

**Minutes of: AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**Date of Meeting:** 15 September 2010

**Present:** The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor J Byrne) in the Chair;  
Councillors I Ahmed, A Audin, K Audin, R L Baum, I Bevan, R A Bibby, D B Bigg, D Boden, R C A Brown, R Caserta, D M Cassidy, S Cohen, M J Connolly, S Costello, Y Creswell, A J Cummings, M D'Albert, V D'Albert, W J Davison, A S Garner, I B Gartside, J Grimshaw, D L Gunther, M Hankey, J Harris, D M Higgin, T Holt, S Hurst, A Isherwood, S P Magnall, D O'Hanlon, N Parnell, S P Penketh, T D Pickstone, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, J Smith, J W H Taylor, B Theckston, B Vincent, R E Walker, S Walmsley, J F Walton, M J Wiseman, S D Wright and Y S Wright

**Apologies for absence** Councillors J Lewis, A K Matthews and T Tariq

**Public attendance:** 20 members of the public attended the meeting

(Note – Councillor Garner left the meeting prior to consideration of C.211, Notices of Motion).

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## **C.205 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. Councillor Pickstone declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute C.211, Notice of Motion (A), Fairfield Hospital – Children's Services, as he is a non-executive director of Bury NHS Trust. Councillor Pickstone left the meeting during consideration of this item.
2. Councillor Yvonne Wright declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Public Questions which related to the Civic Halls as she is hiring the Longfield Suite and Radcliffe Civic Suite for an event. Councillor Wright left the meeting during consideration of this item.

## **C.206 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30 June 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, subject to the amendment of Minute C.85 "Public Question Time", by the deletion of "Hiring of the Longfield Suite, Prestwich" and the substitution of "Bury Council Taxpayers subsidising external commercial promoters"

## **C.207 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that the Jewish New Year and the Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan had recently been celebrated, and he offered to the Jewish Members and Officers of the Council and the Jewish Community within the Metropolitan Borough warm greetings and good wishes for the Jewish New Year.

He also expressed to the Muslim Members and Officers and the Muslim Community that the Council's good wishes were with them during the holy month of Ramadan.

He further reported that Bury Council had once again received success at the Royal Horticultural Society's Northern Show held at Tatton Park, with the 2010 entry based on a theme using local connections. The Council's Parks and Countryside Service and volunteers from the Whitefield Horticultural Society achieved a silver Gilt Award.

Finally, the Mayor requested Members of the Council to sign the Corporate Parenting Declaration made available at the meeting.

## **C.208 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Written notice had been given for questions from the following members of the public:-

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Answered By</b>
Mr I Hayes	Radcliffe Civic Suite	Councillor Hankey
Mr A Wentworth Mr K Hodges	Longfield Suite, Prestwich	Councillor Hankey
Mr G Ramsay	Petition Arrangements	Councillor Bibby
Mr C Holden	Radcliffe Secondary School	Councillor Bibby

## **C.209 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET MEMBERS AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

The Mayor reported that there were no recommendations coming forward from the Cabinet Members and Council Committees for consideration at this meeting.

## **C.210 LEADER'S STATEMENT AND LEADER'S QUESTION TIME**

### **(a) Written questions (four clear days' notice given)**

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

<b>No</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Answered by (and action)</b>
1.	Funding for the Playbuilder Scheme	Councillor Smith	Councillor Caserta
2.	Local Area Partnership Grants Scheme 2010/2011	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Creswell

