

Minutes of: AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 16 October 2013

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor S Briggs), in the Chair; Councillors M Bailey, D Bailey, I Bevan, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, R A Caserta, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, AJ Cummings, J Daly, E FitzGerald, L Fitzwalter, I B Gartside, J Grimshaw, D L Gunther, M Hankey, P Heneghan, T Holt, K Hussain, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, J S Lewis, A Matthews, S Nuttall, D O'Hanlon, N Parnell, T D Pickstone, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, J Smith, S Southworth, B Vincent, R E Walker, S Walmsley, J F Walton, M J Wiseman and Y Wight

Apologies for Absence: Councillors A Audin, K Audin, N Bayley, J Black (CI), J Columbine, J Frith, S Haroon and T Tariq

Public attendance: 27 members of the public attended the meeting

C.439 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 Jones declared an interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee of Bury Council.
3. Councillor Holt declared a personal interest in Minute C.447(2) "Notice of Motion – Royal Mail," as he is a retired postman and a member of the Communications Workers Union.
4. Councillor Walmsley declared a personal interest in Minute C.447(2) "Notice of Motion – Royal Mail", as she is a member and activist of the Communications Workers Union.
5. Councillor Bevan declared a personal interest in Minute C.447(1), "Notice of Motion – School Meals," as his spouse is employed at Summerseat Methodist Primary School and he has a child in that School's Reception Class who will benefit from the Central Government Proposal.

C.440 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 September 2013 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

C.441 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Mayor referred to the recent passing of former Councillor and former Mayor, Winston Ramsey, and Members observed a brief silence as a mark of respect.
2. The Mayor referred to the following forthcoming events:-

- Local Democracy Week was taking place between 14 and 21 October 2013, and events programmed included a talk on Democracy on Thursday, 17 October 2013 and a Question Time Session on Saturday 2 November 2013.
- The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers would be staging a Homecoming Parade on Tuesday, 19 November 2013.
- The Mayor would be hosting a charity Afternoon Tea on Friday, 25 October 2013.

C.442 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor reported that there were no written questions from members of the public. Questions were invited from members of the public present and the following issues were raised:-

Issue	Questioner	Answered By
1. Proposal to create Academy in respect of Radcliffe Primary School and steps taken by the Council to oppose it	Mr S Wheeler and Ms K Hopwood	Councillor Connolly (Undertaking given to write to the Secretary of State reaffirming the Council's position)
2. Creation of Sculpture Centre in Bury Library; re-allocation of space and group use	Ms S Smith and members of Save Bury Library Campaign	Councillor Connolly
3. Use of food banks within Bury	Mr J Mallon	Councillor Connolly
4. Provision of Broadband in Rural Areas	Mr C Davies	Councillor Connolly

C.443 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Minutes 1 and 2 of the meeting of the Democratic Arrangements Forum on 3 October 2013 – Managing the Business of Council – Deadline for Member Questions to the Leader and the Six Month Rule.

It was moved by Councillor Connolly and seconded by Councillor John Smith and it was:-

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the deadline for receipt of questions from Members to the Leader at meetings of the Council be changed to Midnight on the Thursday prior to the Wednesday Council Meeting.
- (2) That Council Procedure Rule 16 be amended to read as follows:-

“16.1 Motion to rescind a Previous Decision

A motion or amendment to rescind a decision made at a meeting of Council within the past six months cannot be moved.

16.2 A Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council acting under delegated powers may rescind a resolution adopted under delegated powers within a period of six months provided the Summons to attend the meeting of the Committee or Sub-Committee contains a notice that the matter is to be reconsidered.

16.3 Motion Similar to One Previously Rejected.

A motion or amendment in similar terms to one that has been rejected at a meeting of the Council in the past six months cannot be moved.”

C.444 LEADER’S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(a) Written questions (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 Cabinet Members answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
1.	Spot fines for incorrect use of waste bins	Councillor Gunther	Councillor Southworth
2.	Business Rates	Councillor Southworth	Councillor John Smith
3.	Apprenticeships	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Connolly
4.	Bury Library and Sculpture Centre	Councillor Daly	Councillor Lewis
5.	Council Tax Arrears	Councillor Quinn	Councillor John Smith
6.	Tree Pruning	Councillor O’Hanlon	Councillor Isherwood
7.	Planning Applications and Job Creation	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Isherwood
8.	Pot Holes and IT use	Councillor Parnell	Councillor Isherwood
9.	Bus Lane Enforcement Fines	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Isherwood
10.	Sharing Services	Councillor Gartside	Councillor John Smith
11.	Street Safe Schemes	Councillor Jones	Councillor Isherwood
12.	Empty Houses	Councillor O’Hanlon	Councillor Shori

