

Minutes of: AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 28 March 2012

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Y Creswell, in the Chair;
Councillors I Ahmed, A Audin, K Audin, M Bailey, N Bayley, I Bevan, R A Bibby, D Boden, R C A Brown, P Bury, G Campbell, R Caserta, D M Cassidy, S Cohen, J Columbine, M Connolly, A J Cummings, M D'Albert, V D D'Albert, J Frith, A Garner, I Gartside, J Grimshaw, D L Gunther, M Hankey, J Harris, T Holt, S Hurst, K Hussain, A Isherwood, M James, J Lewis, A K Matthews, D O'Hanlon, N Parnell, T D Pickstone, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, J Smith, T Tariq, J Taylor, B Theckston, B Vincent, R E Walker, S Walmsley, J F Walton, M Wiseman and Y S Wright

Apologies for Absence: -

Public attendance: 30 members of the public attended the meeting.

C.756 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Councillor Connolly declared an interest in any item which related to staffing as his partner is an employee of Bury Council.
2. Councillor Pickstone declared a personal interest in Minute C. 761 , in respect of the question to the Leader on Health and Wellbeing Boards, as he is a member of an NHS Trust and his partner is employed by the NHS.

C.757 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Budget Council held on 22 February 2012, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C.758 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor referred to:

- § the recent deaths of Mr Arthur Withington and former Councillor Leonard Phillips and paid tribute to their contributions to civic life in Bury. Members observed a brief silence as a mark of respect.
- § the Gallipoli Commemoration and St George's Day Celebration Dinner and Ball on 21 April 2012.

- § the retirement of Councillor Boden from front-line politics after 40 years service.
- § the fact that Councillors Ahmed, Hurst and Garner would not be seeking re-election.
- § Councillor Vincent's celebration of his 70th birthday.

C.759 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	Speeding motor vehicles and traffic calming	Mrs Haroon	Councillor Connolly
2.	The future of St Mary's Court, Prestwich and provision of good quality accommodation for elderly residents.	Ms J Black	Councillor Shori
3.	Suggested rent free day for market traders	Mr P Taylor	Councillor Connolly
4.	Lifting of vehicular access restrictions on Gigg Mill Bridge and issue of ownership	Mr K Hannan	Councillor Connolly
5.	Planning Application and outline of process, including arrangements for site visits	-	Councillor Connolly
6.	Proposed changes regarding bus services between Rochdale and Tottington	Mr S Carter	Councillor Connolly

C.760 RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The Mayor reported that Members were being asked to consider a recommendation from the Democratic Arrangements Forum of 15 March 2012 to fully debate and decide on the policy as to whether or not Members can engage in the use of social media or networking during the business of any/all Council Meetings.

It was moved by Councillor Connolly and seconded by Councillor Smith and unanimously

RESOLVED:

That Council Procedure Rules be suspended for this item, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23.1, to enable Notices of Motion to be put and debated without the requisite notice.

It was moved by Councillor Tariq and seconded by Councillor Shori:

“That this Council resolves to:

- (A) allow the use of social media (via mobile telephone, ipads, or other such tools as may be necessary) at all Council Meetings;
- (B) save for instances where the agenda items of such meetings are specifically exempt from publication in the press and/or the members of the press and public have specifically been excluded from the meeting.”

It was subsequently moved by Councillor Tariq and seconded by Councillor Shori that the motion be amended by the addition at (A) of “with the exception of quasi judicial committees.”

The amendment on being put 28 voted for, 17 against and with 5 abstentions, was declared carried.

C.761 LEADER’S STATEMENT AND EXECUTIVE QUESTION TIME

(a) Written questions (four clear days’ notice given)

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

No	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
1.	Support for the Phoenix Centre, Prestwich	Councillor Caserta	Councillor Parnell
2.	Action to tackle dog fouling	Councillor Grimshaw	Councillor Isherwood
3.	Former Prestwich Household Waste Disposal Site	Councillor Mary D’Albert	Councillor Isherwood
4.	Funding of community groups through Township Forums	Councillor Wiseman	Councillor Walmsley
5.	Bury Council Workforce	Councillor Noel Bayley	Councillor Holt
6.	Council representation on Health and Wellbeing Boards	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Shori

7.	Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration	Councillor Gunther	Councillor Connolly
8.	Plan for Change and impact on library service	Councillor Columbine	Councillor Lewis
9.	Settlement of Equal Pay claims	Councillor Vic D'Albert	Councillor Smith