<b>No</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Answered by (and action)</b>
3.	Publication of information on the Council's Web site	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Gartside
4.	Petition Scheme and definition of "vexatious, abusive or otherwise inappropriate"	Councillor Shori	Councillor Bibby
5.	Preparation for Winter weather and use of salt bins	Councillor S Wright	Councillor Gunther
6.	Charging policy for Children's Centres	Councillor Holt	Councillor Caserta
7.	Budget for 2011/12 and consultation arrangements	Councillor Baum	Councillor Gartside
8.	Free swimming lessons	Councillor Quinn	Councillor Bibby
9.	Possible introduction by AGMA of minimum price for alcohol	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Hankey
10.	Recycling figures for Bury for 2006 to 2010 and comparison with GM Authorities	Councillor Cummings	Councillor Gunther
11.	Safety of school children and steps to ensure that no danger is posed by those with access to them.	Councillor S Wright	Councillor Caserta
12.	Youth Opportunities Fund and support for youth projects	Councillor Parnell	Councillor Caserta
13.	Control of dangerous dogs	Councillor Baum	Councillor Gunther
14.	Street lighting	Councillor Boden	Councillor Gunther
15.	Radcliffe Primary Health Centre - Pedestrian Safety	Councillor Rothwell	Councillor Gunther
16.	Highways Maintenance Revenue Works Budget	Councillor Boden	Councillor Gunther
17.	Elizabethan Suite - Disabled Access	Councillor Ann Audin	Councillor Hankey
18.	Cancellation of LAP Chairs Meetings	Councillor Grimshaw	Councillor Creswell

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 13 to 18 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of the answers to those questions will be circulated to all Councillors.

**(b) Oral Questions on the work of the Leader and Cabinet Members since the last Council meeting (without Notice)**

<b>No</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Answered by (and action)</b>
19.	Commitment to redevelopment of Radcliffe	Councillor Penketh	Councillor Gartside
20.	Restructuring of Chief Executive's Department – Financial Implications	Councillor Walmsley	Councillor Bibby
21.	Restructuring of Chief Executive's Department – Recruitment Procedures	Councillor Connolly	Councillor Bibby
22.	Restructuring of Chief Executive's Department – Financial Savings	Councillor Isherwood	Councillor Bibby
23.	Role of Local Strategic Partnership in meeting financial challenges	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Bibby
24.	Financial policies and IMF advice	Councillor Boden	Councillor Bibby
25.	Protecting vulnerable people against expenditure cuts	Councillor Holt	Councillor Bibby
26.	Principles behind Transformation agenda	Councillor O'Hanlon	Councillor Bibby
27.	Scale of expenditure cuts in Education	Councillor Quinn	Councillor Bibby
28.	Transformation agenda and trade union consultation	Councillor Parnell	Councillor Bibby
29.	Six Town Housing – Application of recruitment policies	Councillor Smith	Councillor Bibby

**C.211 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Four Notices of Motion have been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12:-

**(A) FAIRFIELD HOSPITAL – CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

The following Motion had been received and set out in the Summons:-

It was moved by Councillor Bevan and seconded by Councillor Creswell that:-

"This Council welcomes the decision by the Secretary of State for Health to stop the planned closure of the Children's Services Department at Fairfield Hospital pending a review to ensure the planned reconfiguration meets the new criteria issued by the Secretary of State, recognises the importance of the views of local GP's in this process and urges all local GP's particularly in the North of the Borough to submit their views to the NHS review process and in making their submissions they reflect the wishes of Bury residents who overwhelmingly want maternity and children's services to be retained at Fairfield Hospital."

**In the names of Councillors: I Ahmed, I Bevan, R Bibby, D Bigg, R Brown, R Caserta, S Cohen, Y Creswell, I Gartside, D Gunther, M Hankey, J Harris, D Higgin, S Hurst, S Magnall, S Penketh, J Taylor, B Theckston, B Vincent, R Walker, J Walton, M Wiseman and Y Wright.**

An amendment was moved by Councillor Connolly and seconded by Councillor Smith that:

The Motion be amended by the deletion, in line 1, of the word "welcomes" and the substitution of the word "questions" and the addition of the following paragraph:

'We demand that the Secretary of State for Health fulfils his pledge to the people of Bury, "If I am Secretary of State for Health after the General Election, Maternity and Children's Services will be maintained at Fairfield and I will ensure this happens."

Source Conservatives: Election Special 5 May 2010.'

The amendment on being put, 23 members voted for, 23 against and with no abstentions, was declared carried following the Mayor's casting vote.

The substantive motion on being put, 44 members voted for, none against, and with one abstention, was declared carried.