13.	Community Fund	Councillor Rothwell	Councillor Walmsley
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Due to the lack of time to answer questions 10 to 13 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 Cabinet since the last Council meeting (without Notice)

14	Civic Venues Progress Report	Councillor O’Hanlon	Councillor Lewis
15.	Affordable Accommodation – Social Rented Sector	Councillor Rothwell	Councillor Shori
16.	Independent Review of Civic Venues and Castle Leisure Car Park	Councillor Walker	Councillor Connolly
17.	Creation of Credit Union	Councillor FitzGerald	Councillor Connolly
18.	Expenditure in respect of proposed Sculpture Centre	Councillor Gunther	Councillor Lewis
19.	Civic Venues – consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Hankey	Councillor Connolly
20.	TUC action in respect of Health Service cuts	Councillor Quinn	Councillor Connolly
21.	Manchester Airport Industrial Centre	Councillor Caserta	Councillor Connolly
22.	Castle Leisure – Diving Facilities	Councillor Daly	Councillor Connolly

C.445 JOINT AUTHORITIES – REPORTS BY THE COUNCIL’S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS

- (a) Councillor Connolly, the Council’s representative, on the Crime and Police Panel, gave a verbal report on the work of the Committee to all Members of the Council.
- (b) The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	Victoria and Shudehill Metrolink Stations	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Grimshaw (Representative on the Committee for Greater Manchester

			Transport)
2.	Out of action lifts at stations	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Grimshaw (Representative on the Committee for Greater Manchester Transport)

C.446 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL – CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

A report of the Leader was submitted which sought approval to revised Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Panel and a change of title to "Corporate Parenting Board."

It was moved by Councillor Connolly and seconded by Councillor John Smith that the report be approved and it was

RESOLVED

That the draft Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) be approved and in future the CPP to be known as the Corporate Parenting Board.

C.447 NOTICES OF MOTION

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

1. Government Announcement regarding School Meals

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of Councillors O'Hanlon and Pickstone.

"This Council welcomes the announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg that all pupils in reception and years 1 & 2 will receive a hot school meal free of charge.

Council notes that:

a - Around over 6,800 pupils in Bury schools will be eligible for a hot lunchtime meal.

b - It is estimated that this will save families an average of £437 per year - a £2.5 million annual saving for Bury families (assuming 100% take up of existing free school meals).

c - Pilot schemes have indicated that where meals have been provided pupils have been two months ahead of their peers academically and increased literary and numeracy levels by 5%.

d - Universal free meals have also improved behaviour and concentration levels at schools in the pilot areas.

e - Research by the Children's Food Trust has indicated that up 14% of low income families have failed to make a claim for free school meals.

f - Universal free meals will assist hard pressed families who are struggling to balance the family budget.

Council Resolves:

To work with our local schools and with parents to ensure a successful roll-out of this initiative and in particular to ensure that the provision of appropriate healthy meals.”

It was moved by Councillor Campbell and seconded by Councillor Heneghan as an amendment that the motion be amended by the addition of the following:-

“Although this Council welcomes any initiative to support hard pressed families who are struggling to balance the family budget, this Council believes that this initiative does not come close to addressing the hardship this Government has placed on families in Bury, many of whom are having to resort to food banks, pay day lenders and loan sharks to feed their families. This Council condemns the relentless cuts in funding for Bury and the impact this has on hard pressed families.

The Council would also like to raise its concerns regarding the discussions taking place presently that this initiative would be funded through the ‘pupil premium’. Taking into consideration the Chancellor of the Exchequer announcing in his summer review that there will be a 20% reduction in the Educational Services Grant, this will place further pressures on schools and appears at odds with the Government policy that schools budgets will be ring fenced.”

The amendment on being put with 27 voting for, 15 against and one abstention was declared carried.

The following substantive motion on being put with 27 voting for, 0 against and 16 abstentions was declared carried:-

“This Council welcomes the announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg that all pupils in reception and years 1 & 2 will receive a hot school meal free of charge.

Council notes that:

a - Around over 6,800 pupils in Bury schools will be eligible for a hot lunchtime meal.

b - It is estimated that this will save families an average of £437 per year - a £2.5 million annual saving for Bury families (assuming 100% take up of existing free school meals).

c - Pilot schemes have indicated that where meals have been provided pupils have been two months ahead of their peers academically and increased literary and numeracy levels by 5%.

d - Universal free meals have also improved behaviour and concentration levels at schools in the pilot areas.

e - Research by the Children’s Food Trust has indicated that up 14% of low income families have failed to make a claim for free school meals.

f - Universal free meals will assist hard pressed families who are struggling to balance the family budget.