10.	Priorities under Plan for Change and spending between Townships	Councillor Harris	Councillor Connolly
11.	Government Support for Weekly Bin Collection	Councillor Campbell	Councillor Isherwood
12.	Sponsorship of Bury FC	Councillor O'Hanlon	Councillor Shori
13.	Reviews under Plan for Change and use of consultants	Councillor Walker	Councillor Connolly
14.	Impact of reorganisation of NHS	Councillor Boden	Councillor Connolly
15.	Localism Act and listing of community assets	Councillor Garner	Councillor Walmsley
16.	Backing Young Bury and opportunities for Looked after Children.	Councillor Frith	Councillor Connolly
17.	Road traffic accidents involving pedestrians	Councillor Mary D'Albert	Councillor Isherwood
18.	Election of Police Commissioner	Councillor Quinn	Councillor Connolly
19.	Stone Roses Concerts in Heaton Park – Parking and security	Councillor Vic D'Albert and Councillor Quinn	Councillor Lewis
20.	Condition of roads in Besses Ward	Councillor Matthews	Councillor Isherwood
21.	Household Waste Disposal Sites and recycling	Councillor Garner	Councillor Isherwood
22.	Reports generated on "pot hole" enquiries	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Isherwood
23.	Council Tax distribution	Councillor O'Hanlon	Councillor Smith
24.	Review of Library Service	Councillor Ann Audin	Councillor Lewis

25.	Theft of metal and impact on Council	Councillor Rothwell	Councillor Isherwood
26.	Traffic Calming around the Redvales Road area	Councillor Tariq	Councillor Isherwood
27.	Missed bin collections and subsequent action	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Isherwood

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 9 to 27 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of the answers to those questions will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

(b) Oral questions on the work of the Executive since the last Council meeting (without Notice)

28.	Proposed erection of wind turbine in the Bradshaw area of Bolton	Councillor Brown	Councillor Connolly
29	Review of Library Service	Councillor Gartside	Councillor Lewis
30	Backing Young Bury and opportunities for Looked after Children	Councillor Frith	Councillor Connolly
31	Provision of information on the Budget	Councillor O’Hanlon and Councillor Caserta	Councillor Connolly
32	Reviews under Plan for Change and use of consultants	Councillor Walker	Councillor Connolly

C.762 NOTICE OF MOTION

A Notice of Motion had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12:-

OFF PEAK CONCESSIONARY FARES

A Motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:-

Councillors A Audin, K Audin, M Bailey, N Bayley, D Boden, P Bury, G Campbell, D Cassidy, J Columbine, M Connolly, C Cummings, J Frith, J Grimshaw, T Holt, A Isherwood, M James, J Lewis, A Matthews, N Parnell, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shore, J Smith, T Tariq and S Walmsley.

It was moved by Councillor Boden and seconded by Councillor Isherwood:-

"That this Council recognises the benefits that the free off-peak concessionary fares have brought to our Borough and to its residents.

There is less traffic congestion on our roads, travel opportunities are affordable and interaction with friends and family are achievable. This Council, therefore, rejects the reported call by the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg for 'all benefits, including concessionary fares to be means tested'.

This Council resolves to write to Councillor Andrew Fender, Chair of Transport for Greater Manchester Committee, and our local Members of Parliament expressing our support for his campaign against the means testing of concessionary fares."

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

"That this Council recognises the benefits that the free off-peak concessionary fares have brought to our Borough and to its residents.

There is less traffic congestion on our roads, travel opportunities are affordable and interaction with friends and family are achievable.

This Council, therefore, welcomes Government policy to maintain free off-peak concessionary travel as a universal benefit.

This Council resolves to write to Councillor Andrew Fender, Chair of Transport for Greater Manchester Committee, and our local Members of Parliament expressing our support for continued concessionary fares for older people in Greater Manchester as a universal benefit."

The amendment on being put, 22 voted for and 25 against, with one abstention, was declared lost.

The substantive motion on being put was carried unanimously.

C.763 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMISSIONS

REVIEW OF SCRUTINY STRUCTURE

A report of the Chair of the Overview Management Committee, Councillor Tariq, was submitted which set out the findings and recommendations of the Overview Management Committee's review into the current scrutiny structures in Bury.

It was moved by Councillor Tariq and seconded by Councillor Campbell that the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

On being put, with 45 in favour and two against it was:-

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed Overview and Scrutiny Structure set out in the report be approved.

2. That an evaluation be undertaken after 12 months of operation.
3. That a 3 year Scrutiny Work Programme, co-ordinated with the priorities of the Council and Plan for Change, be developed and refreshed annually.
4. That to assist in the development of a work programme, a planning event be held with all Scrutiny Members (with Executive Members and Executive Directors invited in an advisory capacity).
5. That the issue of potential duplication in the performance monitoring aspect of Scrutiny and the Audit Committee be examined.
6. That attendance at Scrutiny Panel meetings be included within the overall Members attendance statistics.
7. That the Member Development Group be requested to arrange specific scrutiny training for all Elected Members.

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 10.30 pm)

NOTE: 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 and the GMP representatives report would be circulated subsequently.

The following reports were duly approved following the Closure Motion:

- § Interim Review – Township Forums.
- § Modifications to the Greater Manchester Joint Mineral Plan.
- § Pay Policy Statement.