(**Note:** One Member had left the Chamber when the substantive motion was put)

## **(B) LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIPS**

The following Motion had been received and set out in the Summons:-

It was moved by Councillor Shori and seconded by Councillor Parnell

"This Council recognises the vital role of the Local Area Partnerships in delivering local solutions for residents. We note with concern the decision to suspend all funding from the Area Based Grant to the Local Area Partnerships. We, therefore, call on this Council to re-instate forthwith funding to the Local Area Partnerships."

**In the names of Councillors: A Audin, K Audin, D Boden, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, S Costello, A J Cummings, J Grimshaw, T Holt, A Isherwood, J Lewis, A K Matthews, N Parnell, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, J Smith, T Tariq and S Walmsley.**

An amendment was moved by Councillor Pickstone and seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon that:-

The Motion be amended by the deletion of "We therefore call on this Council to re-instate forthwith funding to the Local Area Partnerships", and the addition of the following paragraph.

"We therefore call for a report to be considered by the Internal Scrutiny Committee outlining proposals for how the LAP Grants can be re-instated in the current and future financial years, and to ensure that all available advice and information on alternative sources of funding for local projects is made available to groups as needed."

The amendment on being put, 46 members voted for, none against and with one abstention, was declared carried.

### **(C) Electoral Registration**

The following Motion had been received and set out in the Council Summons:-

"This Council is committed to ensuring that all of our residents who are eligible to vote are registered to vote. The electoral register is the foundation stone of our democracy and we have a duty to ensure that it is both accurate and complete – helping to empower citizens and increase public engagement in the democratic process.

This Council believes that the Council should take every effort to ensure that the 2010 electoral register in the Metropolitan Borough of Bury is as complete and accurate as possible, so as to provide a proper basis for any revision to electoral boundaries in the Metropolitan Borough of Bury. In addition, this Council notes that the Electoral Commission currently believes that approximately 3.5 million people are missing from registers in England and Wales alone and that this trend is especially stark amongst many specific social groups.

This Council, therefore, directs:

1. The Electoral Registration Officer and his staff to conduct door-to-door inquiries at all households where no-one responds to a letter requiring registration, with at least two personal calls on all non-responding households;
2. That an effective advertising campaign is launched now to encourage people to register, targeted at social groups among whom under-registration is known to be a problem and targeted at residents in those neighbourhoods where the electoral register is believed to have the lowest levels of completeness;
3. The Chief Executive to ensure a joined-up approach across all parts of the Council to encourage residents to register to vote;
4. The Electoral Registration Office to ensure that in the absence of any evidence that a particular household is empty or that the electors have moved or died, that the names in all such non-responding households should be carried over. "

**In the names of Councillors: A Audin, K Audin, D Boden, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, S Costello, A J Cummings, J Grimshaw, T Holt,**

**A Isherwood, J Lewis, A K Matthews, N Parnell, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, J Smith, T Tariq and S Walmsley.**

The motion on being put, 46 members voted for, none against and with one abstention, was declared carried.

At this stage, in the proceedings, the Mayor informed Members that it was 10.20 pm, and under Council Procedure Rule 9.1 business should be concluded.

It was moved and seconded that standing orders be suspended in order to enable the meeting to continue.

The motion on being put, 16 members voted for, 30 against and with one abstention, was declared lost.

The Mayor called upon the Leader to move The Closure Motion in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

The Leader moved and it was:

**RESOLVED:**

That the whole of the remaining business before the Council be approved:-

**THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR**

**(NOTE:** The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 10.20 pm)

**NOTE:** There were no Scrutiny Review Reports and Specific Items "Called-In" by Scrutiny Committees; there were no questions on the work of outside bodies or partnerships; and there were no questions on delegated decisions of Council Committees.

Questions asked of Joint Authority representatives would be circulated subsequently.

The following motions and reports were duly noted/approved following the Closure Motion:

- Notice of Motion – Renewable Energy
- Annual Scrutiny Report 2009/2010
- Greater Manchester Joint Waste Development Plan Document
- Matter dealt with under Special Urgency Provisions Redbank House, Radcliffe