Council Resolves:

To work with our local schools and with parents to ensure a successful roll-out of this initiative and in particular to ensure that the provision of appropriate healthy meals.

Although this Council welcomes any initiative to support hard pressed families who are struggling to balance the family budget, this Council believes that this initiative does not come close to addressing the hardship this Government has placed on families in Bury, many of whom are having to resort to food banks, pay day lenders and loan sharks to feed their families. This Council condemns the relentless cuts in funding for Bury and the impact this has on hard pressed families.

The Council would also like to raise its concerns regarding the discussions taking place presently that this initiative would be funded through the 'pupil premium'. Taking into consideration the Chancellor of the Exchequer announcing in his summer review that there will be a 20% reduction in the Educational Services Grant, this will place further pressures on schools and appears at odds with the Government policy that schools budgets will be ring fenced."

2. Royal Mail

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

Councillors A Audin, K Audin, M Bailey, D Bailey, N Bayley, J Black, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, D M Cassidy, J Columbine, M Connolly, A J Cummings, E FitzGerald, L Fitzwalter, J Frith, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, P Heneghan, T Holt, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, J S Lewis, A K Matthews, N A Parnell, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, J Smith, S Southworth, T Tariq and S Walmsley.

It was moved by Councillor Holt and seconded by Councillor John Smith:-

"This Council recognises the hard work carried out by our local postmen and women in delivering the Royal Mail Universal Service Obligation. The Council also recognises the huge changes Royal Mail have made to improve the service, address the pensions deficit and ensure the business is more successful, efficient and profitable.

The Coalition Governments' plans to sell off this national institution will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on service levels, the uniform pricing structures and impact disproportionality on those living in rural areas. The privatisation could also jeopardise job security and protection of our "posties" conditions of employment.

This Council therefore calls upon our two Constituency MP's to lobby the Government immediately to oppose the Privatisation of the Royal Mail. Our MP's should also ensure the Government works progressively with both Royal Mail and the Unions to further enhance the organisation and the service offered to businesses and the wider public."

It was moved by Councillor Walmsley and seconded by Councillor Parnell that the motion be amended as follows:-

"Paragraph 2:

Delete: "The Coalition Governments' plans to sell this national institution"

Insert: "This Council regrets the Privatisation of Royal Mail which..."

Paragraph 3:

Delete: "oppose the Privatisation of the Royal Mail. Our MP's should also."

The amendment on being put with 27 voting for, 15 against and one abstention was declared carried.

(At this stage in the Proceedings it was moved by Councillor Daly and seconded by Councillor Gunther that the question be now put with 27 voting against, 15 for and one abstention the motion was declared lost.)

The following substantive motion on being put with 27 voting for, 15 against and one abstention was declared carried:-

"This Council recognises the hard work carried out by our local postmen and women in delivering the Royal Mail Universal Service Obligation. The Council also recognises the huge changes Royal Mail have made to improve the service, address the pensions deficit and ensure the business is more successful, efficient and profitable.

This Council regrets the privatisation of Royal Mail which will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on service levels, the uniform pricing structures and impact disproportionality on those living in rural areas. The privatisation could also jeopardise job security and protection of our "posties" conditions of employment.

This Council therefore calls upon our two Constituency MP's to lobby the Government immediately to ensure the Government works progressively with both Royal Mail and the Unions to further enhance the organisation and the service offered to businesses and the wider public."

3. Broadband Services

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

Councillors I Bevan, R Caserta, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, M Hankey, K Hussain, S Nuttall, B Vincent, R Walker, J Walton, M Wiseman and Y Wright.

It was moved by Councillor Gartside and seconded by Councillor Daly:-

"This Council notes the crucial role that high speed broadband now plays in people's everyday lives. However, there are still many rural communities in our Borough that do not have access to high speed broadband.

This Council views this situation as a serious inequality that should be addressed immediately.

Therefore, this Council resolves to push for all rural and any remaining urban areas in our borough that do not have high speed broadband to receive their share of the £990,000 of Government funding held by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities.

This Council also resolves to do everything it can to ensure that high speed broadband is turned on as quickly as possible once the funding has been received from AGMA."

On being put, the motion was unanimously declared carried.

C.448 SCRUTINY REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no Scrutiny Review Reports or specific items "called in" by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be considered at this Council meeting.

C.449 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

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

C.450 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were no written questions asked on the delegated decisions of the Committees or Scrutiny Committee contained in the Digest of Decision No.d 4 (2013-2014).

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(NOTE: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 10.10 pm)