a) Councillor Penketh declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the question raised by Councillor Rothwell relating to the development of Waste Management Facilities in Bury and left the Chamber whilst the question was answered. (Minute C.629(3) below)
- (b) Councillors Walker and Chamberlain both declared personal interests in the question raised by Councillor Boden relating to; the recycling of plastic bottles by Bury FC; and in the questions raised by Councillors Davison and Southworth in relation to the possible relocation of Bury FC. (Minute C.626(9), (20) and (23))
- (c) Councillors Bigg, Cohen and Davison declared personal interests in the question raised by Councillor Baucutt relating to the appearance of Council housing estates as Members of the Six Town Housing Board. (Minute C.626(18))

## **C.622 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 December 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

Councillor Briggs clarified that the information she had requested at Minute C.513(ii) was the total expenditure on the television advertising campaign for Bury Market and not, as provided, the total publicity Budget.

The Leader undertook to provide the information.

**C.623 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Worshipful the Mayor informed the Council of the recent death of Mrs Phyllis Colleran who was Mayoress of the Borough during the 1985/86 Municipal Year which she shared with her late husband, former Councillor Arthur Colleran.

The sympathy and condolences of the Council had been conveyed to Mrs Colleran's family. All Councillors stood in silence as a mark of respect and in remembrance of Mrs Colleran.

The Mayor reminded Members that he and the Mayoress were hosting a charity Dinner and Ball, the proceeds from which were to be donated to the Bury Hospice Association Red Rose Appeal, to be held at the Radcliffe Civic Suite on Friday, 22 February 2008. He expressed the wish that as many Members and Officers together with members of the community, would be able to support the event.

The Official Photograph of the full Council will be taken in the Elizabethan Suite at 6.45 pm for 7.00 pm prior to the Council meeting on 26 March 2008 – the start of the Council meeting to be moved to 7.15 pm.

The Mayor offered his personal thanks to Mr Haroon Asghar who had kindly accepted the Mayor's invitation to offer Prayers at the opening of this meeting and also thanked the Reverend Dr John Findon for his support.

**C.624 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

1. Mr G Hardman asked for an assurance from the Leader that the Council Tax increase for 2008/2009 financial year would be kept below 5%. The Leader stated his commitment to ensuring that any increase would be lower than 5%.
2. Mr H Desmond expressed his concerns about the care of his disabled mother by a Care Agency and asked the Leader whether the Council would be taking action to address his concerns. Councillor Sullivan, Executive Member for Health and Well-Being, assured Mr Desmond that she was taking action in respect of his concerns.
3. Mrs A Audin asked for the Council's response to a previous request for funding to provide children's play facilities on Hunters Hill housing estate, Hollins.

The Leader undertook to provide Mrs Audin with a response.

4. Mr L Phillips questioned the benefit of road humps which he considered forced emergency vehicles to slow down and may lead to delays in dealing with casualties.

Councillor Gunther responded by emphasising the safety benefits resulting from these traffic calming measures.

**C.625 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

The Mayor reported that there were no recommendations from the Executive or Council Committees for consideration at this meeting.

**C.626 LEADER'S STATEMENT AND EXECUTIVE QUESTION TIME**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor R A Bibby, made a statement on the work of the Executive since the date of the last Council meeting. The Leader and the relevant Executive Members answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:-

| <b>No</b> | <b>Issue</b>   | <b>Questioner</b>    | <b>Answered by<br/>(and action)</b>  |
|-----------|--|----------------------|--|
| 1.        | 1. Outstanding road repairs and claims paid out for injury caused by unrepaired roads<br><br>2. Measures to reduce claims      | Councillor S Wright  | Councillor Gunther   |
| 2.        | 1. Update on the 'Deep Clean' of Prestwich<br><br>2. When the operation will be completed                                      | Councillor Baum      | Councillor Gunther   |
| 3.        | Amount of waste collected on the special Christmas collection on 29 December 2007  | Councillor Pickstone | Councillor Gunther   |
| 4.        | Council's response to the Sustainable Communities Act 2007   | Councillor D'Albert  | Councillor Creswell  |
| 5.        | 1. Length of time an applicant for re-housing is likely to have to wait<br><br>2. Circumstances of a resident of Holyrood Ward | Councillor D'Albert  | Councillor Gartside (likely waiting time for particular properties to be reported to Councillor D'Albert) (Report to Scrutiny Commission on waiting times) |
| 6.        | Involvement of Local Area Partnerships in preparing Local Community Plans for their areas.                                     | Councillor Pickstone | Councillor Creswell  |

| <b>No</b> | <b>Issue</b>   | <b>Questioner</b>   | <b>Answered by<br/>(and action)</b>  |
|-----------|--|---------------------|--|
| 7.        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Efficient use of resources by the Council</li> <li>2. Maintenance of records of location of street furniture</li> </ol>                            | Councillor O'Hanlon | Councillor Redstone  |
| 8.        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Funding of Bury Independent Advice Centre – employment issues</li> <li>2. Need to process the funding application urgently</li> </ol>              | Councillor Boden    | Councillor Creswell  |
| 9.        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recycling of plastic bottles by Bury FC</li> <li>2. Contact with the Football Club to encourage recycling of discarded drinks bottles</li> </ol>   | Councillor Boden    | Councillor Gunther<br>(Contact to be made with Bury FC)  |
| 10.       | Assurance that the Urbed Study proposals will include sustainability principles and practice   | Councillor Boden    | Councillor Gunther   |
| 11.       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arrangements for exchanging recycled materials</li> <li>2. Gather information on exchanges</li> </ol>  | Councillor Boden    | Councillor Gunther<br>(To be investigated)   |
| 12.       | Safe disposal of failed low-energy fluorescent lamps   | Councillor Boden    | Councillor Gunther   |
| 13.       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use of Credit-Rating Agency to establish eligibility for Single person Discount for Council Tax</li> <li>2. Process subject to Scrutiny</li> </ol> | Councillor Boden    | Councillor Redstone<br>(Reference of process to Resource & Performance Scrutiny Commission for review) |
| 14.       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Risk to the public from the use of the taxi rank on Spring Street, Bury</li> <li>2. Urgent enforcement action required</li> </ol>                  | Councillor Holt     | Councillor Gunther<br>(Urgent investigations to be undertaken)   |

| No  | Issue  | Questioner           | Answered by<br>(and action)   |
|-----|--|----------------------|---|
| 15. | 1. Effects on local residents of under-age consumption of alcohol<br><br>2. Congratulations to Council employees and Police for enforcement                        | Councillor Holt      | Councillor Wiseman  |
| 16. | 1. Planning enforcement where planning applications are refused<br><br>2. Change of use of a shop on Water Street, Radcliffe                                       | Councillor Isherwood | Councillor Gunther  |
| 17. | 1. Purpose of operating Civic Halls<br><br>2. Review of Pricing Strategy for use   | Councillor Cassidy   | Councillor Sullivan<br>(Review of Pricing Strategy of Civic Halls to be undertaken)       |
| 18. | 1. External appearance of Council housing estates and the effects on tenants' morale<br><br>2. Tenant taking responsibility for their outdoor fencing              | Councillor Baucutt   | Councillor Gartside   |
| 19. | 1. Bury school holiday pattern – mid term holidays different from other neighbouring authorities<br><br>2. Co-ordination of holiday patterns with AGMA Authorities | Councillor Matthews  | Councillor D Ashworth<br>(To be taken into account in determining school holiday pattern) |

**(b) Oral Questions (Without Notice)**

|     |   |                    |                  |
|-----|---|--------------------|------------------|
| 20. | Possible relocation of Bury FC from Gigg Lane, Bury | Councillor Davison | Councillor Bibby |
|-----|---|--------------------|------------------|

| No  | Issue  | Questioner            | Answered by<br>(and action)   |
|-----|--|-----------------------|---|
| 21. | 1. Date for commencement of building works for Radcliffe Riverside new School<br><br>2. Progress on land purchase  | Councillor Cummings   | Councillor Bibby  |
| 22. | Dog fouling – enforcement  | Councillor Baum       | Councillor Bibby<br>(Response to Councillor Baum detailing enforcement action)  |
| 23. | 1. Possible relocation of Bury FC from Gig Lane, Bury<br><br>2. Retention of Goshen playing fields as public land  | Councillor Southworth | Councillor Bibby<br>(Undertaking that Ward Members will be consulted if any request is received for alternative use of Goshen playing fields is received) |
| 24. | Progress of Equal Pay Claims against the Authority   | Councillor Holt       | Councillor Bibby  |
| 25. | Enforcement of Traffic Regulation Orders   | Councillor Byrne      | Councillor Bibby  |
| 26. | Recent flooding of properties in Radcliffe – congratulations to employees and Emergency services for prompt action | Councillor Campbell   | Councillor Bibby  |

**C.627 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS “CALLED IN” BY SCRUTINY COMMISSIONS**

There were no Scrutiny Review Reports or specific items ‘called-in’ by Scrutiny Commissions to be considered at this Council meeting.

**C.628 NOTICES OF MOTION**

No Notices of Motion had been received for debate at this meeting.

**C.629 JOINT AUTHORITIES – REPORTS BY THE COUNCIL’S REPRESENTATIVES AND QUESTIONS**

- (a) Councillor Walton, the Council’s representative on the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority, gave an oral report on the work of that Joint Authority to all Members of the Council.

- (b) The nominates spokespersons as indicated below, answered questions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2:-

| No | Joint Authority and Questioner  | Issue   | Answered by (and action)   |
|----|---|---|--|
| 1. | Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority<br><br>Councillor Matthews         | 1. Councillor Walton's work on the Fire and Rescue Authority<br><br>2. Government Financial Settlement for the Authority and its effects on the Borough's residents | Councillor Walton  |
| 2. | Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority<br>Councillor O'Hanlon             | 1. That Authority's attitude to sprinkler installations<br><br>2. A possible condition of planning permission for all new buildings to install sprinkler systems    | Councillor Walton<br>(To be raised with the Planning Authority)    |
| 3. | Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority<br>Councillor Rothwell              | Development of Waste Management Facilities at Every Street, Bury – consultations with local residents to minimise nuisances – the date of start of building works   | Councillor P Ashworth<br>(Written response to Councillor Rothwell) |
| 4. | Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority<br>Councillor O'Hanlon              | 1. Management of the former tip site in Prestwich<br><br>2. Contact by Forestry Commission to acquire/manage the site   | Councillor P Ashworth<br>(Written response to Councillor O'Hanlon) |
| 5. | Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority<br>Councillors Byrne and Boden | 1. Current status of the Transport Innovation Bid<br><br>2. The Views of the Liberal Democrat Party to the Bid/Congestion Charging                                  | Councillor Baum<br>(In the absence of Councillor A J Garner)       |

### C.630 QUESTIONS ON THE WORKS OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

There were no written questions on the work of outside bodies or partnerships on which the Council is represented, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

**C.631 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Councillor Chamberlain requested that the Healthier Communities Scrutiny Commission at its next meeting amend the Minutes of its meeting held on 10 January 2008 to record how individual Member's votes were cast on Minute HSC.586 (Establishment of a Home Improvement Agency) (Digest of Decisions 9 2007/2008, page 376).

**THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR**

**(NOTE:** The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.33 pm).